

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 28th January 2013

Attended by: Sara Worth (Chair), Roy Gallop (Vice-Chair), Derek Hughes (Secretary), Elizabeth Payze (Treasurer), Ed Hall and Chris Hanmer (Committee Members), Helen Adshead and Richard Clutterbuck.

1. Welcome

Sara welcomed the meeting attendees.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Margaret Fay (Committee Member).

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last FrANC Committee Meeting held on 3rd December 2013 were approved by those present.

4. Matters Arising

The matters arising from the previous meeting may be found in the list of Actions contained in the minutes of that meeting, the current status of which is summarised in Table 1.

5. Wild City Project

5.1 Wild Waters Riverside Festival 2013

- There is a budget of £3,500 available for the Festival, plus £2,100 for Boat Trips.
- Of primary interest is the stretch of the river between Bedminster Bridge and Bath Road Bridge, and the communities on either side of it.
- We would like to get St. Mary Redcliffe Primary and Secondary Schools involved, plus the occupants of the nearby council flats. Chris has made contact with Angus Gregson (Deputy Head of Physics) at the Secondary School, who is prepared to help establish links with members of staff from other disciplines/subjects.
- Roy was pleased to report that CLASS have produced enough material for a 48-page booklet on the history of Redcliffe and Bedminster. It was agreed that part of the Wild City budget will be donated towards the publication cost of this booklet, to be split 50/50 with Fiducia Press.
- The CLASS booklet material could be used to launch various school projects about this part of the New Cut, and could be a way of bringing the different age groups – CLASS researchers and students – together. The challenge would be how to relate the CLASS material to the different disciplines/subjects taught at the schools.
- The possibility of a holding a photographic exhibition at the Secondary School as part of the festival was suggested, featuring photos taken by the students.
- There is sufficient funding for two Boat Trips, perhaps one for CLASS/U3A and another for school children, parents and teachers. The boat trips could go upstream to Beese's Tea Gardens, or downstream towards Avonmouth (perhaps linking up with the Lamplighters Marsh Festival), or even along the New Cut itself (subject to tides). Roy was actioned to suggest suitable dates.

- Margaret had provided a link to the M-Shed website which contained dates for the Harbour Railway. Unfortunately, these dates only cover the first half of the year (from 30th March – 27th May) and therefore do not include the proposed June/July timeframe for the Riverside Festival.
- Roy noted that the deposit that he had paid to the now-defunct Bristol Ferry Boat Company for the postponed Boat Trip last year had been refunded by his credit card company, so he was no longer out of pocket.

5.2 New Cut Management Plan

- No further drafts of the Management Plan have been issued since the last meeting. Two Friday afternoon dates were suggested for a meeting to review progress – February 22nd or March 1st. The meeting will be hosted by Chris at No. 82 Cumberland Road, starting at 2pm.
- Helen was asked to contact Ollie Roberts from Bristol City Council to confirm if either of the above dates is acceptable. Attendees will be Ollie, Helen, Chris, Richard and Derek.

5.3 Guided Walks

- At the last meeting an action had been placed on Margaret to contact Jackie Wiltshire of M-Shed to discuss possible liaison with FrANC for providing guided walks for adults and school parties. However, it was reported that Jackie Wiltshire has since moved on and so another M-Shed contact will need to be found.
- Ed reported that the M-Shed guided tours around the Floating Harbour were becoming more well-known, but that numbers varied (ranging from 2 to 22!). At least two people were required to lead each walk – one leading, and the other at the rear of the group. Photos supplied by the museum were used during the walk to illustrate how different areas had changed over the years.
- The view of the Committee was that FrANC should concentrate on providing guided walks for school parties, based around the Treasure Hunt leaflet. However, more FrANC volunteers would be needed to provide this service.
- It was suggested that a request for more volunteers should be included in the next FrANC Newsletter. Once the number of volunteers is known, we will be in a better position to judge what level of service FrANC can provide to schools, and whether a future liaison with M-Shed is feasible.
- As noted at the previous meeting, having established the number of FrANC volunteers who are prepared to lead guided walks we will then offer dates to schools when these volunteers will be available. Chris will be the point of contact between FrANC and the local schools, which historically have included the primary schools at Ashton Gate, Southville and South Street.

