

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

### **Minutes of meeting held at the Southville Centre on 27 November 2008**

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#### **1. Present**

Richard Clutterbuck (Chair), Ed Hall, John Purkiss (minutes), Angie Tonge, Martha van der Lem, Hazel Whale, Tracy Whale, Sara Worth.

#### **2. Apologies**

Ben Barker, Sean Beynon, Charlie Bolton, Margaret Fay, Roy Gallop, Tess Green, Chris Hanmer, Derek Hughes, Adrian Mantle, Jo Young.

#### **3. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2008 were agreed as correct.

#### **4. Matters arising**

- Tess has booked a herb walk on 25 June 2009
- **John** to seek permission to put a bench beside the Chocolate Path before we pursue funding for it.

#### **5. Financial report**

Tracy reported that we have £877 in the bank. Expenditure since the last meeting included a £100 deposit for a band to play at our 4 May party and £536 on artwork and printing of the New Cut Treasure Hunt leaflet. We had received a grant of £529 for the leaflet from the Greater Bedminster Community Partnership. Everyone congratulated Tracy on the safe arrival of Hazel - 6 weeks ahead of schedule!

#### **6. Local Nature Reserve Campaign**

Charlie had received confirmation from Richard Ennion, Natural Environment Co-ordinator at the City Council, that the Cut is back on a list of potential LNR sites. John had been informed the Cut is included in a grant application the Council has submitted to employ 2 LNR officers. In view of these developments, we decided it would not be appropriate or necessary to pursue an online petition at this stage.

#### **7. Riverscapes Project**

Thanks were expressed to all those who helped at the riverbank clean-up on 4 October and the "Wild Waters" event at the Create Centre on 12 October. Also to Helen for using the Treasure Hunt with two classes from Ashton Gate Primary School. The Create event had not been well attended by the general public – we felt that publicity could have been better.

#### **8. New Cut 200 celebrations**

Sara reported that plans for activities on 4 May 2009 are progressing well. Currently these include:

- Street Theatre with Show of Strength (re-enacting 1809)
- Jazz band on the dockside train
- Morris Dancers (3 groups so far)
- Children / family activities including a treasure hunt and making birthday cards

- Information leaflets and posters
- Publicity on ferries and open-top bus
- A special brew from the Bristol Beer Factory
- An evening party on the Grain Barge with “Sergeant Early’s Dream” (a 4-piece Irish band).

Negotiations are proceeding regarding the SS Great Britain project putting on a hog roast in their car park during the afternoon. Aardman Animations may get involved. The Create Centre gallery has been booked for a photographic exhibition from May 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> (being organised by Chris Woods with support from John).

**Roy** is negotiating with the ferry company for a boat trip up the Cut on board the Bagheera. This will take place before 20 April, when the boat is being taken out of action for a refit. The date and time of the trip will be dependent on the tides.

**John** is applying for grants to fund some of the events.

## **9. Forthcoming events**

The following dates were fixed for 2009:

- South bank clean-up – Saturday 7 February
- North bank clean-up – Saturday 7 March
- New Cut Trek – no date yet
- AGM and Herb Walk – 25 June

## **10. Bus Rapid Transport system**

Several people had been to the consultants’ meetings at the Tobacco Factory and exhibition in the Create Centre. Most thought the plans were under-developed and “fluffy”. John had requested Colin Knight (City Council Head of Transport) to attend today’s FrANC meeting or a special meeting, but he had not responded positively.

## **11. Any other business**

- Hoardings at Spike Island – Ed has obtained the name of a contact at Spike Island who may be arranging some artwork, not that there is much space for it!
- The Council had taken action to clean up an increasing amount of excreta on the Chocolate Path, thanks to Ed reporting on the problem. He had also alerted the Council to the lack of maintenance of gullies on Gaol Ferry Bridge.
- John had met with Angus Tillotson (FrANC member), who is planning to set up a not-for-profit company cleaning rubbish from riverbeds, riverbanks and coastlines, and would welcome our support. Agreed in principle. Angus had suggested that the 4 May events might provide a spur to the Council to clear rubbish from the riverbed. John had contacted the Council, who have undertaken to do this.
- John reported on a meeting with a member of staff at Riverside Garden Centre, who is setting up a viewing area to enable customers to admire the Cut and spot bird life. FrANC will help by providing images of birds to spot.

## **11. Date and place of next meetings**

- New Cut 200 planning on Wed 10 December, 7.30pm at 88 Cumberland Road.
- FrANC meeting on Thursday 19 March 2009, 7.30pm at the Southville Centre.