



Bear Flat Association

Minutes of 2018 AGM - Beechen Cliff Methodist Hall, Friday 26th October

1. Introduction

Gareth Somerset (Chair) welcomed attendees. Apologies were received from Mark Richardson (Treasurer) and Marion O' Hanlon.

2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM and matters arising.

The minutes were approved (proposed Jerry Trenchard, seconded Winston Duguid) and there were no matters arising.

3. Question and answer session on proposed Resident's Parking Zone (RPZ) for Bear Flat

Paul Garrod and Neil Terry, from the BANES team dealing with the RPZ proposals for Bear Flat, took questions from the audience, following the distribution of the recent leaflet outlining these plans.

Paul explained that there would be a 3 week consultation period in November on the latest proposals, after which final amendments would be published and a decision made in January 2019 whether to go ahead. If the decision was to progress the plans, implementation would start, with a completion date of April 2019.

He further added that the scheme would operate from 8.00am-6.00pm Mon-Sat, with some areas resident's only and others, at the Wellsway end of the avenues, offering limited 2 and 3 hour parking for non-residents. There would be one zone covering the whole of Bear Flat and, in addition to paying for their own annual parking, residents would be able to buy additional paper or electronic permits for visitors on a daily or hourly basis respectively.

Q: Would Alexander Park be included in this process?

A: Yes. Restrictions Mon-Sat, 9-4 within marked bays only. 1 hour free with max of 4 hours.

Q: Would the decision about progressing the scheme be based solely on strength of support vs objection?

A: No. It would be based on detailed objections eg position of double yellows, Bowling Club concerns

Q: How would Bowling Club concerns about parking for members and visitors be met. The club will need to maximise attendance (70-100) at day and evening fixtures in order to pay for recently agreed lease on clubhouse.

A: Ensure BANES is aware of specific concerns.

Q: How many leaflets about the proposed scheme were circulated?

A: Unsure. Approx 800

Q: Proposals appear to show no restrictions on parking in Beechen Cliff, Byron and Shelley Roads. What is planned for these three roads?

A: All three will have signs saying resident's parking only, with no additional marking on the roads concerned. Mark Shelford (Councillor) has met residents from these roads and agreed that they can continue to park as they do at present, respecting current road markings and neighbours' driveways.

Q: Will Holloway be encompassed in the Bear Flat RPZ area?

A: Not at present.

Q: Will tradesmen be able to park in the RPZ?

A: Local traders will be able to pay for 'traders' permits' and will also be able to park in 2/3 hourly bays, located at eastern end of avenues. Loading and unloading will be treated flexibly by traffic wardens, as at present.

4. Chair's Report (Gareth Somerset)

Gareth started by confirming that the association was in good health, with membership up from 210 last year to 230 at present

Apart from the Vice Chair position, there is a full complement of committee members and associated subject area conveners, namely for planning, transport, food and history. Virginia Williamson, a very active member of BF, moved away to Oxfordshire during the year. Her place has been very ably filled by Judith Eversley.

Gareth made a call for new blood on the committee, with a particular need for people to help with the planning of social events, publicity and IT.

It was reported that the BFA is establishing a relationship with the Friends of Alexandra Park similar to that already in place with Friends of Bloomfield Green. We hope to develop this through such events as the Picnic in the Park and Carols by Torchlight.

Gareth thanked the street representative for their hard work in delivering leaflets around Bear Flat.

Gareth assured the meeting that, despite the fact that Bear Flat will be split east and west of Wellsway into two different wards – Widcombe / Lyncombe and Oldfield (with some southerly members now lying in Moorlands ward), this will make no difference whatsoever to the makeup and running of the BFA. We look forward to working with our various councillors post May 2019.

Gareth stated that we would run a short survey on members views on the newsletter to try and make it as interesting and relevant as possible. He also stated that we will upgrade the website design to make it more user friendly.

Gareth reported that the three residents' associations surrounding Beechen Cliff School, namely Widcombe, Greenway and BFA, meet with the school under the chairing of Mark Shelford, our local councillor, at the start of each term to discuss issues affecting local residents, especially transport, parking and planning, to raise concerns and to press the school to meet agreed actions.

Gareth reported that the BFA is planning an initiative to improve the area between Wellsway and Bloomfield Road (the Gore), to re-site or remove as many of the utility boxes as possible, refurbish the Victorian fountain, landscape the area and introduce a Welcome to Bear Flat sign.

5. Treasurer's Report (Mark Richardson, delivered by Gareth Somerset)

The treasurer reported that membership subscriptions have increased to £1,155. This, together with other income and surplus from the Gathering on the Green and Ceilidh, has resulted in total income of £1,450. Our expenditure on running the organisation has fallen to £1,046, resulting in a surplus in the year of £403. At 30th September 2018 we had a total bank balance of £3,914, which is held in accounts with the Cooperative Bank.