6. Memorial for John Purkiss

- It was reported that a memorial tree for John will be planted at Windmill Hill City Farm at 2:00pm on Friday 22nd February (this clashes with one of the possible dates for the New Cut Management Plan meeting). A memorial tree is also planned for Greville Smyth Park. The Patchwork Group are also planning a memorial in the form of an engraved stone, to be located in the Community Orchard in North Street, Bedminster.
- The following suggestions were made for a suitable memorial to John from FrANC:

- an extra plaque to be added to the FrANC bench on the Chocolate Path. Alternatively, a separate commemorative plaque was suggested, which could be positioned adjacent to the bench. Derek was actioned to investigate possibilities via *Streetmaster*, the company who had supplied the FrANC bench.
- an annual memorial walk or lecture, which would start with a tribute being paid to John. This could be held in June each year, around the time when John died. Possibilities for this year were (i) an illustrated talk by Roy on trade in the Bristol Channel, (ii) a talk on the flora and fauna of the New Cut or (iii) a Wildflower Walk. A knowledgeable person would have to be found to present/lead the latter two options (Margaret may be able to suggest someone to lead a Wildflower Walk).

7. Operational Matters

7.1 Updating and Management of FrANC Website

- Sara reported that since the last meeting she had enlisted the help of a member of FrANC, Chris Murray, to sort out the FrANC Website. Chris has been very helpful and has given Sara, Chris (Hanmer) and Derek a tutorial on how to update the *News and Events* section of the Website. Sara is also now able to access e-mails sent to the Website address at contact@franc.org.uk.
- Chris (Murray) has offered to take on the overall management of the website. One possible near-term improvement would be to set up a remote FrANC photo library on an established website such as *Flickr*, which will then be accessible from the FrANC Website.
- Chris will also add links between the FrANC Website and other website addresses, such as StopBRT2 and Friends of Troopers Hill. This would also provide access to any other websites that are linked to these websites.
- It was suggested that a sub-Committee could be set up in due course to plan how the Website can be developed to make it more interactive for FrANC members.

7.2 Walk along the Cut

- At the last Committee Meeting, Ed suggested that the Committee should do a walk along the Cut. The date for this was set for Sunday February 24th, meeting at 2pm by the FrANC Information Board at Bedminster Bridge. The purpose of the walk would be to familiarise the Committee with the length of the Cut between Bedminster Bridge and Bath Road Bridge, and to identify future Cleanup opportunities.

7.3 Next edition of FrANC Newsletter

- The next Newsletter is now more likely to be a Spring 2013 edition. Potential items to be included are:
 - News on Riverbank Clean-ups
 - Memorial for John Purkiss
 - Guided Walks – request for more volunteers
 - Wild City developments – Riverside Festival
 - Links to BCC Website for requesting removal of Graffiti
 - Update on BRT2

8.0 Treasurer's Report

- Liz reported that the only major change to the FrANC accounts since the last meeting had been a grant of £461 received from the Bedminster Community Fund (Ben Barker) on behalf of BCC.
- Regarding the FrANC application to the "Chestnut Fund" (a small grant scheme to enable volunteer groups to purchase tools), Liz reported that although £350 was available the money had to be spent on purchases from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) website. Liz said she would find out whether it was possible to purchase a portable PA system, which could be used for Guided Walks.

9.0 Events Planning 2013

9.1 Riverbank Cleanups

- A successful Riverbank Cleanup was held on 26th January along the Coronation Road side of the New Cut. As well as covering the area between Gaol Ferry Bridge and Vauxhall Bridge, six volunteers had been dispatched to tackle the area between Bedminster Bridge and Goal Ferry Bridge. This area has never been attempted before by FrANC, and consequently not much progress was made – in fact, only to just beyond the bus stop near the new FrANC Interpretation Board!
- Consequently, it was agreed that we would organise a *second* Cleanup specifically for this area, to be held on Saturday 9th March starting at 10:00am. This would be in addition to the next scheduled Riverbank Cleanup, to be held on 23rd February along Cumberland Road and the Harbour Railway.

10. Update on BRT2

- It was reported that the Inspector's Report on the Public Inquiry into the Ashton Vale to Temple Meads and Bristol City Centre Rapid Transit Order (BRT2) has now been sent to the Secretary of State for Transport. However, those who had appeared at the Public Inquiry as Objectors have not yet received a copy.
- The new Mayor of Bristol, George Ferguson, has rejected the proposed BRT2 route along the Harbourside and over Prince Street Bridge, and has requested studies of other alternative routes. However, it was not clear at present whether this implied that the proposed guided busway along the Harbour Railway adjacent to the Chocolate Path would be retained.
- Roy noted that, at the time of the Mayor's announcement, Tess Green (Bristol City Councillor and former Chair of FrANC) had attended a public meeting during which many of the Councillors who had previously supported the Harbourside route had confessed that they had actually had reservations about it!

