

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 13th February 2018

Attended by: Sara Worth (Chair), Tess Green (Vice Chair), Derek Hughes (Secretary), Margaret Fay, Roy Gallop, Ed Hall, Angie Tonge and Tim Wickstead (Committee Members) and John Smith (Member).

1. Welcome

Sara welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Chris Hanmer (Committee Member) and Steve Fay (Treasurer).

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last FrANC Committee Meeting held on 4th December 2017 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. Additional comments concerning some of the actions are given below:

Action 17-03-07: An e-mail documenting FrANC's concerns about riverbank subsidence along the New Cut was sent by Ed to Councillors Charlie Bolton and Stephen Clarke (Southville Ward) on 8th January. The contents of the e-mail can be found in Attachment 1. These issues were subsequently raised by Councillor Clarke in a Bristol City Council (BCC) Members Forum on 15th January at which the Bristol Mayor, Marvin Rees, was present. Councillor Clarke asked the Mayor to clarify BCC's position with regard to the four points listed in Attachment 2, which also contains the responses subsequently received from various BCC officers.

Ed's e-mail was pre-empted by BCC's decision to close the complete length of the Chocolate Path on 18th December because of "safety concerns". Derek noted that, according to a BCC press release, "*the closure will remain in place for the foreseeable future until detailed assessments are complete which cover the level of repairs and maintenance required and available funding*". A figure of £5 million has also been reported as being set aside to cover major maintenance and improvement works over a three-year period, but it is not clear whether this would only be spent on repairing the New Cut riverbank or if it also includes maintenance work on the rest of the Floating Harbour. As indicated in Attachment 2, a report on the current state of the Chocolate Path is expected to be published in April this year.

Action 17-04-01: Derek reported that, having written to Brunel Engraving Company to complain about the degradation of the black infill lettering on the nameplate of John Purkiss' plaque, he had received a refund for the sum of £28.74 that he had paid previously to have the lettering restored. This remuneration will not appear in the FrANC accounts, however, because Derek did not submit an expense claim for the initial restoration of the lettering.

Action 17-04-03: identification of the seed mixes planted at Butterfly Junction from the CH2M drawing is still in progress.

Action 17-04-07: Sara will contact Paul Becker of *Bristol Goodgym* later this year – a litter-picking session on a Tuesday evening was suggested.

Action 17-05-01: Roy said that he had removed approximately two-thirds of the remaining lettering on John Purkiss' Memorial Plaque, but this was proving to be very time-consuming exercise (it was suggested that to expedite matters we could simply reinstall the plaque behind the FrANC bench and let nature take its course!). If difficulties are experienced when restoring the black lettering, Roy said that he would seek the assistance of Conan Wills/Laura Murgatroyd (who have had a similar problem with another memorial to John).

Action 17-05-02: the roles/responsibilities necessary to run FrANC are listed in Table 2 of these minutes; these were discussed further later in the meeting (see item 7 below).

Action 17-05-04: the action to obtain a quotation from *ParkWork* for the provision and installation of a perimeter fence around Butterfly Junction is still being progressed. Sara added that she intended approaching Chris Ecclestone from the Bristol Harbour Railway to see if any "spare" railway track was available which could be used to construct a fence similar to that between Butterfly Junction and the CREATE Centre car park.

Action 17-05-05: Roy reported that Sarah Connolly's podcast on the New Cut (which lasts around 1 hour 20 minutes) is now available - the link to the podcast is

<https://avonstories.com/2018/01/11/podcast-16-avon-new-cut/>

and it can also be listened to directly at

<https://soundcloud.com/avonstories/episode-16-the-avon-new-cut>

5. Events Planning for 2018

5.1 Status of Riverbank Clean-ups

This year's first Riverbank Clean-up on 13th January, from Bedminster Bridge to Gaol Ferry Bridge, was well-attended by 30 FrANC volunteers.

