

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

Minutes of the FrANC committee meeting Wednesday 3 April 2024 – 7pm

at Laura Demery's House

In attendance: Andrew Jenkins (Chair), Guy Malkerson (taking minutes), Laura Demery,

Apologies for absence: Bridget Everett, Ed Hall, Lizzi Testani, Roy Gallop, Tess Green

Minutes of the last meeting (13 September 2023) and actions arising:

Getting Lizzi registered for H&S training still an ongoing issue. It may not be available online any more. Also unsure about whether the sharps bottle Lizzi was looking for has been found. **ACTION – Lizzi Completed.**

Guy: Equal Opportunities Policy is now on the AGM agenda so we can discuss with the Chair present. **ACTION – ALL Discussed as Agenda Item Three.**

James has suggested adding a links section on the website to like-minded groups such as City to Sea. Laura is happy to do this but needs more suggestions. **ACTION – ALL Keep on agenda to explore further.**

Signs project: The next step, since we are happy with how it's going, is to refine the colours and shapes of the letters. Rob will focus on this design side. **ACTION – Rob Discussed as Agenda Item Five.**

Rebrand: Roy will put some words together about what ivy broomrape is for the website. **ACTION – Roy Completed.**

Inter is a good free font that works well on the internet and computers because of its readability. The signs subcommittee will include rebranding as part of their remit. Whoever leads the subcommittee will liaise with Rob. **ACTION – Laura, Roy, Ed, and Tess Completed.**

Butterfly Junction: Guy is researching log benches. They could be expensive £1 to £2K. However, there may be the possibility of just dropping in a log for people to sit on. Perhaps it could be sourced from Ashton Court. **ACTION – Guy Completed.**

In researching logs for benches Guy made many enquires and was ultimately told, unfortunately, by Forestry England that the wood belongs to a contractor who purchased it so we are unable to have some.

ACTION: Andrew will research Arnos Vale log possibilities.

Mo is willing to scythe as a volunteer. Guy has emailed him. The management brief suggestion was to mow two metre wide sinuous course through sparse grassland in order to create diversity of sward height. They recommended to mow every three years in September. Also we should gather and remove the arisings. Mo and I will co-ordinate doing this before the end of the month. **ACTION – Guy Completed.**

*Laura asked for two or three paragraphs and pics to be sent for the website. **ACTION – Guy Completed.***

Litter picking update: Lizzi was wondering about an early litter pick perhaps October to concentrate on Gaol Ferry Bridge. Ed will check to see if the second Saturday 14 October will work. **ACTION – Ed Discussed as Agenda Item Six.**

Health and safety training: The last training date was 8 September. Guy keep an eye on future dates and forward the next training email to Laura. **ACTION – Guy Completed.**

Water testing: Ed suggested that Guy to reach out to BART (Bristol and Avon Rivers Trust) and see if they have any ideas or if they might actually already be testing the Avon New Cut. **ACTION – Guy. Discussed as Agenda Item Nine.**

ACTION – Ed will have a word with Mark at the Nova Scotia. *Completed.*

What's App Groups: Bridget is the admin so we should discuss this at the next meeting. We also have an Instagram and Facebook account. Will include this in the discussion. **ACTION – Bridget Not actually posting on insta any more. Completed.**

Lizzi has been approached by member Steven Mason who suggested a celebration of the Chocolate Path. Perhaps a walk. It will be discussed at the signs/rebrand subcommittee meeting to see if Tess might take this on. **ACTION – Laura, Roy, Ed, and Tess This did not happen. The capacity to undertake this action was insufficient. To be deleted.**

Date/time/place of next committee meeting: the AGM in December. Andrew, Laura, Ed (if available) and Guy to meet and sort this out. Guy will look at the constitution to find out the notice period. Perhaps we should try the Underfall Yard again on a Saturday **ACTION – Andrew, Guy, and Laura Completed.**

3. Equality and Diversity Policy (see below) – Guy This was reviewed and approved after discussion.

4. Treasurer's report – Laura said that we've spent all the Wessex Water grant. There is a zero balance in our grant funding. However, there is £768.73 in general funds after paying for drinks after litter picks, the domain name, and a thank you gift for Ed and Mary Hall for doing our laundry and storing the tools.

