

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

Minutes of meeting held at the Southville Centre on 17th September 2009

Attended by: John Purkiss (Chair) Sara Worth (vice Chair), Tracy Whale (Treasurer), Margaret Fay, Kean Lamb, Martha Van der Lem, Paul Van der Lem, Glen Eastman, Ed Hall, Stephen Wickham, Roy Gallop; Tess Green was also able to attend the latter part of the meeting.

1. **Welcome** – John opened the meeting, with a round of introductions – with a special welcome to Kean as this was his first attendance at FrANC. We agreed to first watch the celebration DVD from 4th May 2009.
2. **Apologies** – were received from Chris Hanmer, Derek Hughes, Ben Barker, Pat Fung, Angie Tongue, Steve Fay, Charlie Bolton and Richard Clutterbuck.
3. **Minutes of last meeting** (17 July 2009) – these were accepted as an accurate record and thanks go to Derek for providing such full minutes on such important agenda items.
4. **Matters arising** (including update on proposed bench) – John was able to confirm that approval has now been given for the location of a bench. This was FrANC's second option of location as the first option – being directly on the Chocolate Path – was thought likely to potentially obstruct cyclists and pedestrians. Plans are now underway for the purchase of the bench and a commemorative brass plaque.
5. **Treasurer's report** – Tracy furnished the meeting with the following information:-
Current total balance: £3,634.83
Recent activity: £90 paid in (from Boat Trip), £29[?]. 93 paid out (residue from 4th May, room hire for meetings).
The bench, plaque and monies for securing the same will cost in the region of £1,000.
Stephen mentioned that the benches below Vauxhall Bridge are deteriorating. John agreed to alert the Council next time he approached them in order that this can be considered when they are allocating maintenance/improvements monies.
6. **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system**
– update and report from BRT Consultation Meeting held on 10th September.

Margaret Fay had attended the first BRT Consultation Meeting on behalf of FrANC and spoke from the notes that she made following the meeting, which are attached as Appendix 1. A summary of the issues raised is attached as Appendix 2, and a further list of the groups/organisations that were represented at the meeting can be found in Appendix 3. Margaret had also handed in the letter of representation that Tess had first drafted and was later added to by FrANC members. It was agreed that it was important that FrANC continued to be represented at these meetings. When the full minutes from the meeting are available John is happy to let people have an e-mailed copy. The next Consultation Meeting date is now 21st October – to allow time for the groups that were represented to consult with their organisations. Derek will attend this meeting. In the meantime, it was suggested that any FrANC members who had a particular interest could meet prior to this date to ensure that Derek is well-informed.

FrANC's ongoing concerns can be summarised thus:

- i) The loss of the trees outside Spike Island Arts Centre.
- ii) The preservation of the civil engineering within the Underfall Yard (parts of which have World Heritage status).
- iii) The preservation of the road layout next to the Underfall Yard – on the plans the pavement areas seem to be much narrower than at present.
- iv) Disturbance of Butterfly Junction.
- v) Maintaining access to the Chocolate Path near to the Underfall Yard – for pedestrians and cyclists.
- vi) Railing details, pennant stones and other aesthetic aspects of the current environment need to be maintained and complemented by any additional structures.

7. Events

- Dates for winter clean-up sessions; at the meeting it was agreed that John would select some dates and then notify people accordingly. Subsequent to the meeting, the following dates have now been selected;
 - Butterfly Junction - clearing of brambles etc. Sunday 29th November 2009 starting at 10.30am.
 - Two litter clean ups, both starting at 10.00am, on Saturday January 30th 2010 (South Side) and Saturday February 27th 2010 (North Side).
- Events for 2010 – there was a lot of enthusiasm for the proposal for a further New Cut Boat Trip – perhaps this time going up to the weir.....Roy is happy to make preliminary enquiries.
- A repeat of the Herbal Walk was requested – perhaps at a different time of year with the opportunity of 'spotting' different herbs.
- There was agreement that any of the events involving wildlife on The Cut would be welcomed again.

8. Any Other Business

Richard Clutterbuck (who made the DVD of 4th May) is happy to make some more copies. It was agreed that 10 copies – to be used for such occasions as when seeking future grants etc. as evidence of FrANC's work – would be useful. John to speak to Richard; John will also raise whether the DVD should have 'copyright Richard Clutterbuck' as there was a view that the copyright should belong to FrANC, as Richard had been commissioned by FrANC to produce it.

The clearance of the area near Gaol Ferry Bridge on the North Bank by the Council was mentioned. This had become necessary as the buddleia roots were damaging the wall. It was noted that the area has been left in a tidy condition and that some apple trees have been preserved.

There seems to be a trench dug out near Butterfly Junction – which Margaret noticed when she was cycling. No one else was aware of this.