Chris, Ed and Angie advised that they would not be available for the second Clean-up along the York Road riverbank, which was due to be held this coming Saturday (17th February). In Steve's absence, Margaret offered his services to help Sara and Derek with the transportation of the Clean-up equipment to the meeting location at the Banana Bridge. Tim also offered to help if required. It was noted that nowadays at least three people are needed to transport this equipment, which comprises litter-pickers, gloves, high-visibility vests, refuse bags for recyclables/non-recyclables and "handi-hoops" to help keep the bags open.

Derek suggested that the Clean-up scheduled for Saturday 10th March should be advertised as FrANC's contribution to the *Great Bristol Spring Clean 2018*, which runs from 5th – 11th March.

5.2 Planning for *Bristol Walk Fest 2018*

Margaret reported that Dr. Clive Lovatt from the Bristol Naturalists' Society has agreed to lead a Botanical Walk along the New Cut on behalf of FrANC. Chris Hanmer has received entry forms from the *Bristol Walk Fest 2018* organisers and has offered to submit the relevant walk details. Chris will therefore need the date of this walk, together with a short description of the walk content, to be provided by Monday 26th February which is the deadline for submissions. The walk could be held either during a weekday evening or weekend in May, and as the Chocolate

Path is closed for the foreseeable future it was suggested that we could focus on the area around "The Point" at the end of Spike Island instead.

In addition, Ed offered to repeat the walk that he led during last year's *Walk Fest*, entitled "*Exploring the Cumberland Basin*", though again the route will require revision because of the Chocolate Path closure. It was agreed that Chris will provide details of both walks to the *Bristol Walk Fest* organisers by the above deadline. Derek noted that the Bristol Parks Forum would like to see as many parks groups as possible submitting walks for this festival, and had requested that the strapline "*Supporting walking and Bristol Parks and Green Spaces*" should be added to walk descriptions.

(Post-Meeting Note: a "Discovering Plants in Wild Places" Walk (around the New Cut) will be held on Saturday 12th May (2:30pm start) and a walk entitled "The Cumberland Basin" will be held on Tuesday 22nd May, starting at 6:30pm. The duration of each walk will be 1½ hours and bookings for places on both of these Walks will be managed by Chris.)

5.3 Other Walks/Talks

A *Boat Trip/Geological Trip up the New Cut/Avon Gorge* is one of the FrANC events planned for later this year. Roy said that, as a shareholder, he would be attending the AGM of *Bristol Community Ferry Boats Ltd.* shortly and would find out if they plan to run any of their boats up the New Cut this year.

Margaret also advised that she has the contact details of an entomologist who may be prepared to give a talk on insects and bugs – though we would have to provide a suitable venue.

6. Update on new FrANC Membership/Mailing List using *MailChimp*

Derek reported that to date, and after some chasing up, 95 people had responded to the e-mail sent on 3rd December which asked FrANC members to confirm that they wished to continue to receive notification of future FrANC events. The current FrANC membership is therefore considered to be 95, i.e. less than 50% of the previous membership list which is now considered to be obsolete.

The names, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers provided by these people were subsequently used by John to set up a new FrANC electronic Mailing List on *MailChimp*. This mailing list was then used to circulate details of the forthcoming York Road Riverbank Clean-up to the 95 FrANC members. The mail shot templates that John created for this Clean-up will be copied to create similar templates for the other Riverbank Clean-ups.

The sender of the above (and future) FrANC mail shots is identified in recipients' mailboxes as "Friends of the Avon New Cut" and the return e-mail address to which any replies will be sent is that listed on the FrANC Website, i.e. contact:@franc.org.uk. Sara noted that one FrANC member had replied to the e-mail (to say that he was unavailable for the Clean-up) and thought that the e-mail addresses of the other 94 FrANC members may have inadvertently been CC'd to his reply. John was asked to investigate this and, if necessary, ensure that the e-mail address of each FrANC member is held securely in FrANC's *MailChimp* account and cannot be circulated to the rest of the membership.

