

**MINUTES of the FoBRA Committee on Thursday 18th January 2018
at 6.30pm in Widcombe Junior School**

Circulated 19th November 2017

1 Chairman Robin Kerr, welcomed 33 members' representatives and observers (details at end). He introduced two observers **Kaylyn Mallard** head of the Student Community Partnership and **Emily Rempell** a Doctoral Researcher at the University of Bath who stated that she was working with the Council and was hoping to run workshops with volunteer groups. The secretary read out apologies. **Minutes** of the meeting on 14th November, already circulated, were approved.

2 DI Turner: Robin Kerr introduced Detective Inspector Turner who spoke about the Government's 'Prevent' strategy explaining why Prevent did stop radicalisation and helped vulnerable people who got drawn into the dark web and by other methods. There are 4 'Ps' which are Prevent, Prepare, Pursue and Protect. He felt that poor press had given a bad perspective about Prevent. His team consists of 6 people for Avon and Somerset of mixed ethnic backgrounds. Once a person has been identified as being at risk, they can be sent on the Channel programme, which will involve a team including police and social workers to create support. He told a story of a girl who was on her way to Syria; she was stopped and eventually after a lot of support she has married and is not radicalised any more. Robin Kerr thanked DI Turner for his time.

3 Transport: Patrick Rotheram prepared a paper on Transport (**refer to report**). He added that there was a debate about the removal of car parking spaces in Avon Street, but as he said it was only a reduction from 630-485. He was concerned about the huge amount of money, which was to be spent on underground parking there. He talked about the Bath Alliance for Transport and the Public Realm meeting of 12th December and asked Van Du Bose, its spokesman, to talk. Tim Warren and Cllr Mark Shelford had talked and Van felt that basically the Alliance and the Council were broadly in alignment. It is important that the Bath transport plan is part of the West of England plan under the new Mayor. Air quality and transport measures complement each other.

Patrick then mentioned that actually there is no mention of Bath in the West of England Transport Plan at present and that BANES can deal with traffic management under its own cognisance. The Council feels that Trams could be an attractive solution, four viable routes which have been identified for further study are Odd down, Newbridge, Lansdown and Lambridge.

Richard Colston asked when BANES would publish the report on parking strategy. To which Patrick responded that it was sure to be made public.

H added that the coach strategy is not good, the only people consulted, it would appear, having been the coach companies and customers; neither residents nor businesses.

Colin Clark reiterated how important it was to be working with West of England Joint Transport Strategy.

Patrick said that FoBRA supports removing A36/46 traffic from Bath. There are three different routes. West of England money has been given to BANES for a feasibility study for the removal of traffic from A36/46.

4 FoBRA meeting with Wera Hobhouse MP on 12th February 2018

The secretary has sent a flyer about this special meeting to every representative and it would be appreciated if these could be forwarded to all members. Robin Kerr has asked that if anyone has a specific question they would like to ask, could it be send it to the Secretary.

5 Refuse Rachael Hushon was not at the meeting but had reported to the Lansdown Crescent RA. Side waste was no longer being collected; we are now in a period of education and prosecution. In some areas, the Residents were caring for the streets, in others, where there were small flats with transient inhabitants, the streets were in a dreadful state. **Caroline Kilner** said that in Laura Place side waste had had stickers put on it and then left, there were 20 sacks piling up, alongside old Christmas trees. The

sea gulls have arrived early. There has also been a delay in delivering all the recycling bins. Questions were asked as to where the plastic recycling was going now that China was not going to take it, and would this make a difference to the potential financial saving? It was pointed out that the importance was in its not going to land fill rather than selling recycled material. **Emilio Pimental-Reid** suggested that all unnecessary plastic wrappers should be returned to the supermarkets! Iceland apparently is now not plastic wrapping own brand goods.

6 Report on Bath City Forum. (BCF) Ben Palmer is now on the Forum proposed by Robin Kerr and seconded by Jeremy Boss. There had been discussion at the Forum meeting the previous night on Party houses; Modern Community Libraries; Ward Boundary Changes. (the deadline for comments being 19th February. – see item 7 below); and distribution of money from the Community Empowerment Fund and the Community Infrastructure Levy.

