

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

Minutes of meeting held at the Southville Centre – 19 March 2009

1. Present

Richard Clutterbuck, Margaret Fay, Pat Fung, Tess Green (Chair), Derek Hughes, Adrian Mantle, Liz Payze, John Purkiss (minutes), Angie Tonge, Martha van der Lem, Steve Wickham (for the final 20 minutes), Sara Worth.

2. Apologies

Steve Fay, Roy Gallop, Ed Hall, Chris Hanmer, Paul van der Lem, Tracy Whale.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2008 were agreed as correct.

4. Matters arising

- **John** to seek permission to put a bench beside the Chocolate Path
- We await news from Bristol City Council re their application to fund a Local Nature Reserve Officer. The Cut is currently on a list of potential Local Nature Reserves to be established in the City.

5. Financial report

FrANC funds now stand at just over £9800, due to the award of 2 grants towards the New Cut 200 celebrations totalling £9000. John was thanked for his success in securing these funds.

6. New Cut 200 celebrations

- Sara reported that plans for activities on Monday 4 May are progressing well. Publicity will be going out in April and the organising group will draw up a rota for volunteers needed on and before 4 May. **John** to e-mail the rota to FrANC contacts and request people's help.
- Tickets for the evening party on the Grain Barge will be on sale at the Southville Centre from 2 April (£4 each in advance). **John** will circulate details of both events to FrANC contacts.
- Exhibitions of local people's photos of the Cut will be held at the Southville Centre from 14 April to 1 May and at the Create Centre from 6 May to 15 May.
- Roy has booked a boat trip up the Cut on Thursday 6 August. It will leave at 6pm prompt from the jetty adjacent to the ss Great Britain. There will be space for 50 people only. It was agreed that priority for tickets would be given to the New Cut 200 organising group and volunteers that have regularly attended clean-ups over the past year. **John** to check names and send out e-mails informing people they can book one ticket by a set deadline and notify him of how many more they would like. Depending on the response, we will consider booking a second trip.

7. Other forthcoming events

- The date of the Herb Walk has been changed to 2 July, starting at 7.30pm. The walk will be preceded by our AGM (probably at the Spike Island café) at 7.00pm.
- New Cut Trek – Sunday 26 July starting at 10.30am at the Create Centre. A decision on whether to follow up the walk with a craft activity (as in previous years) will be dependent on the availability and interest of the Create Centre.

8. Riverscapes Project

- Adrian reported on the progress of the project. New river support groups are likely to be established for Colliter's Brook and the mid-section of the Malago. Plans to set up an information website are in hand – **Richard** has offered to help with the selection of a website designer. Helen is planning to arrange some training in audio recording of sounds, voices, stories and history trails relevant to our rivers – **Pat** expressed her interest and will contact Helen.
- **Adrian** agreed to e-mail the minutes of Riverscapes steering group meetings to the FrANC committee members in order to help keep us fully informed. **John** to disseminate information to FrANC contacts as appropriate.
- Helen is taking a class from Southville School on the New Cut Treasure Hunt on 25 March and would like someone to take photos – **Richard** might be available.

9. Clean-ups

- Thanks were expressed to everyone who attended the riverbank clean-ups on 14 February and 7 March, and especially to Steve Fay for ingeniously removing all the plastic wrapping that had dangled from a tree overhanging the river for the past year.
- **Margaret** to draft a leaflet to be delivered to residents on Cumberland Road requesting them not to dump garden waste on the adjacent riverbank.
- John reported that Ed Hall had successfully pressed the City Council to clean up the Gaol Ferry Bridge footway to avoid damp debris rotting the wooden boards.
- John reported that the City Council looks likely to soon remove some of the debris littering the riverbed – notably on the Redcliffe section of the river.

10. Any other business

- The Southville Centre had received an e-mail requesting information on our meetings held in 2008 to investigate the feasibility of generating energy from the Cut. **Tess** to reply.
- Steve raised the issue of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system and its likely effect on the Cut. He suggested we should prepare a statement of FrANC's concerns, to be submitted to the City Council when the next round of consultation takes place (or sooner if felt necessary). It was agreed to hold a special FrANC meeting to discuss the BRT proposals at the Southville Centre at 7.30pm on 21 May.

11. Date and place of next meetings

- New Cut 200 planning meeting – 31 March, 7.30pm at 88 Cumberland Road
- Meeting to discuss the BRT system – 21 May, 7.30pm at the Southville Centre
- FrANC AGM – 2 July, 7.00pm at the Spike Island café (venue to be confirmed).