John said that the next task will be to create additional templates for other FrANC events (e.g. Walks and Talks) and Newsletters. It is also proposed to modify the FrANC Website so that any new "subscribers" will be automatically added to the *MailChimp* Mailing List. John, Sara and Derek will hold further meetings to agree what is required.

It was also noted that, in order to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which is effective as of May 2018, FrANC will need to keep records of its members' consent for their personal information (i.e. names, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers) to be used. This means that it will be necessary for Derek to store the replies sent by the 95 people who responded to his e-mail of 3rd December asking whether or not they wished to continue to be notified of future FrANC events. It will also be necessary to keep records of the notification e-mails that are automatically generated when people choose to "Join the FrANC Mailing List" by clicking the "Subscribe" button on the FrANC Website.

7. FrANC Roles/Responsibilities – any offers?

As noted above in item 4, Action 17-05-02, the list of administrative roles and responsibilities that are considered necessary in order to run FrANC is reproduced in Table 2. The following offers of assistance were made:

- Sara advised that Chris Hanmer was prepared to take on the role of **Walks/Talks Organiser**;
- John offered to help with the roles of **Membership Secretary** (as he has been instrumental in setting up the new FrANC Mailing List on *MailChimp*) and **Newsletter Editor/Publisher** (as this will involve creating a *MailChimp* Newsletter template). John also offered to provide assistance with managing the FrANC Website, when needed;
- Roy and John said they would be prepared to jointly take on the role of **Boat Trip Organiser**;
- Tim offered to take on a lead role in helping to sign volunteers in and out at Riverbank Clean-ups.

Sara said that she would be prepared to continue as a point of contact between FrANC and BCC for the time being, and was asked to prepare a list of the names of the various Council Officers that she currently liaises with.

8. Items for/help with next Newsletter

It was agreed that the next FrANC Newsletter will be published at the end of March, with contributions to be sent to John no later than 16th March. Apart from the usual notifications about forthcoming events (i.e. Clean-ups, Walks and Talks), the following additional articles were suggested for inclusion:

- an appeal for candidates to come forward to succeed Sara as FrANC Chair, as she will not be standing for re-election at the next AGM in November;
- an article by Margaret on the Bristol Naturalists' Society;
- an article by Tim on what it is like to be a new Committee Member;
- articles on (i) an artist who uses mud from the New Cut (Sara), (ii) the BS3 Wildlife Group (Derek) and (iii) *Urban Buzz* (Derek) – see item 9 below for further information.

9. Any Other Business

- **Artist who uses mud from the New Cut** – Sara said that she had received an e-mail from FrANC member Stephen Mason concerning a graduate student from Bath University, Steven Sales, who is investigating the use of mud from the New Cut to make the glazes for his ceramics. Apparently Steven collects mud from underneath the Plimsoll Bridge at different depths,

which he then fires at different temperatures to get different effects. Sara offered to contact Steven to make him aware of FrANC and to find out more about what he does, for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Steven has a website – www.stevensales.co.uk.

