

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

Minutes of meeting held at the Southville Centre on 10 August 2006

Present

Ben Barker, Charlie Bolton, Roy Gallop, Tess Green (Chair), Chris Hanmer, Jackie Johnson, John Purkiss (minutes), Martha van der Lem, Chris Whale, Tracy Whale, Jo Young.

Apologies

Margaret Fay, Stuart Lees, Katie White.

Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2006 were agreed as correct. There were no matters arising other than items already on the agenda.

Bank account

John proposed that a FrANC bank account be opened with NatWest on North Street, and that the approved signatories of cheques be Tracy Whale (Treasurer), Tess Green (Chair), Stuart Lees (Vice Chair) and John Purkiss (Secretary). The proposal was seconded by Charlie Bolton and agreed unanimously. It was further agreed that the approved signatories should complete and submit the application forms on behalf of FrANC.

Recent activities

Members reported on activities that had taken place since our last meeting.

• Litter

- (a) Two new bins are now in place on Coronation Road. Thanks were expressed to Charlie for his role in facilitating this. A suggestion was made that we should place stickers on the railings alongside the footway to promote the use of litter bins. **Charlie** to contact Steve Sparks at Bristol City Council to seek approval for this. Members living on Cumberland Road suggested that more bins are also needed on the north side of the Cut. **John** to write to the Cabot ward councillors seeking their support for this.
- (b) Thanks were expressed to the South Bristol Caving Club for their excellent work in clearing shopping trolleys, bicycles, scaffold tubes and mattresses from the riverbank and riverbed. The Club hopes to hold another clear-up session in the autumn.
- (c) Four members of FrANC had met with the new manager of ASDA, who shared our concern about litter on the Cut. He is proposing to erect fencing on the Coronation Road boundary of the store's car park in an attempt to prevent litter blowing across the road and in to the Cut. He is also going to speak to MacDonalds to see if litter arising from their operation can be reduced.
- (d) The Docks Manager (who is responsible for the riverbanks) has offered to provide some deer netting if FrANC volunteers are willing to erect a trial length along the railings on Coronation Road, in order to see if it will prevent litter blowing from the footway into the Cut. FrANC is happy to do this, but not before the adjacent stretch of riverbank has been cleared of litter – a job that requires specialist equipment and personnel to carry out. **Charlie** to contact the Docks Manager to request his department to do this work.

• Wildlife

- (a) A wildflower discovery walk was held in June, when species not previously recorded had been identified.
- (b) Avon Wildlife Trust is preparing a report on wildlife in the area around the CREATE Centre at the western end of the Cut.

- **Colliters Brook**
45 people attended an organised walk along the route of the brook. It was well received and we hope to run this event again next year.
- **Book**
“A Celebration of the Avon New Cut” is now available from the Southville Centre and selected bookshops in Bristol. Buy your friends a copy for Christmas!

Future activities

We discussed activity in relation to each of our principal project groups.

- **Themed walks**
All agreed that the river walks should be repeated next year. **John** agreed to organise a guided walk to look at trees along the Cut. **Ben** offered to lead some butterfly walks, so long as numbers are limited (**Jackie** offered to organise a booking procedure). A suggestion was made that we could organise wildlife trips to places of interest – **John** to gauge interest by including the suggestion in the next FrANC newsletter.
- **Arts** (focal person is Stuart)
Jo outlined her plans to run a project that will involve children taking photos of features along the Cut and then incorporating images into tiles made from mud taken from the Cut. She plans to run a pilot with children at Ashton Gate Primary School early next year, which could be extended to include older people too. It was agreed that we would support this project and seek funding for it. A working group comprising **Tess, John, Jo, Ben** and **Stuart** will make an application, which also needs to include a request for funds towards set-up costs, publicity, and other events that will draw people into FrANC.
- **Green Energy** (focal person is Tess)
Tess had contacted Lorraine Hudson (officer responsible for energy projects in Bristol City Council’s Sustainable City Team) who was supportive of looking at ways of harnessing power from the tidal waters of the Cut. A meeting is to be set up with Tess, Mike Timmins (Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association) and Richard St George (Schumacher Society). **Charlie, Jackie** and **Jo** expressed an interest in being involved.
- **Traffic and access**
Residents on the north side of the Cut are concerned about traffic speeding along Cumberland Road and would like a pedestrian crossing near the point where the chocolate path meets Cumberland Road. **Martha** offered to co-ordinate a group of people prepared to take action. It was suggested that FrANC could link up with a Speed Watch group that operates on Coronation Road.
- **Planning / development**
We need a person who is prepared to keep an eye on planning applications affecting the Cut, who can alert people to developments in the pipeline. It was suggested that Steve Wickham might be a suitable person as he is a member of the Civic Society. In the meantime, John had circulated an e-mail concerning a possible development of the Marchioness site (opposite the Louisiana). **Charlie** noted that the Southville ward councillors are informed of major planning applications, and he could alert FrANC to proposals. **John** to write to the Cabot ward councillors asking them to do likewise.

Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 19 October, 7.30pm at the Southville Centre.