

## **Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)**

### **Minutes of meeting held at the Southville Centre on 19 October 2006**

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#### **Present**

Ben Barker, Margaret Fay, Steve Fay, Roy Gallop, Tess Green (Chair), John Purkiss (minutes), Martha van der Lem, Tracy Whale, Alex Whale, Jo Young.

#### **Apologies**

Charlie Bolton, Jackie Johnson, Katie White.

#### **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 August were agreed as correct apart from the second sentence in future activities / traffic and access, which should read "Martha offered to collect opinions of people living on the north side of the Cut".

#### **Matters arising**

- The FrANC bank account had been opened. Thanks were expressed to SCDA for transferring £100 to the new account.
- John reported that he had written to the Cabot Councillors, Mark Wright and Anne White, both of whom had expressed their interest in and support of the work FrANC is doing.

#### **Recent activities**

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

- **Litter**
  - (a) Bristol City Council has erected 4 anti-litter signs on Coronation Road – thanks were expressed to Charlie for organising this.
  - (b) Mark Wright is trying to get more litterbins placed on Cumberland Road.
  - (c) Negotiations have been going on with the Council's waste and docks departments regarding clearing rubbish from banks that are inaccessible to volunteer working parties. Neither seems able to respond, but funding could come from the Council's Clean & Green budget or possibly Section 106 funds to pay for a contractor to do the work. 2 quotations had been obtained. **Ben** is pursuing Julian Cox for a decision on the use of Section 106 monies. **Steve** to write to ASDA to ask them to contribute.
  - (d) The docks manager had offered a sample of netting to be attached to railings opposite ASDA in an effort to stop litter blowing into the Cut. **Roy** and others to test it out at 10am on 21 October. If it appears feasible to use it, quotations for its installation will be sought – unless it is felt that volunteers could do the work.
  - (e) Tracy reported that the South Bristol Caving Club is planning to carry out another litter clearance session one weekend when the tide is low.
  - (f) Thanks were expressed to those who voted for FrANC in the Evening Post's "Love Bristol" campaign. We didn't win the £10,000 prize on offer to enable us to arrange clean-ups of the Cut, but we did receive some useful publicity.

- **Interpretation boards**

3 boards have now been erected alongside the Cut and favourable comments received. The designer has been contacted re problems with water getting in to the inner layer.

- **Book**

Over 120 copies of "A Celebration of the Avon New Cut" have now been sold. Lots of positive feedback has been received from readers. The books are being sold at several outlets in South and Central Bristol. **Steve** offered to ask if Smiles on Cumberland Road would stock some. **Ben** to see if it's feasible to sell copies in ASDA. **John** to ask the Sustainable Southville Project steering group to allocate £500 from the book sales to FrANC.

- **Funding**

An application for funding towards FrANC activities has been sent to Awards for All.

- **Insurance**

John proposed that FrANC become a member of BTCV in order to access its public liability insurance scheme. All agreed that we should organise this insurance if we cannot benefit from the City Council's insurance – which may be possible after some of us have attended a half-day course on health & safety. Activities such as clear-ups and guided walks on City Council land can now take place only if a Council officer is present or a volunteer who has attended the aforesaid training. **Ben** to check details of course dates.

## Future activities

- **Clear-ups** were agreed as follows (subject to insurance cover being in place):

- Sat 25 Nov - maintenance work at Butterfly Junction
- Wed 27 Dec - maintenance work at Butterfly Junction
- Sat 27 Jan - Gaolferry Bridge and Cumberland Road
- Sat 10 Feb - Coronation Road (between Gaolferry Bridge & Vauxhall Bridge).

All sessions to start at 10.00am and finish with refreshments at Riverside Garden Centre.

- **Themed walks** were agreed as follows:

- Sun 1 Apr (10.00am) - historical walk along the Cut (**Roy** agreed to lead this with support from the Bristol Living Rivers Project. The Project has offered to produce a flyer provided we distribute copies to local shops and venues and houses along Cumberland Road and Coronation Road - this was agreed).
- Sun 13 May or 20 May (2.00pm) – wildlife discovery walk (**Tess** to lead).
- One evening in the summer – tree walk (**John** to organise).
- Sometime in the summer – butterfly walk (**Ben** to organise).

## Updates from Project Groups

- **Arts**

Jo is organising dates for her tile-making workshops. She had run a trial workshop with children at Ashton Gate School, which had gone very well.

- **Green Energy**

Nothing to report at this meeting.

- **Traffic and access**

- Martha reported mixed opinions from residents on Cumberland Road regarding campaigning for a crossing (many felt they didn't wish to be disturbed by the noise from a signal bleep and/or cars stopping and starting). Since there is no consensus, it was decided not to pursue this at the present time. There is however universal concern about traffic speeding along Cumberland Road.

**Margaret** to contact Matthew Symonds to find out more about the community speed-watch group that was set up on Coronation Road last year.

- Concerns were also expressed about the danger posed to pedestrians by cyclists speeding along the Chocolate Path. **Martha** to contact Mark Wright to see if "slow down" notices can be erected along the path.

- **Planning / development**

- John reported that Anne White had offered to notify us of planning applications that might interest FrANC on the north side of the Cut. **Jo** to contact Steve Wickham (see last minutes) to ask if he would do the same on the south side.

- **Jo** to ask Councillors if they know of any plans to maintain or renovate Ashton Bridge.

## Any other business

- John proposed that FrANC join the Greater Bedminster Community Partnership. Ben outlined its aims and the benefits of co-ordinated activity on specific issues of local importance, and it was agreed that we should register (there is no fee).

## Date of next meeting

Thursday 11 January, 7.30pm at the Southville Centre.

It was proposed that we consider holding some of our future meetings on the north side of the Cut and/or alongside the stretch of river between Bedminster Bridge and Temple Meads. Ideas for suitable meeting places will be welcomed.