- **Action Greater Bedminster membership** – despite having advised Councillor Charlie Bolton that Tess is FrANC’s point of contact for *Action Greater Bedminster’s* Parks & Green Spaces sub-group (Action 17-05-03), Derek reported that he had received membership forms from both the Secretary and Membership Secretary that required completion. It was agreed that Derek would forward these forms on to Tess for further action.
- **BS3 Wildlife Group / My Wild Bedminster** – Derek reported that he had been contacted by Ben Barker, asking if FrANC is interested in linking up with the BS3 Wildlife Group to conduct a survey of wildlife on the New Cut as a contribution to *My Wild Bedminster*. The possibility of updating the various New Cut wildlife surveys that have been undertaken in the past was mentioned at a previous Committee Meeting held on 11th July 2017. Derek offered to contact Ben to confirm FrANC’s interest and to find out whether this group is connected with *Action Greater Bedminster’s* Parks & Green Spaces sub-group. The group is interested in recruiting volunteer observers and Derek offered to write a short article for the next FrANC Newsletter to help publicise this.
- **Urban Buzz** – this project was launched in Bristol last year by Buglife, the Invertebrate Conservation Trust, and is due to end in March 2019. The objective is to make 100 sites across Greater Bristol (including BS3) more pollinator-friendly by the planting of wildflowers, orchards and meadows, which will be accomplished by a team of volunteers. Derek will compile a (short) article to publicise this project in the next Newsletter.
- **Opening Ceremony for new MetroBus Bathurst Basin Bridge** – this ceremony was held in *The Louisiana* pub on 12th February and was attended by Sara, Chris, Margaret and Derek as FrANC representatives. Talks were given by Peter Mann (BCC Director of Transport), Councillor Mhairi Threlfall (BCC Cabinet Member for Transport) and MetroBus contractor Volker Laser on the construction of the new bridge and the benefits of the new cycleway/walkway linking Cumberland Road and Commercial Road (which, it must be said, is an improvement!). Other nuggets of information gleaned from the Council Officers present were that (i) MetroBus is now expected to be operational by “late Spring” (presumably Spring 2018!) and (ii) the “critical path” item is apparently the installation and testing of the electronic ticketing machines (which begs the question: why was it not possible to save time by testing the electronic ticketing system independently while the MetroBus construction works were in progress?).
- **Frequency of Riverbank Clean-ups** – Tim asked whether it would be possible to organise additional riverbank clean-ups throughout the year. Sara explained that traditionally our major clean-up activities are confined to the beginning and end of the year, because during the summer months litter tends to be obscured by vegetation growth and there is also the risk of disturbing nesting birds. Occasional impromptu litter-picks may be held during the coming year, however, and it may be possible to use the new FrANC Mailing List to publicise these via *MailChimp* at short notice.

- **Local Nature Reserve signage** – there are currently no signs on any part of the New Cut that inform the general public that it is a Local Nature Reserve. Angie suggested that the installation of such signs, particularly in managed areas such as Butterfly Junction, might make people think twice before dropping litter or allowing their dogs to foul grassland. Roy noted that the Patchwork Community Gardening Group, who turn neglected patches of land in Bedminster into community gardens and orchards, have installed appropriate signage at their sites; he offered to find out more about the types of signs erected and their associated costs.
- **FrANC Leaflets in Tourist Information Centre** – Margaret had noticed that a number of other “Friends of...” groups have free leaflets available for the general public in the Bristol Tourist Information Centre (located in E Shed on Narrow Quay) and wondered if we should do the same. Sara replied that in fact she and Derek had delivered copies of the FrANC “*Circular Walks around the Avon New Cut*” leaflet there in the past, and that obviously these stocks needed to be replenished as none were currently on display.
- **Orange High-Visibility Vests** – it was pointed out that the contrast between the yellow and green high-visibility vests that are worn by Group Leaders and FrANC volunteers respectively during Clean-ups is not that great. Sara offered to obtain some replacement **orange** vests for Group Leaders to wear in time for the next Riverbank Clean-up on 17th February.

10. Date of the next Committee Meeting

- The date of the next FrANC Committee Meeting is **Tuesday 10th April 2018**, to be held at 88 Cumberland Road. A slightly earlier starting time of 7:00pm was proposed.
- Note that Table 1 includes any new actions raised at this 13th February meeting.