The Association has an agreement with HM Revenue & Customs that no Corporation Tax is payable whilst our surplus is modest. In addition, HMRC treat us as a charity.

Income from the monthly Community Markets that are run by the Food Group are reflected in the accounts of its community benefit company, Hayes Place Limited.

6. Reports from Groups

7(a) Planning (Timothy Cantell)

Timothy addressed the two aspects of work undertaken by the Planning Group, namely *casework proactive activities*.

In relation to *casework*, the planning group look at local planning applications and comment (though *and* he encouraged all members to comment individually on applications which might affect them). Timothy drew attention to:

Baskerville's gym -car park refused

Powswood (Chauce Road)-adjoining trees must be respected

Local Plan- need to consider traffic problems caused by additional housing to south of Bath

Beechen Cliff School master plan- needs to part of a strategic plan for the school, including timetables and travel plan

With respect to *proactive activities*, the Planning Group has been asked by BANES to work with the council to develop the conservation plan to protect and improve the local area. The BFA Planning Group is coordinating this work, in conjunction with other local resident's association (eg Oldfield Park) to address issues such as the physical environment, the local economy and traffic. A report will be produced by mid 2019.

7(b) Transport (Jerry Trenchard)

Jerry encouraged members to comment on any aspects of the latest RPZ proposals (item 4 above) if they were not happy with the current plans.

He also referred to the Clean Air Zone (CAZ) plans which are currently out for consultation (end date 21st November). The BFA will draft a response and will circulate this to members for comments before copying to BANES.

Other issues being tackled by the Transport group at the moment include:

- Trams in Bath (conference in November)
- Use of Hayesfield Park as a rat run
- How to make Hayesfield Place a more pedestrian friendly area
- Whether Holloway could be brought into the BFA Resident's Parking Zone

7(c) Food Group (Judith Eversley)

Judith gave thanks to Virginia Williamson, her predecessor, who had set up the food group (and many other community activities and projects). The group is separately constituted as a Provident Society as it was initially established to run a community cafe (now the Good Bear Cafe) .

The group provides food for a range of BFA events including the Gathering on the Green, the Mikron Theatre allotment show and Carols by Candlelight (date now set for Wed 19th Dec). It also runs the regular Community Market (3rd Saturday in every month) and is hosting a joint all-day market with the Bear Flat Artists on Sat 1st December.

In addition the group works with Beechen Cliff Methodist Church to organise a Community Tea Party on the 1st Thursday each month which offers refreshments and an opportunity for people to meet up on a regular basis. Monies raised from this go towards sponsoring the twinning of toilets in the church with others across the world.

Judith finished with Virginia's words to 'Think globally and act locally'

7(d) History Group (Gareth Somerset)

Gareth reported that the History Group had been quiet this year and that he was currently working on a project on the bombing of the area during WW2. He hoped that members had enjoyed the 'How well do you know Bath' section in the monthly flyer and was planning to make a contribution to Timothy's work on the local conservation plan (7(a) above).

7 (e) Social Group (Bob Hughes)

Bob reported that the BFA had run a range of social activities and events this year including a Quiz, Carols in the Park, the Gathering on the Green, the Allotment theatre show (Mikron Theatre Group) and a Ceilidh. These, and the regular Food Markets, had been organised by different members and groups within the BFA who also contributed to events run by other local groups such as the Friends of Alexandra Park (FoAP)

Events were run primarily so that members and others could have fun and meet fellow residents. The audience was asked for ideas on what they would like the BFA to provide (perhaps contributing to the running of an event) and a specific request was made for a volunteer to work with committee members to plan and organise events for 2018/2019.

7(f) Friends of Bloomfield Open Space (Thelma Grimes, Gareth Somerset, Clyde Hunter)

This year the FoBOS have established a wild area in honour of Don Grimes and have installed more seating, so that local residents can enjoy the views. The annual Gathering on the Green benefitted from great weather and was able to make a significant contribution to local charity.

Thelma reminded members that there was a bulb-planting day on 27th October, thanks to the donation of 1000 bluebells from BANES. A monthly litter pick was also organised to keep the whole area looking tidy.

Clyde reported that Bath had won a City in Bloom award this year, thanks in part to the great work done by groups such as FoBOS and FoAP.

7. Election of Officers

All existing committee members were prepared to stand for re-election and, there being no further nominees, they were duly nominated, seconded and elected. Those elected were :

Gareth Somerset (Chair), Mark Richardson (Treasurer), Bob Hughes (Secretary) and Jeremy Opie (Membership Secretary)

The post of Vice Chair remained unfilled.

8. Any Other Business

There was no further business.

Signed:

A photograph of a document with two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'R. Hughes' and the signature on the right is 'G. Somerset'. The document is white and the signatures are written in a cursive style.

Secretary: Bob Hughes

Chairman: Gareth Somerset

RH 30/10/18