John will ask Richard whether he has managed to make any progress on the DVD footage that he took on the New Cut Boat Trip.

Stephen asked whether there would be support for proposals regarding the style of platform for the Rapid Transit vehicle being in keeping with an old railway platform. This was thought to be too big a subject for AOB and can be considered at a further date if put forward as a proper agenda item.

9. Date and place of next meeting – no date was set at the meeting (TBC).

10. Showing of New Cut 200 DVD – The evening had begun with the showing of the DVD. A vote of thanks to Richard for his excellent capturing of the event, and to all those who assisted with the celebrations.

Minutes taken by Sara Worth and distributed (on 20.09.09) to those who attended the meeting and those who sent apologies.

Appendices 1, 2 and 3 attached.

APPENDIX 1

Consultation on Rapid Transit proposals – Line 2 Thursday 10th September 2009

Notes taken by Margaret Fay, distributed by e-mail to John Purkiss/Sara Worth

This was facilitated by Vicky Harris and a Julia somebody.

The main speaker was Bob Fowler from Bristol Transport dept, also representing the WoE partnership, and supported by James Wilcock, N, Somerset Council and Colin Walker, Bristol City Centre Transport planning.

The audience consisted of representatives of numerous interested bodies.

Bob Fowler opened the meeting by stating that the purpose was to set out progress on the BRT application to date, and to "capture views, issues and ideas to inform the scheme proposals".

At present, the consortium's scheme proposals are with the Dept of Transport, and are being processed. Bob Fowler said that so far, the signs pointed to a satisfactory outcome [i.e. acceptance].

He then went on to say that there were two key decisions which had been made, and therefore were not up for discussion:

1. the method of transport would be a bus
2. the route was fixed as outlined in the plans submitted

It seemed to me at this point that, as these were the fundamental issues of concern to most of us there, the 'consultation' was a purely cosmetic exercise.

To be fair to the speaker however, having given his presentation, he agreed to throw the floor open to a Q&A session, which did allow all of us to make such points as we felt moved to. These were very various, but minutes were being taken, and no doubt these will be forwarded in due course. In response to one questioner, Bob F confirmed that under the existing proposals, the trees at Spike Arts will go.

It was also confirmed that in addition to the bendy buses, a minimum of three other bus services will be re-routed along the BRT route, aiming for a bus every 4-6 minutes per hour.

A group request was made for the date of the next meeting to be put back, as people did not feel that they would have sufficient time to consult with their members and gain feedback in time for the next scheduled date. This was agreed.

I've picked up a copy of the powerpoint presentation, and the latest brochure issued.

I also gave a copy of Tess' statement to Vicky, for incorporation into the list of concerns identified by the group.

Hope this is sufficient - let me know if you need any more info.

Margaret

APPENDIX 2

Consultation on Rapid Transit proposals – Line 2 Thursday 10th September 2009

Issues raised

- Prince Street Bridge
- Spike Island Trees
- Harbour Railway
- Crossing the track – divide
- Route amend – BRI
- Stop (at) Christmas Steps?
- General one way system?
- Journey times/frequency of buses on route
- Green Space Long Ashton
- Low Cost alternative?
- Speed of travel
- Quayside ped/vehicle mix
- Cumberland Road/Spike Island – OK but... location/trees/make it fit
- Temple Meads Interchange
- Green belt
- BCFC link- which came first?
- Segregate cycles/peds?
- Other vehicles using rt bus lanes – taxi/cycles/mbikes
- Fit with other bus routes/schemes
- Loss of services eg 25 (?) Long Ashton to Bedminster
- 368/369 Portishead services
- Deadlines too tight
- Large scale maps DF1 to people.

Vicki Harris
Neighbourhood Planning Network

APPENDIX 3

Consultation on Rapid Transit proposals – Line 2 Thursday 10th September 2009

Groups and representatives :

Abbots Leigh Parish Council	Simon Talbot Ponsonby
Ashton Vale Heritage Group	Peter Crispin
Association of British Drivers	Bob Bull
Bristol Civic Society	John Frenkel
Bristol Motorcycle Federation	Karenza Ellery
Christmas Steps Arts Quarter	Hamilton Caswell
Destination Bristol Harbourside management officer	Zoe Swindell
FrANC – Friend of Avon New Cut	Margaret Fay
Hotwells and Cliftonwood C A	Ray Smith
Redcliffe Futures	Keith Hallett John Ashford
Greater Bedminster Community Partnership	Matthew Symonds
Long Ashton Parish Council	Rod Sterland
Merchants Landing Residents Association	Bob Bishop John Ashford
Southville Community Development Assoc	Matthew Symonds
Spike Island	Laura Noble

Others present:

West of England Transport Team	Julia Dean
Bristol City Council Transport Department	Bob Fowler

Vicki Harris
Neighbourhood Planning Network