Derek Hughes
Secretary, Friends of the Avon New Cut

Action No.	Description	Actioned by	Status
17-03-07	Draft a letter to Bristol City Council re. FrANC's concerns about historical/present-day subsidence of the New Cut riverbank	Ed, Tess	Completed
17-04-01	Investigate reported degradation of newly-restored lettering on John Purkiss' Memorial Plaque	Derek	Completed
17-04-02	Contact Deputy Mayor Asher Craig to find out name of Council Officer responsible for Greater Bedminster Section 106/CIL funding allocation	Tess	Completed
17-04-03	Identify Butterfly Junction seed mixes from CH2M drawing and confirm with Dr. Nick Michael that these are acceptable	Derek, Sara	In Progress
17-04-05	Update FrANC Membership List – email membership to ask if FrANC members wish to remain on Mailing List	Derek	Completed
17-04-07	Contact Paul Becker from <i>Bristol Goodgym</i> re. possible Tuesday evening riverbank clean-up task later this year	Sara	In Progress
17-05-01	Restore weathered lettering on John Purkiss' Memorial Plaque	Roy	In Progress
17-05-02	Review lists of FrANC Secretary's Roles/Tasks (Table 2) and FrANC Admin. Roles & Responsibilities (Table 3)	Committee	Completed
17-05-03	Advise Councillor Charlie Bolton that Tess Green will be FrANC's point of contact for <i>Action Greater Bedminster's</i> proposed parks and green spaces group	Derek	Completed
17-05-04	Obtain quotation from <i>ParkWork</i> for provision and installation of perimeter fence around Butterfly Junction	Sara	In Progress
17-05-05	Contact Sarah Connolly to find out when podcast on New Cut will be released	Roy	Completed
17-05-06	Advise Mark Crosby that FrANC would like to be involved in any future discussions re. Payne's Shipyard development	Sara	Completed
18-01-01	Provide details of FrANC's Walks for <i>Bristol Walk Fest 2018</i> and submit walk descriptions to organisers by 26 th February	Margaret, Ed, Chris	New Action
18-01-02	Find out if <i>Bristol Community Ferry Boats Ltd.</i> will be running boat trips up the New Cut during 2018	Roy	New Action
18-01-03	Check that e-mail addresses in new <i>MailChimp</i> account cannot be inadvertently CC'd when individual FrANC members reply	John	New Action
18-01-04	Set up system to record FrANC members' consent for their personal details to be used in new <i>MailChimp</i> Mailing List	Derek	New Action
18-01-05	Prepare list of names/contact details of Bristol City Council Officers who liaise with FrANC Chair	Sara	New Action
18-01-06	Provide contributions to next FrANC Newsletter (as listed in Item 8) by 16 th March, and publish Newsletter via <i>MailChimp</i> by the end of March	Sara, Margaret, Tim, Derek, John	New Action
18-01-07	Contact Steven Sales to find out more about "Artist who uses mud from the New Cut"	Sara	New Action
18-01-08	Complete and submit membership forms for (a) <i>Action Greater Bedminster</i> and (b) its Parks & Green Spaces sub-group	Tess	New Action
18-01-09	Find out about types of signage installed by Patchwork Community Gardening Group at their sites in Bedminster	Roy	New Action
18-01-10	Deliver additional " <i>Circular Walks around the Avon New Cut</i> " leaflets to Bristol Tourist Information Centre in E Shed	Sara, Derek	New Action
18-01-11	Purchase orange high-visibility vests for FrANC Group Leaders to wear on future Riverbank Clean-ups	Sara	New Action