We've spent £200 on six drink occasions. We do need to keep an eye on fundraising for the future.

5. Signs project and rebrand update – Laura had an October meeting discussing this. Her October What's App post regarding this is as follows:

An update from the Signs/Rebranding sub group. (1) I have emailed Rob Fuller about both the signs and the rebranding. For the signs, we provided revised full wording (typos and some content corrected eg View across the Cut had to change as Cargo Work obscures some landmarks we had mentioned. For the rebranding we said yes to the new font, suggested an alternative logo design and were non-committal on the colour palette

Roy was unhappy with revision to the logo as it didn't represent ivy broomrape.

To move this forward, we need a volunteer to take it on.

We will have further discussion at future meetings on how to raise the profile of FrANC and to stop littering on the local nature reserve, perhaps through signage.

6. Spring/Summer Litter picks – Andrew

There seems to be an appetite for less intrusive litter picks in high litter areas. Bird nesting season is spring and early summer. Perhaps we can have a pick around July or August.

Laura suggested that we keep to our second Saturday of the month schedule. It was decided to move forward with 13th July and 10th August as litter picking dates. We will publicise nearer the events.

7. Ben Barker proposal – Andrew

Ben Barker has forwarded a proposal for mapping for wildlife features and improvements we might wish to make over three years and undertaking species measurement.

For the Cut it might entail recording the birds that visit. Ben is looking for a collated response from FrANC at the end of the year.

Laura is happy to co-ordinate a list and a separate contact list for the group. She has interesting photos of birds on the New Cut that could be of use.

ACTION: Andrew will reply to Ben. It seems to be just a case of identification.

8. Butterfly Junction update – Guy

The Wessex Water grant has been completed. A copy of the end of grant submission is located in Appendix One:

This past winter at Butterfly Junction we actioned the following: trimmed big sycamore in the middle; planted a bay tree; tended to the herbs; removed more brambles and ivy. We litter pick at every session.

This Saturday we will be planting sunflowers; starting butterfly counting; tending the herbs; and litter picking. It's on the website FrANC website courtesy of Laura. And we have a Facebook event too, thanks to Bridget.

Next year we plan to plant three apple trees

The year after that we could plant holly on the slope for holly blue butterflies.

I will be gone in July but Liz and the rest of our regular crew should be able to manage just fine.

I received an update email from Tree Officer Tom Gladden on the potential planting of four to six Ulmus 'New Horizon' elm trees in the eastern corner of Butterfly Junction:

'There has been minor progress with the new elms for butterfly junction. I have met with the people in charge of the metro bus scheme and I am fairly confident that the funding will be available for the tree planting project in this area.'

I then met with the head of the Tree Bristol team (tree planting and funding). The issue is that the butterfly junction elms are only a small part of a larger project that we are planning for this area. As the area is mainly tarmac roads and built pavements many of the trees we plan to put in require new tree pits to be designed and built. This requires initial consultations with residents, the highways team et al. it also requires service checks before we can begin ordering trees and planning for planting.'

My full time job should be ending in May. Which means, theoretically, I should have more time available to devote to FrANC activities from June.

I'm playing a free gig at Ebenezer Pocket Park on North Street BS3 on Friday 28 June at 6pm. It's free! Please come along, I'll try to fundraise for FrANC!

9. New Cut water testing – Guy

We had several FrANC members attended the BART (Bristol and Avon Rivers Trust) water testing training with an eye to testing the New Cut water at the end of February. They were:

Claire Greenfield who has been assigned the sampling spot on Ashton Avenue Bridge.

Pete Gibbons who has been assigned the River Avon by St. Anne's.