7 Ward Boundary Changes: Jeremy Boss had presented to the BCF that the Local Authority Boundary Commission was separate from the Council. His conclusions were that: the Ward Boundaries should still respect the City limits. There should be more notice taken of community cohesion and Wards should predominantly have two Councillors each. By contrast their proposals are that Widcombe will get smaller; Combe down split, Oldfield Park, Bathwick, Bearflat, Claverton Down and Larkhall will all be divided. (Larkhall will actually lose its church!). Wards will have 1, 2, and/or 3 councillors, dependent on the numbers voting, the optimum number being 3,200 per councillor. The number of councillors is to be reduced to 59. **Emilio Pimentel-Reid** said that one councillor per Ward was a bad number and that the community, which his RA covered (Cavendish) would be split between two Wards. It was considered that the boundaries have obviously been put together by someone who does not know the City. Every individual RA should write with its opinions on changes to its area by 19th February.. The Boundary Commission should try again. Widcombe has already done a detailed submission, which appeared to have been ignored (so far!)

8 Universities: **Ben Palmer** spoke at an earlier FoBRA Committee, to ask that FoBRA withdraw from membership of the HMO Lobby as he did not like their attitude. **Chris Beezley** said that the HMO Lobby has been useful, particularly with reference to Party Houses and student HMOs. FoBRA is not a paying member, only on list for distribution, as we had been for years. After some discussion it was decided that FoBRA would not withdraw its name at present. There followed a discussion about the recent campaign to change the Council's HMO Supplementary Planning Document, with various opinions. In theory, the Council has reduced the % of HMO's in an area to 10% from 25%, but in practice this was open to variance, ie student accommodation and HMO's. The students had campaigned against the reduction of the % as this caused added hardship to them. Whereas Resident's Associations were keen that communities should not be lost because houses in certain streets all became HMO's, thereby reducing access to affordable housing and altering society. It was considered that there was still space on the Claverton Campus for a further 1,500 rooms for students since planning for 2,500 rooms had been agreed and yet only 1,000 had been built. New building should not affect the Cotswold area of outstanding beauty. It was felt that the University should house more of its students on campus for the good of local communities.

Student Council Tax Compensation. **Robin Kerr** has made a statement to a recent Cabinet meeting to urge compensation for Council Tax loss. BANES residents should have some priority as the number of students was rising from 25,000 to 30,000 in the next 3 years. This is nearly 1/3 of the population of the City. There was considerable debate over how to fix the problem. The 10% rule should include student blocks, and

somehow there should be compensation for the loss of council tax on HMO properties. **Chris Beezley** suggested that FoBRA should ask for a number of things to be discussed by BANES and the University of Bath.

Barry Gilbertson who is a member of the University Council said that the University was aware of the problems, and is trying to work to a satisfactory conclusion. He stated that attacks on the peppercorn rent are specious as the lease was legal for 999 years.

It was felt that since the Council is making 300 council workers redundant and cutting adult care, the fact that 1/3 of the population does not pay council tax should be addressed somehow. In conclusion, it was agreed that FoBRA should write to the Council and the Universities, expressing these ideas and concerns.

9 Chairman's Report (refer to report) The **Chairman** asked that all members read the position papers on the home page of the web site which had been drafted following the most recent agreement of FoBRA's priorities in the summer of 2017 on the basis that the Executive and Subject Leads acted. It had been suggested that perhaps half an hour could be set aside before the meeting for coffee and discussion between members. This was unanimously agreed. Bristol Airport has a Development plan which will include more flights over Bath and asked if members would like a presentation from the Airport's management later in the year. This was agreed. He mentioned an anti Idling campaign, trying to stop people parking with their engine running as a contribution to pollution reduction, and asked if anyone wanted to become involved in this. Lastly he asked if anyone had an idea for a suitable garden for the summer party.

