

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

### **Minutes of meeting held at the Southville Centre on 11 January 2007**

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#### **Present**

Ben Barker, Charlie Bolton, Roy Gallop, Tess Green (Chair), John Purkiss (minutes), Tracy Whale, Stephen Wickham, Jo Young.

#### **Apologies**

Martha van der Lem, Katie White

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2006 were agreed as correct.

#### **Matters arising**

- Sales of the New Cut book were good pre-Christmas, but there are several boxes left. **Ben** to see Katie to find out which shops are stocking them. **John** to e-mail FrANC contacts seeking help in distributing books.
- Insurance cover for volunteers on clear-ups and walks was discussed. Ben confirmed that FrANC would be covered by SCDA's insurance if the events were joint ones. It was agreed that future activities would be joint FrANC / SCDA events. Ben and John had attended a training workshop on risk assessment.
- Damp is still getting into the interpretation boards on the Cut. **Ben** to pursue the problem with Katie and the designers.
- John announced that our grant application to Awards for All had been successful. Thanks were expressed to Ann Hughes, who had acted as our independent referee.

#### **Treasurer's report**

Tracy reported that we currently have £5,550 in the bank (£600 from sales of the New Cut book and £4,950 from Awards for All).

#### **Recent activities**

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

- **Butterfly Junction**  
12 people attended the maintenance session on 25 November and completed the work that needed doing. Bristol City Council has agreed to mow areas of grass identified in the maintenance plan. Ben circulated an excellent new leaflet about Butterfly Junction – Ben was thanked for his work on its production.
- **Footway works**  
John reported on remedial works being carried out by Bristol City Council on Coronation Road near Vauxhall Bridge. He had received an assurance that rocks which have tumbled down the embankment will be retrieved before completion of the work.
- **Ashton Bridge**  
Jo reported that Bristol City Council has carried out an inspection of the bridge and is now drawing up proposals for its repair and refurbishment. The costs are expected to be high. **Charlie** to seek a timetable for the proposed activity.
- **Landslips**  
Two slippages had been noted on the Cut – one near Ashton Bridge and one downstream from Goal Ferry Bridge. **John** to inform Kathy Derrick.

- **Litter**

A group of volunteers had fitted a trial length of netting on the railings opposite ASDA. This proved to be too flimsy and inadequate at preventing litter going into the river. The problem needs to be resolved at source, eg. with fencing along ASDA's boundary to prevent litter blowing across the road from their car park. **Ben** and **Charlie** to raise the issue at a forthcoming meeting they are attending at ASDA. It was felt there is no point in paying a contractor to clear litter from the steep banks until the source of the problem has been tackled.

- **Section 106 funding**

Ben and John reported on a meeting held with Bristol Parks, from which it was agreed that local parks and rivers groups should draw up details of projects they wish to carry out with Section 106 funding (this funding results from planning gain). **John** to draft out a list of potential projects for further discussion.

### Future activities

- **Clean-ups**

John confirmed that arrangements are in hand for the clean-ups on 27 January and 10 February.

- **Themed walks**

It was agreed that we should accept an offer from Alison Leaf, a local resident who has researched bird life on the Cut and written a dissertation for a university course, to give a short talk and lead a bird walk. **John** to contact her.

### Updates from Project Groups

- **Arts**

Jo is planning more tile-making workshops, using funds secured from Awards for All. **Jo** to produce her proposals for agreement with the committee.

- **Green Energy**

Nothing to report at this meeting.

- **Traffic and access**

Nothing to report at this meeting.

- **Planning / development**

Stephen reported on developments in Gas Ferry Road that affect views across the Cut from Coronation Road towards the SS Great Britain. A suggestion was made that we hold a special meeting to discuss planning issues that affect the Cut. **John** to e-mail FrANC contacts to gauge interest in a meeting. Stephen suggested having a "landmark" walk around the Cut to identify views that should be preserved – this will be scheduled for a Saturday or Sunday in September. It was further suggested we could at the same time identify sites on the riverbanks that could be developed to provide closer access to the river.

### Any other business

The Southville Local Action Group (a partnership that is addressing the high level of crime in the ASDA / East Street area) has a fund for the implementation of crime reduction measures. It was agreed we should express our interest in a grant for more litterbins and improvements to the area under Gaol Ferry Bridge. **John** to fill in the forms. **Tess** to attend the next Action Group meeting.

### Date of next meeting

Thursday 8 March, 7.30pm at the Southville Centre.