

## **Bear Flat Association**

### **Minutes of 2019 AGM—Beechen Cliff Methodist Hall, Friday 25th November**

#### **1. Introduction**

Gareth Somerset (Chair) welcomed attendees . Apologies were received from Bron & Mike Douglas, Thelma Grimes and Clyde Hunter

#### **2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM and matters arising**

The minutes were approved (Proposed: Richard O'Hanlon, Seconded: Judith Eversley) and there were no matters arising.

#### **3. Chair's Report (Gareth Somerset)**

GS introduced his report by saying that BFA membership had increased from 230 in 2018 to 260 at present and that he was stepping down from the post of Chair with all committee posts filled for 2018/19. He gave a vote of thanks to Jerry Trenchard who is resigning from his role as Transport Convenor, having played a significant role in the implementation of the Resident's Parking Zone (RPZ). Jerry's role is being amalgamated with that of Planning Convenor, under the chairmanship of Timothy Cantell and GS asked for interested parties to contact TC if they wished to work with the group.

GS also gave a vote of thanks to the indefatigable street reps and to Jeremy Opie who is stepping down from the post of membership Secretary, to be replaced by Helen Cooke.

GS said he will remain on the BFA Committee, and will continue to support the development of the website and produce the monthly Flyer. His role as Chair will be taken on by Nick Francis.

#### **4. Treasurer's report (Mark Richardson)**

1. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW. Our bank balance at the end of September was £ 5,034, which compares to £3,914 the previous year. Of the £ 5,034, £1,475 is a fund set up in memory of Don Grimes and is earmarked for Bloomfield Green, together with a further £ 200 which was given by Bath in Bloom for projects for children. This leaves £ 3,359 of available funds to cover ongoing projects, which may include the Gore project and the proposed Popup in Rolfseys.
2. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS. Our main income is from the annual subscriptions, which have continued to rise. In addition we made a modest surplus on the Gathering On The Green in June and also raised money from some modest advertising in the monthly Flyer.
3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. The detailed financial statements for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 are being prepared and will be put on the website.
4. RETAIL SURVEY. We have been working with Councillor Winston Duguid to establish what we can do to improve the retail scene on Bear Flat, particularly now that Rolfey's has been empty for some time. Andrews now hold the lease on Rolfey's and they agreed to our using the property on a short term "popup" basis. We sent all households a Retail Survey to find out what they felt was missing both in the long term and how they thought we should use the popup space. The replies suggested that the three most popular options would be a Post Office, a fruit & veg shop and a bakers.

MR thanked everyone who had responded and confirmed that the £50 voucher to spend at the Bear had been won by Marion O'Hanlon, who collected her prize at the meeting.

The results of the survey have been posted on the website.

5. POPUP. We are actively following up on the various suggestions made by respondents to the survey and are hopeful that we will soon have some interesting news about who is going to go in there.

Diane Lockwood told the meeting that visitors and staff working on Bear Flat were now parking their cars to the south of the RPZ and asked what was being done to ease the situation for local residents. Jerry Trenchard replied that he and Winston Duguid had proposed to the council that businesses be allowed to buy parking permits for their staff and that a section of Holloway be made available for staff parking. There had been no positive response to date.

JT added that the area now had a good Residents Parking Zone and what it needed was a good Community Parking Zone

## **5. Reports from Groups**

### **5(a) Planning (Timothy Cantell)**

The planning group has dealt with a number of local cases involving off-street parking and has sought to support Beechen Cliff School in developing its school travel plan and its proposals for parking on the school campus.

New proposals for a Stadium for Bath, to increase the Rec's capacity from 12,000 to 18,000, are expected shortly and the group will comment on these, in particular looking at how they might impact on the view from Alexandra Park.

Discussions took place with the local MP and the Federation of Bath's Residents Associations about the impact of Virgin Media's work in the area.