Katherine Philips: I have contacted her for feedback

Laura says the testing kit is quite fiddly. And she recommends taking photos. It helps to have a couple of people doing the testing. Laura and David have tested Bathurst Basin twice. Phosphates, nitrates, water temperatures, and dissolved solids are what is tested for. The BART website has an interactive map where you can see results.

10. Bridget stepping down from committee – Guy

Here's what Bridget has had to say:

'I wanted to drop you a line re being on the FrANC committee. As you might have noticed,

I'm not active in discussions, and don't have much time to attend meetings etc. I have a very busy full time job and simply don't have the head space to engage with this right now unfortunately.

I'm very happy to keep doing social media updates, attend picks etc., but feel I need to remove myself from committee comms.'

Bridget has done a Facebook event for the Butterfly Junction community gardening session this Saturday since I received the message above. Of course, if her schedule opens up again, she is always welcome on the committee.

11. Western Harbour Plan response – Guy

Here is the response made via the Western Harbour website:

The Friends of Cut (FrANC) are making a representation to comment on different aspects of the proposed Western Harbour project as follows:

Butterfly Junction

The retention and provision of high quality public open spaces incorporating green infrastructure and public realm enhancements should include Butterfly Junction, which is maintained as part of a management plan agreed with Bristol City Council. Butterfly Junction provides an essential wildlife corridor serving as a nature reserve for butterflies and other pollinators.

Riverside Garden Centre

This is a unique amenity for Bristol, a much-loved independent business in the heart of the city and within walking distance for huge numbers of people. The cafe provides a social hub and the whole site gives joy to the many of us who live in flats and value being surrounded by plants and flowers. Riverside should be cherished and retained as part of any plans. It would make no sense at all for everyone to have to drive to out-of-town garden centres and business parks when they have this locally.

Junction Swing Bridge

This forms part of the circuit around the harbour and is an important walking/running/cycling route for lots of people, including young families and those heading to matches and other events at Ashton Gate. The design means that pedestrians are separated from traffic on the bridge, so although it can get busy at certain times of day that isn't a problem. One, if not two, of the earlier plans put forward for the Western Harbour involved creating a multi-lane road here. At the moment most of the traffic goes across the Plimsoll Bridge, well away from where people are walking, running and cycling (and living) and I think that's how it should stay.

Boundaries

This is principally a comment about boundaries, particularly DS4 western Harbour Policy red line. Whilst by contrast the attached map appears in the email link to BCC, and is the subject of various pre-master-plan thoughts, including the plasticine exercise, it is of a smaller outline than the red line for Western Harbour planning Policy area for redevelopment DS4 in the Local Plan proposed.

Another difference between the policy document red line now going forward as DS4 and the Western Harbour master plan is a smaller red line. The flanking areas outside one red-line but inside the other seem grounds for a separate call of "unsound" since there may be random development consequences to put just one example.

The facts remain that all green spaces and public open space inside the red line DS4 as at March 2019 consultation were simultaneously excluded from consideration in the simultaneous consultation "New protection for Open Space" March 2019.

And this was not done openly but underhandedly. NPOS 2019 was presented as a series of ward maps, with open spaces mapped within each ward map. In the case of each of Southville Ward Map, Bedminster Ward Map, Hotwells & Harbourside Ward Map, The Western Harbour DS4 red line is not marked out but everything inside it is whited out. None of the included open spaces are then tabulated or discussed.

There is no mention of this applied slight of hand from the mayors office of 2019 in the document, but the planning department caved in on its employers demands and then organised a drop-in consultation at city hall for the Parks Forum to complain about it, during the 2019 March-April consultation period, among other identified issues.

