

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

Committee meeting held on 20 January 2023 at Laura's house

MINUTES

	<i>Item</i>	<i>What was discussed, agreed and any actions</i>	<i>Action by</i>
1.	Attendance	<p>Present: Ed Hall, Laura Demery, Lizzi Testani, Roy Gallop, Stephen Mason, Tess Green</p> <p>Apologies for absence: Bridget Everett</p>	
2.	Actions arising from the meeting held on 18 th November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 3: Laura redrafted the annual accounts to avoid 'accounting speak'. She sent these to Derek Griffin (volunteer accountant) who suggested further improvements. <i>Action complete.</i> • Item 4: Ed has spoken to Chris Eccleston re tools storage but no solution has been found. <i>See Butterfly Junction section of these minutes for more on this subject.</i> • Item 5: The agenda for the AGM was sent to members on 23rd November. Direction signs were put up at Underfall Yard on the day. <i>Actions complete.</i> • Item 6: The Signs project was progressed as a game-style activity at the AGM and Lizzi has taken over as the contact with Rob. <i>Action complete. Project continues.</i> 	
3.	Actions arising from the AGM held on 4 th December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 3: Tim emailed Bridget to confirm that ad-hoc attendance at committee meetings was fine (she works full-time) so Bridget remains on the committee. <i>Action complete.</i> • Item 6(v): Tess sent draft role descriptions to the committee. <i>Action complete.</i> It was agreed these should be added to the website. <i>Post meeting note: Laura has added chair and secretary roles to the website but not treasurer (for now) to avoid confusion while we try to attract new committee members. Lizzi emailed members about the vacancies and other updates on 30th Jan.</i> • Item 6(vi): Stephen arranged for the January litter pick to be advertised in the Pigeon and will let them know future dates. <i>Action complete.</i> • Ed now brings leaflets to the litter picks in case passersby want to know about FrANC. <i>Action complete.</i> 	
4.	Treasurer's report (Laura)	FrANC has £911.43 remaining in general funds, the only expenditure being hot drinks following the last two litter picks. The grant money remains at £300.06.	

5.	Butterfly Junction Project: progress update	<p>Tess reported on Guy's behalf:</p> <p>On 7th January, seven native cherry trees were planted with help from Mo Mulligan and a number of FrANC volunteers. Significant quantities of bramble and buddleia were removed on the day. Tess will ask Guy about the compost and hormone rooting powder costs as these were not delivered with the trees and had to be purchased on the day from Riverside.</p> <p>We are still waiting to hear if our grant application to the Tree Council has been successful. The cost of the trees, compost etc outstrips our Secret Garden grant and additional funds will be needed whether through grants, fundraising or individuals willing to 'sponsor a tree'. <i>Post meeting note: Guy has confirmed that the grant application was successful.</i></p> <p>Storage options for the group's equipment was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Centre - not reliably open • Council properties - Chris Ecclestone has explained to Ed that it's not his responsibility • Underfall Yard – not an option • Other ideas mentioned included Bristol Archives, Avon Gorge Climbing Club, local pubs • Ed will ask the ferry boat company • Lizzi will ask a friend who works in harbour development <p>Guy is away for the next Butterfly Junction gardening date (4th Feb) so Tess and Roy are in charge. Lizzi said she could help if needed. <i>Post meeting note: Guy has arranged for Mel Ruth to have sign in sheets etc on the day.</i></p>	<p>TG</p> <p>EH</p> <p>LT</p>
6.	Signs project update (Lizzi)	<p>Lizzi 'zoomed' Rob Fuller over the Christmas break. Rob is talking to a copywriter and plans to have two test signs (New York and Cormorants) ready by our next meeting in March.</p> <p>We are hoping that the material for the signs can be recycled or natural.</p> <p>Lizzi needs to turn some bullet point text from the AGM into wording suitable for the website and will circulate this to the committee for feedback.</p>	<p>LT</p>
7.	New Cut Structural issues	<p>Lizzi's draft email about the rapid deterioration of a section of New Cut wall underneath the new Umberlade development and Cumberland Road was approved by the committee.</p> <p>Lizzi will send this to the Council and also enquire about when the Chocolate Path might re-open and whether rumours that the distinctive surface may not be replaced are true. <i>Post meeting note: Lizzi emailed Steve Clampin on 23 Jan asking for some help getting her email to the right person, including queries about chocolate path.</i></p>	
8.	Litter Picks update	<p>Two more successful litter picks were held in December and January. The January litter pick haul included 2 trolleys</p>	

		<p>(returned to Asda), a fish tank, a lava lamp, a prayer hat and a pressure cooker as well as large quantities of Peroni bottles.</p> <p>Andrew Jenkins has completed health and safety training and Lizzi will do hers once some IT issues with the training course have been resolved. Ed needs to renew his training.</p> <p>Locations for the February and March litter picks were agreed (Langton St Bridge and Gaol Ferry Bridge respectively). <i>Post meeting note: Laura has added this to the website.</i></p>	LT & EH
9.	BS3 Wildlife Group	<p>Ben Barker emailed about possible collaboration between the Greater Bedminster Urban Nature Reserve and FrANC. Lizzi will reply to his email to suggest they have a chat at the next Green Mingle. Perhaps we can share news of events or details of our surveys. <i>Post meeting note: Lizzi has emailed Ben.</i></p> <p>Laura will check the dates of surveys on our website and send these to Tess in case newer versions are available.</p>	LD
10.	Website enhancements	<p>Laura would like to make some changes to the website including reducing the number of pages as some are very short.</p> <p>Ed stressed the importance of clear and simple navigation and Stephen added that there should be clear messages with the option of more detail for those who want it.</p> <p>The website should clearly show what we're up to (eg events and news) but not lose its importance as an archive.</p> <p>Laura will create a test website to try out some improvements and show this to the committee.</p>	LD
11.	Any other business	<p>Lizzi suggested we plan a celebration for when Gaol Ferry Bridge re-opens. Tess suggested a walk or picnic when the Chocolate Path re-opens. Laura will add these to the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>Laura asked if we need to retrieve any FrANC documents from John Holland. Lizzi will contact him to check and to see if there's any possibility he would consider re-joining the committee.</p> <p>Ed enquired about The Friends of Bathurst Basin. Laura explained that her husband David is on their committee and does their website and that she and he keep a look out for items of shared interest between the two community groups.</p>	LD LT
12.	Next Committee meeting	<p>Friday 17th or 24th March at 2pm were set as possible dates. Lizzi will contact Rob Fuller and Andrew Jenkins to see if they can attend on either date. <i>Post meeting note: both are happy with either date. Lizzi has plumped for 17th.</i></p> <p>17th March at 2pm at Laura's house</p>	