### **Wider Planning Policies**

Local Plan 2016-36

We responded to the B&NES consultation

The strategy for housing development to the south of Bath will mean more commuting into the city, with consequent congestion and pollution for Bear Flat, says BFA. There should be greater emphasis on residential development within Bath; and more attention should be given to making large new developments self-sustaining, so less commuting arises in the first place.

We also called for schools' traffic to be identified as an issue for the plan. The Council could be much more pro-active in creating safe routes to schools on foot and by bicycle and improving public transport for schools. Every school should adopt and actively pursue a Travel Plan.

### **World Heritage Site talk**

Barry Gilbertson, Chairman of the City of Bath UNESCO World Heritage Site gave a talk on 'World Heritage and Bath City's place within it' ,attended by over 40 local residents

## **Bath Conservation Area Appraisal: Bear Flat and Oldfield Park**

Work is almost complete on this BFA / B&NES project, which includes comments on key characteristics, historic development, buildings, streets, trees, open space and Issues affecting the character of the area. The work will shortly be published by BANES and will include text, maps and photos. TC noted that two particular features of the Bear Flat and Oldfield Park had stood out for him, these being the range of trees in the private and public domain and the significant number of listed buildings, many of which are largely unknown to local residents.

TC thanked the team of David Fenton, Ian Halsall, Christopher Isaac , Jill Kingaby and Gareth Somerset, who had helped him on this project.

### **5(b) Transport (Jerry Trenchard)**

#### **RPZ**

2019 saw the culmination of many years of effort with the introduction of our RPZ. Many thanks to all of those involved ; past members of the Transport section , members of the BFA committee , B&NES and our councillor . Thanks also to the residents for their support . Despite a few implementation issues , the scheme is working well . We have met with B&NES to review the scheme and have made a number of suggestions to how it might be improved / altered. These have been primarily around increasing opportunities for visitor and staff parking.

#### **CAZ**

Transport Services is the now the joint responsibility of Councillors Joanna Wright and Neil Butters.The Council has decided to implement a Class C Clear Air Zone , with public consultations on the final scheme being run throughout October 2019 . The zone is expected to be in place by the end of 2020.The BFA made representation to the council suggesting the creation of an Outer Zone.

### **Climate Emergency Plan**

Their outline action plan was presented to full council on the 10<sup>th</sup> October . Implementing sustainable travel plans form an important element.

#### **Bus**

New contracts for 17 bus services were awarded in Sept.

#### **Beechen Cliff School**

As part of its planning application for more on-site parking the school had to produce a Travel Plan. We offered positive support to this and will keep a watching brief on its implementation.

## **Holloway Sub Way**

The artwork has been chosen but the funding has yet to be secured.

## **WECA**

They have published their draft consultation ; a good read for the dark Winter nights!

## **Issues for 2020**

Transport will now be merged into the Planning Group

There are a number of issues that had taken a back seat to the implementation of the RPZ . This was deliberate rather than “ they have been forgotten “ as we decided to focus 100 % on the RPZ rather than fight over a long shopping list !

These are as follows :

1. General speeding in the avenues ; in particular Shakespeare Avenue at the time of the school run . Possible solutions: Speed bumps and Speed Gun Survey
2. 14 and 13 bus stops on Wellsway , either side of Shakespeare Avenue makes exiting dangerous. Possible solutions: They should be consolidated into one. Increasing visibility as you exit Shakespeare and reducing street furniture in general
3. The bus lane that runs alongside Majestic Wine / The Bear Hotel needs to be enforced . Private drivers use it both to short cut their left turn into Bloomfield Avenue and to undercut traffic at the lights , merging back into traffic after the lights . Possible solutions: The camera outside the Bear Hotel needs to be activated
4. Hayesfield Park Rat run, noticeable at rush hour when drivers use it to cut off a section of the Wellsway . Parking at the end of Greenway Lane where it joins Entry Hill .
5. Hayes Place . Possible solution: Reworking this area as a safer , shared space with wider pavements ?
6. Electric Vehicle Charging Points . Needs to be re visited

## **5 ( c ) Food Report (Judith Eversley)**

JE started her report by informing the meeting that the Food Group was separate from the BFA in that it was a company with twin aims of providing

- \* local food to the Bear Flat Community and
- \* space for local events

The group organises a monthly community market every 3rd Saturday in the month, which offers local bread, fruit and veg and a range of arts and craft products. All profits from this go to funding a monthly tea party in the church and profits from this go to a church charity. (£500 to date in 2019). Local community stalls are also included in the market, these ranging from Dorothy House, through WI and the Brownies to Bath & West Community Energy

Alongside this there is a monthly litterpick of local streets with the council taking away all the rubbish.

