

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 13 March 2012 7.30pm – 9pm

Attended by: John Purkiss (Chair), Sara Worth (vice Chair), Derek Hughes (Secretary), Elizabeth Payze (Treasurer) and Roy Gallop (Committee member).

Purpose of Meeting – this was primarily to discuss the following:

1. Wild City Project

- a) Guided walks
- b) Interpretation boards
- c) Management Plan
- d) River Festival in 2013
- e) Redcliffe connection

2. BRT2

- a) Mandate from FrANC for John to speak on its behalf at the public inquiry
- b) Request from Bob Fowler
- c) Should we present our case with other groups?
- d) Do we want FrANC to be named on the StopBRT2 website?

1a) Chris Hanmer (FrANC member) attended for this item as she has volunteered to be the link in respect of requests for guided walks. There was recognition that:

- Whilst Ruth Worsley's intervention had been of benefit it was not substantial
- Currently there are not enough members who can give their time and consideration should be given to asking if there are more/new members who might be interested
- Helen Adshead is happy to continue to lead groups at this time
- For H&S reasons it was felt there should be a minimum of two helpers - even when parents/teachers are in attendance
- School groups should be limited to one class only
- Adult groups should be limited to 15 people
- We can currently handle only a limited number of walks during weekday daytimes.
- Quite a lot of preparation work is needed for each trip – not just 'on the day'
- The Treasure Hunt was found to be a helpful tool.

It was agreed that:

- Chris will act as point of contact for enquirers. John to forward to her any requests he receives via the website or elsewhere.
- Chris will determine if someone from FrANC can meet the request. If FrANC cannot provide a guide, Chris will contact Helen.
- John will e-mail FrANC contacts to see if any new people would like to be guides
- Derek will research some material for information sheets, when time allows
- Liz said she would be willing to assist on evening or weekend walks
- Roy said he would be willing to give advice on industrial heritage but doesn't want to take on any more walks as a guide for the foreseeable future.

1b) These are pretty much at final draft stage.

1c) After a frustrating start – when there was confusion over who was responsible and the council staff not getting adequate assistance – John has now been informed that there is to be a project management meeting to look at the plan; general agreement that Troopers Hill Plan would be a good format to follow. This work is crucial as part of the progress towards the Avon New Cut gaining local nature reserve status.

1d) We are committed to working on this, but will defer any planning until after the BRT2 inquiry. Links have been developed with CLAS, St Mary Redcliffe School and the Lamplighters Marsh project.

1e) Roy is exploring the idea of a boat trip in 2012 for people/groups in the Redcliffe area. CLAS is interested and there is potential interest from the University of the 3rd Age (U3A) and young people from Ashton Vale. It was suggested that the pre-school attached to the grounds of the social housing by Temple School might be a target too. The trip will be financed through the Wild City project and will be held during the daytime – this will give more flexibility with tides etc. Roy is also planning a literary walk on behalf of FrANC in July – starting at the Orchard and ending at the Ostrich. This will be promoted to residents of Redcliffe; Roy will speak to someone he know who attends St Mary Redcliffe Church to see if the church has links with community groups in the area.

2a) It was decided that as FrANC members have already been advised of the issues for FrANC in relation to BRT2 (copy of letter circulated for comments) that John, as Chair, can rightly represent FrANC at the inquiry. Members are not named as individuals.

2b) John has been invited to meet with Bob Fowler to discuss FrANC's concerns re BRT2. It was suggested that John should not meet Bob Fowler alone but would attend a meeting with other groups with similar concerns when these have been identified.

NB: At the time of the committee meeting it was thought that the Inquiry Programme Officer was going to work on a plan to group people with similar concerns together but, on looking at the minutes of the pre-inquiry meeting subsequently, it seems that this is not the case. It appears that groups are invited to make their own links.

2c) It was felt premature to consider whether FrANC would want to present their case with others who are going to appear at the Inquiry.

2d) It was agreed that as formal objectors to BRT2 we were happy to be named on the StopBRT2 website.

Minutes produced by Sara Worth
Vice Chair 25th March 2012