By contrast, In Southville ward, there is welcome inclusion in The open space protection proposals of 90% of the south-bank Riverside that we (as Franc) litter pick, i.e. Bedminster Bridge and the Shell petrol station in the East, to the Coronation Road Texaco petrol station in the West. AND this gets the higher category of protection. But, it simply stops at random at the West End with the junction of Coronation Road and Greenbank Road, because that is where the red line of Western Harbour DS4 cuts across the New Cut to include the so-called Baltic Wharf Development in the caravan park. Not because the riverbank or the trees and land they grow-in stop. Its just a policy line and the protection stops.

12. Historic FrANC papers – Guy

Tim Wickstead, former FrANC Chair, has dropped off some boxes of historic FrANC documents. Guy has custody of the documents and is reading through them. If people want access to the documents, please ask. It is quite interesting to read how FrANC approached problems such as litter in the past and the history of projects like making the Avon New Cut a local nature reserve.

13. Date, time, and location of next committee meeting

We will meet again on the 11th of September 7pm at Laura's.

14. Any Other Business

We will have the AGM in late November or early December. We can research Underfall Yard as a possibility for accessibility.

We thank Ed and Mary Hall for their ongoing support, storage of litter picking equipment for many years.

APPENDIX ONE

Application: OGM126875 Fri Feb 16 07:52:22 GMT 2024 Page 1 of 8 End of Grant Report Form

Introduction As a recipient of a grant through the Community Foundation we encourage you to report back on the achievements and lessons learnt from the work we funded. It helps us learn too. Its great to read and learn about your achievements, but we also like to hear about what didn't go so well and why, what lessons were learnt, and how you might us this to move forward. We also use the information provided to highlight achievements and good practice with our donors, (including those who made the grant possible), stakeholders and the wider public.

We greatly value the information you include in this form so please take time to familiarise yourself with the questions and do contact us if you have any questions. If you have any queries before submitting this report, please contact us: Philanthropy Team - 0117 989 7700 - applications@quartetcf.org.uk

Organisation and contact details Organisation Name Friends of the Avon New Cut

Address 17 Bathurst Parade, Bristol, Avon, BS1 6UN

Phone 07944767898

Primary email zennoguyma@yahoo.com

Website <https://franc.org.uk/>

Contact Application: OGM126875 Fri Feb 16 07:52:22 GMT 2024

Name Mr. Guy Malkerson

Email address zennoguyma@yahoo.com

Role at Organisation Steering Committee Volunteer

Person completing this form Above is the name of the main contact associated with the grant application - if this person has changed please enter the name of the new contact completing the form below Provide Alternate Contact Details? No Grant Details Grant Local Application Number A694644 Monitoring Due Date 8/3/2024

Local Application Number Amount Awarded £1,250

Programme Name Wessex Water Environmental Fund Round Name WWEF 2023-24

Project Name Project Description To build wooden planters at Butterfly Junction to plant drought resistant herbs that will enhance the biodiversity and environment near the Avon New Cut.

Application: OGM126875 Fri Feb 16 07:52:22 GMT 2024

How the grant was spent Breakdown of the original budget outlined in your grant application Please attach an overview of your actual spend to this report before submitting.

Project Budget Staff Costs Requested: £0.00 Breakdown: FrANC will provide cover all staff costs through its volunteer membership (in kind support) £20 per hour for gardeners. Twenty gardeners at the event day for two hours each. Six volunteer days with six volunteers for two hours. £200 per day. Two days of management costs.

Volunteer Costs Requested: £250.00 Breakdown: The volunteer costs are refreshments (coffee and cake) for the volunteer community gardeners at a local café after the event. Operational Costs

Requested: £1000.00 Breakdown: This will be the cost of materials to build the herb planters, the drought resistant plants themselves, compost and soil for the planters, and gardening tools. Mo Mulligan Landscape services to provide the materials, soil, fixing and oversee the building of the planters is £550. Plants including the drought resistant herbs, butterfly seed mix, and bulbs to purchased at local garden centre Riverside £295. Gardening tools including a litter picker, telescoping pruning saw, compost bin, weather proof sign in folder, and stakes also to be purchased locally £155.