The food group also provides catering for local events including the AGM, the annual Mikron Theatre Group production, Gathering on the Green and Carols in the Park.

### **5(d) History group (Gareth Somerset)**

Gareth noted that the History Group had had a quiet year, apart from input into the Conservation Area Appraisal (5(a) above) and the inclusion of an historical picture quiz into the monthly BFA Flyer. In 2019/20 he plans to produce articles on the WW2 bombing of Bear Flat and on the history of retail on Bear Flat. Watch this space!

### **5(e) Social Report (Bob Hughes)**

The BFA has organised a range of social activities and events in the last year. In the absence of a nominated social secretary, members of the BFA Committee have jointly run the following:

Monthly Food and Craft Market (Judith)

Quiz in November (Bob and others)

Carols in the Park in December (Judith and others)

Hustings for local elections in April (Bob and others)

Gathering on the Green in June (Thelma, Jane and most committee members)

Stall at Party in the Park in July (FoAP)

Mikron Theatre performance in August (Gareth and others)

If any BFA member is interested in helping to run social events, we'd love to hear from you and we very much welcome ideas on the sort of events which you would like us to organise.

### **5(f) Friends of Bloomfield Open Space (Jane Allan)**

#### **FRIENDS of BLOOMFIELD GREEN**

Since our last AGM report we have kept up a profile on the Green doing regular litter picks, planting English bluebells, trimming back here and there and getting the wild life area sorted. The wild life area in memory of Don Grimes who started getting people involved and the work is still continuing. The plants in the area

survived an extremely hot summer last year and after this past summer are all looking very well established. In June we held another Gathering on the Green which was well received by the local community. The weather was an improvement on the previous year and we are hopefully that in 2020 there won't be a rain cloud in sight to dampen our enthusiasm. Rain or no rain the young people (you qualify up to the age of 99yrs) all enjoyed the games and indeed many parents were as keen to take part as their children. The litter has not been a big problem for us and on the whole everything has been good. Yes, there was one keen graffiti artist but we dealt with that. The badgers have had a successful year as well and there seemed to be more holes than before but there is room for everyone. The dogs love the area as do their owners and it's so beautiful when the sun shines through the trees. The spring of 2020 is going to be glorious with beautiful bulbs planted by BaNES (thankfully as there were 5,000 of them) along the hedge between the road and the children's play area. The volunteers were delighted that we were once again awarded a Green Flag 2019/2020. Volunteers thank each other and let's look forward to another year of a beautiful Green.

## **6. Election of Officers**

The following Officers were elected:

Chair: Nick Francis. Proposed by Maggi Somerset. Seconded by Judith Eversley

Treasurer: Mark Richardson. Proposed by Judith Eversley. Seconded by Nick Francis

Secretary: Bob Hughes. Proposed by Judith Eversley. Seconded by Helen Martin

Membership Secretary: Helen Cooke. Proposed by Bob Hughes. Seconded by Marion O' Hanlon

## **7. AoB**

(a) Helen Cooke informed members that new membership cards would be printed shortly in a batch and would be distributed to all new members as soon as they were available.

(b) Bob Hughes gave a vote of thanks to Gareth Somerset for doing such an excellent job as Chair of the BFA for the last 3 years.

(c) The Gore Project: GS gave a short update to the AGM on progress in the Gore Project, aimed at improving the condition of the triangle of land between Wellsway and the bottom of Bloomfield Road. (The Gore). Details of this can be found on the BFA website.

RH 26/10/19