10 Planning Report (attached). **Nola Edwards** reported that they had instructed lawyers who said that Foxhill had a very strong case. They are trying for a Judicial Review, she set up crowd funding and achieved the asked for amount within 7 days as opposed to the 30 which was expected!. They will not know how much money they need until the Judge has decided whether they can have a Judicial Review. Bath Rugby have appointed architects for the new stadium, Grimshaws who have an excellent reputation for sympathetic buildings. The outline planning for Bath Quays is available - the parking numbers should be monitored. **Nick Tobin and Jan Shepley** will be asked to do this. There were no questions with respect to the Housing Report. (a new policy, introduced by the Subject Lead, Barry Gilbertson)

11 The Winter Reception. Robin urged members to buy tickets for the Winter Reception on 6th February, both because it would be a great party and as at the moment, there are not really enough 'Hosts' for the number of Councillors, etc, who are coming.

12 Any other Business: Mark O'Sullivan raised a number of points.

Funding has been reduced for the Bath scape project and there will have to be a re submission for landscaping.

He had been to a 'Your Health Your Voice' meeting earlier in the day and reported that the 111 system for urgent care out of hours is to change; the staff will now be local and there will be Doctors and specialist nurses who will be available to give advice

Future Meetings at 6.30

Wera Hobhouse 12th February for a general meeting Widcombe Junior School.

Next Committee is on Tuesday 20th March 2018 at 6.30pm in Widcombe Junior School.

Scheduled Committee dates in 2018 are: 14th May (incorporating the AGM).

Winter Reception February 6th at the Victoria Art Gallery

Attendees

FoBRA meeting 18th January 2018

Robin Kerr	Lansdown Crescent Association	FoBRA Chairman
Neil Barnes	Lansdown Crescent Association	FoBRA Treasurer
Charles Draper	Bathwick Estate Residents Association	Chairman
Patrick Rotheram	Vineyards Residents Association	FoBRA Traffic/Representative
Nola Edwards	Foxhill Residents Association	Chairman
Michael Wrigley	Widcombe Association	Representative
Liz Hallam	Lower Oldfield Park Residents Association	Secretary
Caroline Kilner	Pulteney Estate Residents Association	Representative
Paul Sandford	Upper Oldfield Park Residents Association	Chairman
Richard Colston	Green Park Residents Association	Chairman
Graham Feltham	Lower Oldfield Park Residents Association	Chairman
Colin Clark	Bathwick Hill	Representative
Kirstie Rowlandson	Upper Oldfield Park Residents Association	FoBRA Secretary/Secretary
Nola Wright	Bathwick Estates	Observer
Nicola Isherwood	Royal Crescent Society	Representative
John Rushton	Sydney Buildings Householders Association	Representative
Ian Herve	PERA	Representative
Terry Bellamy	Mac/Prospect FoBRA	
Barry Gilbertson	Circus Area Residents Association	Chairman
Ben Palmer	Bath University Students Union	Community Officer
Van DuBose	St James's Square Limited	Representative
Chris Beezley	Beech Avenue Residents Association	Chairman
Richard Luetchford	Beech Avenue Residents Association	Representative
David Bevan	Foxhill Residents Association	Treasurer
Emilio Pimentel-Reid	The Cavendish Road Society	Secretary
Justin L Draeger	The Cavendish Road Society	Chairman
Carlos Ordonez	Greenway Action Group	Representative
Peter Metcalfe	Widcombe Association	Observer
Adam Reynolds	Cycle Bath	Chairman
Mark O'Sullivan	Greenway Lane Area Residents Forum	
Leslie Redwood	Visit Bath	Observer
Kaylyn Mallard	Student Council Partnership	Observer
Emly Rempell	Doctoral Research University of Bath	Observer

Apologies

Morny Davison	Catharine Place Residents Association	Secretary
Jeremy Boss		
Clyde Hunter		
Clare Hushon		
Thelma Grimes		
Margarida Dolan		
Nick Tobin		
Nigel Websper		
Steve Huard		
Jan Shepley		
Barry Henderson		