
Federation of Bath Residents' Associations

Ordinary Committee Starting 6.30pm

Thursday 11th September 2025

Minutes

Attendees

Rachael Hushon (LCA/FoBRA Chair), Jeremy Boss (WA/FoBRA Vice Chair, Kamla Gardner (Cavendish Society/Accounts Treasurer), Theresa Franklin (CCRA/FoBRA Sec), Stephanie Higgins (LCA), Richard Wales (Bathwick Hill), Neil Dickenson (LCA), Michael Wrigley(WA), Rob Richardson (Avondale & Osborne Rd); Patrick Rotheram (Vineyards); Elizabeth Tayler (Entry Hill); Izzie Downer (Bath SU); Charlotte Hanna (Wellsway Bath), Dorigen Couchman (SBHA), Paul Crowsley (SHSRRRA), Jill Kingaby (Bear Flat), David Morgan (Bear Flat), Julia Perryman (MLBRA), Nick Tobin (AB&CPRA), Caroline Greenwood (PERA); Ian Tarr (TARA); Ceris Humphreys (PERA); Peter Knight (PERA), Malcolm Baldwin (CARA); Sabrina Earnshaw (CARA), Corinne Evans (University of Bath), Sylvia Sinclair (SJS Bath).

Apologies

Susan Chase (SHSRRRA), Julie Ingerfield (Bloomfield), Tony Miles (UOPRA), Jan Shipley (Widcombe), Ian Tarr (TARA), Stephen Little (RCS)

New and departed

The Chair thanked Sylvia Sinclair for her secretarial service to FoBRA. She introduced Theresa Franklin as the new Secretary.

The Chair welcomed Kamla Gardner as Treasurer, adding that FoBRA were saddened by the recent passing of Kamla's husband, Courtney Gardner, an ex FoBRA Treasurer.

Minutes approved from Committee Meeting June 25th , 2025

Approved by Julia Perryman

Seconded by Jeremy Boss

Show of hands: Carried

Planning Group Report

Local Plan update

The Chair, Rachael Hushon, stated that plans for the development of Bath Rugby grounds have been "called in" by the Secretary of State. She added that it appeared that Bath Planning Officers are in favour of the stadium. Council Planning committee will meet on Sept 17th to debate.

Peter Knight said that local residents are, justifiably, concerned regarding increased noise, increased traffic, and the overall affect on the local and wider environment due to the reliance on licensing and lack of planning conditions in the Officer report. He added that he hoped that the Committee meeting on September 17th would debate this issue.

Ceris Humphreys stated that FoBRA are unable to comment on a traffic proposal regarding the Stadium, as a transport plan linked to the anticipated 18,000-capacity Bath Rugby Stadium has not been produced.

Transport Group report

Impact of of Local Plan on Transport and Traffic Movement.

The Chair said Sophie Broadfield, Director of Sustainable Communities, would address FoBRA at a future date to be arranged.

The Chair also referred to Cllr Kevin Guys' latest e-newsletter in which he says the local plans document will go before the Council in the next couple of weeks. This Local Plan will establish a framework for Bath and North East Somerset up to 2042. This plan takes into account the journey to net-zero.

The plan will then be put out for consultation, including Consulting Webinars.

The chair referred to 29,000 new homes which are required for BANES which she imagines will be in site options in the areas surrounding Keynsham, Midsomer, Radstock, and Whitchurch.

There was general agreement that the the quality of homes being built could be improved.

World Heritage Advisory Board update

Jeremy Boss said the next meeting for the WHAB will take place in September.

Patrick Rotheram again raised the issue of vibration of historic property caused by speeding vehicles in Bath. Jeremy will take this up at the next WHAB meeting.

Independent Advisory Group

Sabrina Earnshaw and Izzie Downer attended the last meeting.

Izzie informed the meeting that both "uniformed" and "plain clothed" police were positioned on campus, as drugs remain an issue.

The Chair urged Izzie to remind young men, in particular, to avoid the riverside walk at night, as it can lead to fatal accidents.

Sabrina stated that there is 'serious' drug dealing across Bath.

Street Safe is now active in Bath. Anyone who feels unsafe can visit the Avon and Somerset Police website or use the dedicated StreetSafe online tool to anonymously report places where they feel unsafe due to poorly lit streets or other concerns. By using Street Safe Police are able to build a map of "hotspots" across Bath. Placing the emphasis on Crime Prevention particularly related to young women.

Street Crime and anti-social behaviour on city centre edges

Michael Wrigley made the point that areas of Widcombe had become noisy, with harassing and anti-social behaviour. Police have been patrolling the area. Both Councillor Guy and Scott Hill visited Widcombe Parade to assess and address the issues.

A discussion ensued, Michael asked if other city centre edges had been affected. Gravel Walk was mentioned. It was agreed that homelessness and increased availability/usage of drugs is on the rise. Genesis Trust now have temporary premises at the back of Widcombe Baptist Church. They also provide shower facilities across various places including Hot Bath Street.

Street cleaning outside city centre/weed control

The Chair raised the fact that scheduled 'hot-foaming' was used in the city centre to control weeds but not on the immediate areas outside the city centre. High temperature used in hot-foaming make it unsuitable to use around cars as it can damage the paint and trim. "*Fix my Street*" will provide a team to manually weed pavements. This is a labour-intensive "on demand" service. Unlike hot-foaming, the manual weeding of pavements, is not scheduled. As a result, aggressive weeds are very difficult to remove. These large weeds are affecting the alignment of paving stones. The Chair was keen for the Council to take a close look at a scheduled weeding process of other areas of the city. This could include making hot-foaming equipment available to local volunteers. The Chair will raise this with the Council leadership.

Eventing in the city

Generally, residents are not averse to Council events, however, it is felt that the 'Events Team' pay lip service to local R.A.'s.

There appears to be no requirement for events to be managed in an organised way. There is little, or no, engagement with local R.A's beforehand, and no response to communication, as well as little evidence of event 'risk assessment'.

Recently a large amount of broken glass was left on the upper lawns of the RVP after "Foodies Festival", creating a dangerous outdoor environment for children and dogs.

In addition both Georgian architectural pillars at the Weston Road exit of the park, have been knocked down by lorries. The first was knocked during Pub in the Park 2021, the surface area where it stood has been tarmacked. The second pillar was knocked down at the Bath Half Marathon this year. Sylvia Sinclair and SJS Residents Association have been trying with no success, so far, to get the pillars reinstated.

Ceris Humphrey said an Events Procedure document, similar to the Noise Document exists, though recently the Noise Document was discounted by officers, saying it is not Policy.

A.O.B

FoBRA Winter Reception will take place on Tuesday 25th November at Elim Church, Charlotte Street. Canapés will be served. The Winter reception is open to all. As usual a donation from attendees will be gratefully accepted.

FoBRA subs will remain the same as last year. Requests will go out soon.

Meeting Ended.