Table 1 **FrANC Committee Action List**

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITIES
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair General Meetings of the group and meetings of the Executive Committee in accordance with the group's Constitution.
Vice Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputise for the Chairperson as necessary.
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that a proper record is kept of all meetings. • Ensure that effective communication between the Executive Committee and group members is maintained. • Maintain a register of group members (if no Membership Secretary appointed).
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a record of the group's income and expenditure and report on them as required by the Executive Committee or General Meeting. • Maintain a bank account in the name of the group and issue cheques as necessary. • Arrange an annual financial report for the AGM and an independent audit of the accounts if required.
Membership Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a register of group members (if task not undertaken by Secretary) and set up electronic contact list for email communication.
Riverbank Clean-up Organiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm dates of riverbank clean-ups and notify FrANC membership. • Prepare H&S/Risk Assessment paperwork and send to Bristol City Council officer for approval. • Prepare clean-up attendance sheets for signature. • Transport litter-pickers/gloves/rubbish bags, etc. to work site on day of clean-up and appoint group leaders to monitor clean-ups. • Organise post-clean-up refreshments at local venue.
Walks/Talks Organiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact proposed walk/talk leaders (from within FrANC membership or from external organisations) to agree walk/talk dates. • Ensure details of each guided walk or talk are publicised on FrANC Website. • Notify FrANC membership of date of each walk/talk and meeting point location, etc. and keep record of bookings (if required). • Prepare walk/talk attendance sheets for signature, organise walk marshals.
Boat Trip Organiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with local ferry-boat companies who provide boat trips up the New Cut/River Avon/Floating Harbour. • Ensure details of boat trip are publicised on FrANC Website. • Notify FrANC membership of date of boat trip and meeting point location, etc. and keep record of bookings (if required). • Prepare Boat Trip attendance sheets for signature.
Website Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure FrANC Website is maintained and that new material is loaded onto site when necessary (familiarity with WiX Website design tool desirable but not essential). • Ensure Gallery section of Website is kept up to date. • Design new pages for Website as required.
Newsletter Editor/Publisher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare/collate written material for Newsletter (articles and photos), format Newsletter and publish as PDF file. Ensure published Newsletter is distributed to FrANC membership and posted on FrANC Website.
Butterfly Junction Survey Organiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Download annual "Big Butterfly Count" information from Butterfly Conservation website. • Distribute forms/documents for Butterfly Junction survey to FrANC membership via email. • Collate and analyse survey results and publish findings via email/FrANC website.
Fundraiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise funds to cover the cost of projects undertaken by the group by applying for grants from external organisations.
New Interpretation Board Project Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree location of new Interpretation Board (IB) with "owner" of land where it is to be placed (e.g. Bristol City Council / Harbourmaster / Highways). • Produce mock-up of layout of new IB for discussion/ agreement with interested parties (e.g. Executive Committee, local government representatives, sponsors). • Obtain cost estimates for new IB and confirm funding available. • Liaise with companies responsible for preparation of (i) final artwork and (ii) design, manufacture and installation of new IB (e.g. Inkwood Design, Arien Signs Ltd.).

Note: Roles in bold type above are those specifically defined in FrANC Constitution

Table 2 List of FrANC Administrative Roles & Responsibilities (December 2017)

Re: Problems with New Cut

09/01/2018 - 09:45

From: Councillor Stephen Clarke

To: Edwin Hall

Cc: Councillor Charlie Bolton fiducia@blueyonder.co.uk mmfay@btinternet.com
derekwhughes@btinternet.com chris.hanmer@blueyonder.co.uk
angietonge@yahoo.co.uk saraworth.88@btinternet.com wickstead@gmx.co.uk

Thanks for this Edwin

I understand that Charlie has asked BCC for a response and is raising it at next weeks Full Council meeting.

Sent from my iPad
Stephen Clarke
Green Party councillor for Southville

On 8 Jan 2018, at 18:13, Edwin Hall <edwinjhall@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am a committee member of FrANC - The Friends of the Avon New Cut. This is the stretch of water that runs from the Cumberland Basin to Temple Meads. It is the tidal bypass that was built as part of the 1804-1808 conversion of the tidal City Docks to the non-tidal 'Floating Harbour'.

FrANC helps to raise the awareness of this wonderful wild life corridor by publishing numerous leaflets, a booklet and organising many regular conducted bat, wildlife, herb, insect and botanic walks. We also organise regular clear up events that remove tons of rubbish and litter from its banks. We have even spent huge amounts of time having the New Cut designated as a 'Local Nature Reserve'.

I have noticed a very serious problem building up over the last few years which is the erosion and the collapsing of the banks of the New Cut on both sides. I am very concerned that this process is now accelerating. The Southern side is much higher as this is where most of the material dug out in its construction was dumped and which is where the most serious erosion is happening. Should this continue unhindered the integrity of Coronation Road itself is at risk. Remember, it isn't so many years ago that a bank collapse near Bealey Road caused a water mains fracture in the road with numerous weeks of traffic chaos.

