

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

Minutes of meeting held at the Southville Centre on 8 March 2007

Present

Roy Gallop, Tess Green (Chair), John Purkiss (minutes).

Apologies

Ben Barker, Margaret Fay, Steve Fay, Martha van der Lem, Tracy Whale, Stephen Wickham, Jo Young.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2007 were agreed as correct.

Matters arising

- Sales of the New Cut book. 2 volunteers have offered to help in distributing books. John has some details from Katie, but needs invoices. **John** to follow up.
- Interpretation boards on the Cut. The opportunity may have passed to get the makers to improve the boards in order to prevent water damaging the panels. **John** to follow up.
- Ashton Bridge. **Charlie** to seek a timetable for the proposed repair and refurbishment.

Treasurer's report

John reported that expenditure since the last meeting amounted to £77.60 (volunteer expenses).

Reports on projects

Arts

Jo had submitted a report on her plans and a budget for making and displaying clay tiles depicting images of the Cut. The report was accepted and the budget approved even though the expenditure is £100 above the amount allocated from the Awards for All grant. **John** to inform Jo of the decision and to emphasise that no further funds will be available.

Themed walks

- New Cut Trek – 1 April 2007 (10am at Gaol Ferry Bridge). Plans are all in hand. The walk will end at the Create Centre where there will be refreshments and a tile-making workshop. **FrANC** to organise and serve tea/coffee; **Kathy** Derrick to buy cakes. Help will be needed with leaflet delivery door-to-door: **John** to seek assistance with this.
- Wildlife discovery walk – 20 May (2pm at Vauxhall Bridge). **Tess** to lead the walk. **John** to request John Brown (flowers) and Ben Barker (insects) to assist with identification.
- Birds of the Cut – 14 June 2007 (7pm at the Southville Centre). John confirmed that Alison Leaf (a local resident who has researched bird life on the Cut) will give a short talk and lead a bird walk along the Cut – finishing at the Nova Scotia.

Planning / development

- Thanks were expressed to Stephen for keeping an eye on planning applications affecting the Cut. John had received very little response to a suggestion that a special meeting be held to discuss planning issues that affect the Cut. **John** to include information supplied by Stephen in the next FrANC newsletter (see AOB).
- Section 106 funding – **John** still to draft a list of potential projects for further discussion.

Clean-ups and litter

- 3 clear-up sessions had been carried out – thanks were expressed to the 45 volunteers who came along.
- John reported on fly-tipping by Council contractors and the dismissive and patronising response we had received from a Council officer as a result of a complaint by a vigilant resident on Coronation Road. **John** to pursue the matter.
- Ben & Charlie had raised the issue of ASDA's proposed new fencing at a recent meeting and were assured that this would be erected "soon". Nothing has happened. **Tess** to write to ASDA's manager to ask when the work is to be done.
- John had submitted a grant application to the Southville Local Action Group (Safer Bristol) for more litterbins and improvements to the area under Gaol Ferry Bridge. No formal letter has been received, but we understand some funding has been approved.
- Trolleys dumped on the Cut – we can now report these to the Council's Customer Services Centre. Telephone 0117 922 3838 or submit an online report at <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Environment-Planning/Rubbish-waste-and-recycling/fly-tipping---see-it-report-it-stop-it.en>

Traffic and access

It was not known what progress has been made by residents on Cumberland Road regarding (a) getting more litterbins installed and (b) getting signs put up on the Chocolate Path requesting cyclists to respect the rights of pedestrians to walk in safety along this route. **John** to enquire.

Green Energy

Tess proposed that ideas for producing green energy on the Cut should be incorporated in one of the 'Big Ideas' being considered by the Greater Bedminster Community Partnership. Agreed.

Any other business

John to produce the next FrANC newsletter in the next 10 days.

Date of next meeting

The small attendance at today's meeting suggests that bi-monthly meetings are too frequent. It was agreed we would in future hold meetings every 3 months. The next meeting will be the AGM, which it was felt should be brief and be combined with a talk and/or walk. **John** to ask Alison if she has any objection to incorporating a short AGM on the evening of 14 June. **John** to circulate date of meeting when confirmed and seek nominations to the committee.