11. Any Other Business

- **Extended-reach Litter Pickers** – Derek has recently purchased one 8-foot and two 6-foot litter pickers from *The Helping Hand Company*, for a total cost of £112.76. These had been very useful during the Cleanup near Bedminster Bridge on 28th January.

- **Greater Bedminster Community Partnership (GBCP) Forms** – Derek reported that all forms have now been completed and returned to Ben Barker.
- **Travellers Camp on Coronation Road** – Ed reported that, since the last meeting, further discussions with BCC had resulted in the travellers camp being moved again, but only as far as a disused garage on Coronation Road next to the Avon Packet Pub.

However, it was evident during the Coronation Road Riverbank Cleanup that the area near the *Harvest Energy* Service Station where the travellers had previously been camped was still in use. There is still a considerable amount of litter there (cans, bottles, chairs, etc), extending from the top of the riverbank to the river, which is clearly visible from the Baltic Wharf Caravan Site on the opposite riverbank.

It was considered that this amount of litter, and its inaccessibility, is beyond FrANC's capabilities. Photographs of the extent of the litter were taken during the Cleanup, and it was agreed that the next step would be to send an e-mail to BCC, with photographic evidence, requesting that appropriate action be taken. Richard was asked to provide a CD of the photographs he had taken so that they can be downloaded and attached to the e-mail. It was suggested that Councillor Tess Green should be copied into the e-mail distribution list.

12. Date of next meeting

- The next Committee Meeting will be held on **Monday 4th March 2013** at 88 Cumberland Road, starting at 7:15pm.
- The new actions placed at this meeting have been added to those listed in Table 1.

Derek Hughes
Secretary, Friends of the Avon New Cut

Action No.	Description	Actioned by	Status
12-03-01	Distribute New Cut Management Plan, when available, to Committee Members.	Derek	<i>In Progress</i>
12-03-02	Talk to Jackie Wiltshire of M-Shed about possibility of future liaison with FrANC for provision of Guided Walks for adults and school parties.	Margaret	<i>In Progress</i>
12-03-03	Provide names of school contacts for organising Guided Walks.	Helen	<i>In Progress</i>
12-03-04	Obtain copy of Guided Walk Feedback Form used by M-Shed (subject to their agreement).	Margaret	<i>In Progress</i>
12-03-05	Wild City Project to reimburse Roy for cost of boat trip if booking already paid for is not honoured by Bristol Ferry Boat Company's successor.	Helen	Completed
12-03-06	Establish a link with St. Mary Redcliffe School for Wild Waters Riverside Festival.	Chris	Completed
12-03-07	Provide an update on the CLASS booklet on Redcliffe/Bedminster.	Roy	Completed
12-03-08	Find out the dates when the Harbour Railway will be running in 2013.	Margaret	Completed
12-03-09	Contact FrANC member(s) to obtain help offered to manage and update FrANC Website.	Sara	Completed
12-03-10	Contact owners of Cornwall Garage to see if gypsy travellers can be encouraged to vacate New Cut.	Ed	Completed
12-03-11	Compile and publish FrANC Winter Newsletter 2013 (now updated to Spring Newsletter).	Derek, Sara, Margaret	<i>In Progress</i>
12-03-12	Investigate Chestnut Fund and submit application for grant towards cost of items for Riverbank Clean-ups/Guided Walks.	Liz	<i>In Progress</i>
12-03-13	Purchase suitable extended-reach litter-pickers in time for first Riverbank Clean-up on January 26 th .	Derek	Completed
12-03-14	Contact BCC to find out who is responsible for disposing of Butterfly Junction "garden waste".	Sara	Completed
12-03-15	Complete GBCP forms and return to Ben Barker.	Derek	Completed
13-01-01	Suggest dates for Riverside Festival Boat Trips	Roy	<i>New action</i>
13-01-02	Confirm date for New Cut Management Plan meeting with Ollie Roberts (February 22 nd or March 1 st)	Helen	<i>New action</i>
13-01-03	Investigate cost of Commemorative Plaque for John Purkiss Memorial	Derek	<i>New action</i>
13-01-04	Walk along New Cut between Bedminster and Bath Road Bridges on 24 th February	Committee	<i>New action</i>
13-01-05	Source Portable PA system for Guided Walks	Liz	<i>New action</i>
13-01-06	Provide CD of photos of Travellers Camp litter	Richard	<i>New action</i>

Table 1 FrANC Committee Action List