I am also extremely worried about the state of the collapsing embankment on the so called 'chocolate path' near the Caravan Club site. Very recent reparation work along the path here is already showing alarming signs of subsidence. The state of the chocolate path is not helped either by the cutting back of trees and buddleia bushes but NOT also poisoning the roots. This is equivalent to the pollarding process which only invigorates tree and shrub growth and further deteriorates the embankment.

To date all we see is barriers erected along Coronation Road to prevent public access, and they get longer every now and then, and a diversion on the chocolate path away from original embankment edge route.

I and FrANC members are keen to know if there is any overall plan of repair and maintenance to address these concerns.

Many thanks.

Yours faithfully,

Ed Hall

Attachment 1 Contents of Ed Hall's letter re. "Problems with the New Cut"

From: Councillor Stephen Clarke
Sent: 15 January 2018 14:20
To: Mayor
Cc: Councillor Charlie Bolton
Subject: Avon New Cut-Member's Forum question

Marvin

Thanks for your answers to my questions about Avon New Cut in Members Forum at Full Council on Jan 15th.

You agreed to clarify the position around the following points:

1. When will the survey of condition of the council's assets in the harbour be produced? [Officers are assessing different procurement routes/models and will be able to give a better indication soon](#)
2. When will the report on the Chocolate Path be produced? [April 2018](#)
3. Can I be sent copies of these reports when they are produced please? [Yes of course.](#)
4. In view of the fact that any problem with the New Cut could cause severe problems to two major arteries in the city (Coronation Rd and Cumberland Rd-including Metrobus) can he confirm that detailed contingency planning is in place? [Duncan Venison will advise](#)

Thank you very much.

Stephen Clarke
Green Party councillor for Southville

From: Duncan Venison <duncan.venison@bristol.gov.uk>
Date: 25 January 2018 at 09:48:45 CET
To: Councillor Charlie Bolton <Cllr.charlie.bolton@bristol.gov.uk>, Councillor Stephen Clarke <Cllr.stephen.clarke@bristol.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Avon New Cut-Member's Forum question

Morning Councillors,

I am more than happy for the paragraphs below to be shared with the public:

I don't currently have contingency plans for what we would do if Cumberland Rd were to collapse in the same way I don't have plans for and other route in the city other than the A4 Portway – the A4 Portway is closed regularly for events and the same plans would be put in place. To put together plans for all major routes would not be realistic owing to the many different permutations for each route and other factors that may be on the network at that time. Highways does however operate a 24/7 service and we apply basic principles to any incident on the highway. Out of hours the duty Highway Officer is required to attend any incident within 2 hours to either manage, resolve or work with other agencies to rectify the situation – in practice Officers are usually at a scene in less than an hour. A short plan could however be put together and shared with relevant Officers should it be required.

In the meantime I am more than confident that we have the Officers and processes in place to deal with such an incident.

Regards

Duncan Venison
Network Operations Manager
Transport Service
Bristol City Council

From: Christopher Dooley <chris.dooley@bristol.gov.uk>
Date: 1 February 2018 at 07:57:04 GMT
To: Councillor Stephen Clarke <Cllr.stephen.clarke@bristol.gov.uk>
Cc: Place <place.cllrmpenquiries@bristol.gov.uk>, Highways and Traffic <highways.traffic@bristol.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: New Cut Forum Questions and Gaol Ferry and Vauxhall Footbridge

I think it would be sufficient to say at this stage that matter are now actively in hand and being dealt with in relation to the whole of the New Cut as a whole and that the bridges queried are structurally sound, but will require maintenance works within the next five years.

The assets of the New Cut and the Floating Harbour are now being assessed and inspected and will be subject to a Corporate Review within 2018/19.

Regards

Chris Dooley
Bridges and Highway Structures Team Manager
Bristol City Council

Attachment 2 Responses to points raised by Councillor Stephen Clarke at BCC Full Council Members Forum on 15th January 2018