Office Costs Requested: £0.00 Breakdown: There are no office, overhead, or premises costs

Capital Costs Requested: £0.00 Breakdown: There are no capital costs

Publicity Costs Requested: £0.00 Breakdown: FrANC will provide in kind publicity costs for digital and print publicity in local media. This will be through web channels, The Pigeon, and South Bristol Voice.

Other Costs Requested: £0.00 Breakdown: There are no other costs.

Totals Requested: £1250.00 Please outline any changes in how you spent the grant compared to the original budget in the your application (see above)

Has the grant been fully spent? (if the answer is no, please contact us before submitting) Yes;

Please enter the total amount of funding secured from other sources to deliver this project/activity 0

Please specify the sources of the other funding you secured We did not secure additional funding.

What activities have you delivered with this funding? We were able to build wooden planters at Butterfly Junction and planted drought resistant herbs that will enhance the biodiversity and environment near the Avon New Cut in a brownfield area. Additionally, we planted a bay tree near the planters to enhance the project.

How many people have directly benefited from the activity funded? 100

How many people benefited from the work funded? (including directly and indirectly) 2000

How many volunteers involved in the activity? 30

Issues from application Primary: Biodiversity Other: Environmental improvements

Primary Issue Biodiversity

Other Issues Environmental improvements

Activities from application Primary: Event

Other: Partnership/collaboration

Beneficiaries from application Primary: Local residents

Other: People living in urban areas Primary Beneficiary

Local residents Other Beneficiaries People living in urban areas

Age Groups from application Primary: Older People (e.g. 66+ years) Other: Adults (e.g. 26-65 years) Primary Age Group Older People (e.g. 66+ years) Other Age Groups Adults (e.g. 26-65 years)

Ethnicities from application Primary: White: Any other White background

Other: Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group

Primary Ethnicity White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British

Other Ethnicities Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group

Genders from application Primary: Female

Other: Male Primary Gender Female Other Genders

Male Percentage Male 40 Percentage

Female 60

Impact and Outcomes When you applied for funding you chose a number of outcomes, as outlined below. This section asks about the outcomes of the work we funded and allows you to report upon the successes, any challenges, and lessons learnt. The primary outcome selected for your project/activity Improved or expanded local environment and/or public space

The second outcome selected for your project/activity Increased volunteering and social action The third outcome selected for your project/activity Improved mental health and well-being What difference has this project/activity made to the local environment and local people? We were able to successfully build two herb planters at Butterfly Junction, across the Metrobus Road from the main area. The planters replaced grass and are bottomless so that the herbs are growing directly into the soil underneath. Additionally, we were able to plant a bay tree near the planters. This all adds to the biodiversity of the area and expands the wildlife corridor. As we work weeding the planter during our regular monthly sessions, many local residents have stopped to tell us how much they appreciate the planters and the improvements to the area that we have made. The activity of building the planters itself was a positive coming together of volunteers to build and plant together. We have installed the plaque given to us by Wessex Water and are thankful to them for the funding. We do mention that the project was funded by Wessex Water in conversations with locals.

What were the key learning points from delivering this project/activity? Please refer to any challenges or unexpected changes and how you overcame them. We have had some of the herbs that were originally planted stolen. The two curry plants were both taken! This was a bit of a surprise.

They looked very good. Some of the volunteers have allotments with herbs and will be replacing the stolen plants in the springtime. I guess we have learnt not to plant curry...

Please provide a case study or story to demonstrate how this project/activity has made a difference to the local environment and local people. The herb planting project has been a nice touchstone and conversation starter with passers by. We have met many residents, walkers, cyclers, and joggers, etc. who frequent the area. They are all thankful for the improvements we have made. We hope to see more pollinators on the other side of the road (where the planters are) starting in spring. We met a volunteer who offered to scythe part of Butterfly Junction for us. This was actioned as part of the area management plan in a serpentine shape through the grassland. During the scything, some passers by were interested in that and even had a go! Additionally, during the build of the herb planter, we met a woman who is planning to do a social history project about the New Cut. We gave her further information about FrANC and hopefully, she will present the project at a future meeting.

