

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the Spike Island Cafe on 10 July 2008

Present

Tess Green (chair), Tracy Whale (treasurer), John Purkiss (secretary), Charles Bolton, Richard Clutterbuck, Samantha di Giovanni, Roy Gallop, Derek Hughes, Adrian Mantle, Martha van der Lem, Paul van der Lem, Sara Worth.

Apologies

Ben Barker, Chris Hanmer, Jo Young.

Minutes of the AGM held on 7 June 2007

The minutes were accepted as being correct.

Report on the past year

- The Chair presented a report on activities in 2007-08 (attached).
- Thanks were expressed to everyone who had helped during the year.
- The guided walks had been well received. Roy reported that next year's "Trek" will probably follow a different route and Tess reported interest in a walk to identify herbs.
- The report was accepted.

Finance report

- The Treasurer presented the financial report for 2007-08. Income amounted to £400.00 and expenditure totalled £1,382.09. Funds in hand totalled £1,075.15.
- A query regarding book sales was answered.
- The report was accepted.

Election of Committee for 2008-09

The following people were unanimously elected:

- Tess Green (Chair)
- Adrian Mantle (Vice Chair)
- Tracy Whale (Treasurer)
- John Purkiss (Secretary)
- Sara Worth
- Jo Young.

Any other business

Thanks were expressed to Tess for her work as Chair and her agreement to serve as Chair for one final year. Thanks were expressed to Tracy and John for their efficiency.

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC) – Report on activities in 2007/08

As the following summary indicates, FrANC has enjoyed another busy year.

Themed walks

- Wildflower, bird and tree discovery walks (3 held in total)
- New Cut Trek 2008
- Promotion of Malago Trek and Colliter's Brook Trek.

Clean-ups

- Over 40 volunteers assisted at 3 clean-up sessions, removing 1.25 tonnes of rubbish from the riverbanks
- Contractors cleaned up the steep bank opposite ASDA, thanks to a grant awarded to FrANC by the Safer Bristol Partnership
- New litterbins installed on Coronation Road and Cumberland Road
- Visits by City Council "Waste and Streetscene Enforcement" officers to ASDA, the Jet garage and TES Tyres regarding rubbish dumped on the Coronation Road riverbank
- Abandoned trolleys removed from the riverbed following reporting by FrANC members.

Maintenance

- Autumn maintenance work at Butterfly Junction
- Meeting with Docks Manager regarding maintenance of the Chocolate Path in a manner that minimises the loss of wildlife habitats.

Projects

- Talk and investigation into generating energy from the Cut
- 4 sessions held with the Bristol Naturalists' Society to discover bug life on the Cut
- Involvement in the new "South Bristol Riverscapes" project to improve waterways in the south of Bristol and involve more people in river support groups such as FrANC.

Awareness raising

- Sales of book "A Celebration of the Avon New Cut"
- Distribution of a new information leaflet and our Butterfly Junction and Wildlife leaflets
- Publication of 4 newsletters
- Regular e-mail bulletins sent to 120 contacts
- New Cut Trek leaflets distributed to 1,000 homes
- FrANC pages on the Southville Centre website kept up-to-date.

Activities already identified for action during the coming year:

- Work to establish the Cut as a recognised "Local Nature Reserve"
- Events to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the New Cut
- Involvement in consultations on plans to develop a Bus Rapid Transit system alongside the Cut.

We are grateful to everyone who has supported FrANC during the year, and we thank City Council officers Kathy Derrick, Tanya Darch, Carol Donovan, Nigel English, Denise James & Steve Sparks and Councillors Beynon, Bolton, Woodman & Wright for their assistance. We also thank "Awards for All" and the Safer Bristol Partnership for their financial support.