

## Federation of Bath Residents' Association Chair's report June 2026

We have seen another year of active participation from our committee members and member associations. Our Executive team and the wider contributors – Jeremy Boss, Kamla Gardner, Ceris Humphreys, Jan Shepley, Malcolm Baldwin, Paul Crowsley, Theresa Franklin, Caroline Greenwood and a special contribution from Michael Wrigley (Planning reports), Sabrina Earnshaw and Benji Orford Thompson (IAG representatives) – have all contributed to the numerous socials, consultation reports, workshop attendance, Police IAG meetings, World Heritage Advisory Board, web site updates, and annual accounts' preparation. I want to thank them all for the time commitment they have given to FoBRA this year.

As in previous years our Executive have committed to:

- Encourage the formation of new Residents' Associations across the city and improve participation amongst our student community representatives. We are proud of FoBRA's ongoing commitment to help our members provide constructive and courteous contributions to debate across the city and ensure dialogue with their Councillors. We are proudly non-political. In this way we have retained that careful balance of meaningful and independent input to the relevant Local Authority and WECA consultations, whilst respecting our democratically elected Councillors whichever party they belong to.
- We have continued to bring more speakers to FoBRA – following Paul Roper and Sophie Broadfield's presentation on the region's economic strategy, we have had presentations from licencing Officers on street licensing as well as an inspiring talk on reimagining an even greener city centre for Bath from Architect Rob Delius.
- We continue to ensure well informed working groups with a good knowledge of national legislation to share papers with you and to aid in your local discussion for either Council or Weca consultations or planning responses. Our team produced very detailed papers last year commenting in a measured and objective way on the Stadium application at the Recreation Ground, the Bristol airport expansion of night flight activities and on the Western Riverside Build to Rent Homebase scheme. We expect this year to be another busy year with the new Local plan next stage development expected on July 10th, and the Student resident partnership which we will hear more about at our June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- We have encouraged dialogue and opportunities for you to meet with the city's elected representatives, stakeholders as well as key Officers in a constructive way. Our Winter reception always provides a convivial opportunity for relaxed introductions and networking opportunities. (The new executive will send a Save the date for November following the AGM).
- FoBRA has continued to attend key city Forums (World Heritage Advisory Board, and the Avon and Somerset Police Independent Advisory Group, as well as the new Local Plan steering process, the Climate Emergency resilience workshop will be attended by Jeremy and Ceris this summer).

Finally, some of you will have learned at our FoBRA party last November that Jeremy was happy to stand as Chair this coming AGM this has enabled me to step down after 4 years in position. I took on the role in 2022 to continue the considered and thoughtful approach to Resident Association engagement in the city. To help our member associations learn more of the detail and operational/procedures and structures which our Council and police work within. I wanted to bring ex FoBRA members back to our forum and help new Resident Associations to form with good governance structures. But perhaps most importantly to encourage younger members of our group to take on additional responsibilities within working groups. I am particularly pleased that my last meeting as Chair sees a presentation from our Student representatives discussing a student agreement with the city.

You will note from the Agenda that I have nominated Jeremy Boss to stand as I know that he is committed to ensuring the important priorities of politically neutral resident association representation, accurate information sharing, communication and good governance for our forum. I genuinely believe that there is a role for a courteous, considered yet independent forum that can sit alongside other stakeholder and campaign groups as well as the more informal online forums we have across Bath.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you all on June 4th 6.30pm Widcombe Junior School at our AGM.

Rachael Hushon Chair