Will the work continue beyond the life of this grant? Yes

If so, please indicate in what way and detail what funding you have secured or need to secure to deliver it? Most of the work continuing will be provided by the volunteers doing our monthly gardening sessions.

Please enter the amount of additional funding already secured. 0

Please enter the amount of additional that needs to be secured. 0

Please note any media coverage or publicity that you have received whilst in receipt of this grant. Publicity was through word of mouth, on social media, and email campaigns mostly.

Feedback Comments We welcome any comments (positive or negative) you want to make on any aspect of your involvement with the Community Foundation. Is there anything you would change, and if so, why? The process is fairly straight forward but lengthy. If it would be possible to shorten the amount of questions asked in the application and this end of grant form, that would be helpful.

Supporting Documentation Supporting Documentation Use the Attachments button at the bottom of the form to attach: A breakdown that summarises how you spent the grant (You do not need to attach receipts or financial records relating to the use of the grant, but you must keep these records as we may request copies at a later date for auditing purposes) Supporting information such as photographs, project feedback, case studies, etc... Please clearly label each document with a name and a short description of what it is. We encourage you to add photos, feedback documents and case studies as we use the information provided to highlight achievements and good practice with our donors stakeholders and the wider public. If you experience problems uploading your documents please send them via email to applications@quartetcf.org.uk, or post them to: Quartet Community Foundation, Royal Oak House, Royal Oak Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4GB.

Confirmation Declaration I confirm that the information given on this form is true and my group has formally agreed that I can act on their behalf. Agree Please tick this box to give permission for this supporting evidence to be used by our Community Foundation for marketing purposes (if appropriate). Agree If you have concerns about consent, or conditions of use, of the supporting information for publicity purposes, please outline them below. We have no concerns.

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

Equality and Diversity Policy

Aim

FrANC (Friends of the Avon New Cut) is open to anyone who is interested in the Avon New Cut. We come together as volunteers for activities such as litter picking, community gardening, and walks to nurture an atmosphere of friendship, respect, and care for each other. We aim to treat everyone equally, regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Diversity

FrANC belongs to its members. We endeavour to organise a range of events and activities to improve and maintain the New Cut that also suits the interests of its members. We are committed to create a safe and inclusive atmosphere for everyone. We take action to ensure that group activities and events are open and welcoming to all people. FrANC is open to new ideas and opportunities to open up the New Cut for groups and individuals that perhaps previously have been excluded from enjoying the area.

Inclusion and respect

Every member of FrANC should be made to feel equally welcome and included at all meetings and events. Everyone will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of race, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability and/or age.

At all times people's feelings will be valued and respected. Language or humour that people find offensive will not be used, for example sexist or racist jokes or terminology which is derogatory to someone with a disability.

Dealing with discrimination and harassment

If anyone feels they have been discriminated against at FrANC, they should raise this with the committee, who can be contacted at contact@franc.org.uk. The committee will investigate the complaint, listening to all people involved. (If the complaint is against a committee member, that member will not be part of conducting the investigation).

If the complaint is about a particular individual, this person will have the opportunity to express their point of view, accompanied by a friend. The person making the complaint will also have this opportunity.

If the complaint is against FrANC as a whole, we must work to ensure that such discrimination is not repeated in the future, and must inform members of how we propose to do this.

Conclusion

We will ensure that everyone directly associated with FrANC are aware of our commitment in these areas. We will ensure that the accessibility of FrANC's activities and information is routinely reviewed and improved where possible. If anyone wishes to provide feedback, raise a concern or complaint without impunity in relation to FrANC's equality and diversity they are encouraged to contact the committee via contact@franc.org.uk. This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it is being upheld and to identify opportunities for enhancement where possible.