

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)

Minutes for the committee meeting on Wednesday 25 September 2024, 7pm, at Laura Demery's House

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

1. Apologies for absence: Lizzi Testani

2. Minutes of the last meeting (3 April 2024) and actions arising:

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. As James is no longer on the committee, this has been **REMOVED**.

– ACTION: Andrew will research Arnos Vale log possibilities. There are logs that can be used. Need to be transported. They have a truck. We need machinery to lift. It's not really an option. **COMPLETED**

– ACTION: 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. Andrew will reply to Ben. It seems to be just a case of identification. Andrew has replied. Laura will send info to Ben at the end of the year. **COMPLETED**

3. Treasurer's report – Laura

Since the last meeting, we've only had one transaction £13.86 reimbursed to Lizzie for the last litter pick. £754.87 is in the account at the present time.

4. Fundraising bucket – Guy. This was from the Ebenezer Pocket Park gig. Bucket handed over to Laura for deposit into the FrANC bank account. It amounted to £30. These funds will be used for refreshments, etc. as petty cash instead of being deposited.

5. Sponsorship – Andrew floated the idea to ASDA to a community engagement officer. He is happy to engage with them. He will query if they will contribute to the litter picks because so much litter generated from their site is ending up in the New Cut. Andrew will speculatively approach them. Perhaps they can fund/source an extra-long litter picker and coffee breaks.

6. Butterfly Junction update – Guy: We have been successful in obtaining £200 from Secret Gardens. This will be used primarily to plant holly in the shady bits of the cycle path / walk way near the overpass. Hopefully this may attract a colony of holly blue butterflies in the future.

We continue with our first Saturday of the month sessions. Come November, we should be able to begin eradicating ivy and brambles from Butterfly Junction proper again.

7. Bridget stepping down from Social Media – Guy: This is just Facebook at the moment. Guy has access as a Manager and can post events. He has been posting Butterfly Junction pictures.

8. South Bristol Liveable Neighbourhoods response – Andrew has declared an interest in this. We will not be commenting as an organisation.

9. Good Gym proposal – Guy. *From Melanie Young via Facebook: Hello FRANC, it's Melanie from GoodGym Bristol - I was wondering how best we can join in with your clearing loveliness, ideally Tuesday evenings and can be self sufficient if it's. It a time that suits you?*

I walked up the Chocolate Path last week and thought a litter and weed pick might be helpful? I don't know what arrangements you have for green waste disposal/composting, we have Bristol Waste Community litter pick bags and kit 😊

ACTION: Guy will pick this up.

10. Tree planting project near sewage works – Guy: Have met with our local Councillor Christine Townsend and she is behind this. Richard Ennion the head of Bristol Parks has said specific money exists to fund this project. Subsequently, he has met with Tree Officer Helen Humphries on site. She is checking out underground utilities and will draw up a plan to be presented for approval to BCC and all interested parties including ourselves.

11. Bristol Canoe Club offer – Guy said that we were approach by them during a Butterfly Junction session. They wondered if they could do a boat litter pick sometime. They have done this with FrANC in the past.

ACTION: Guy will forward the contact details to Andrew and he will pick this up.

12. AGM – Andrew

We'll try for November perhaps the afternoon Sunday 17th. We will approach the harbour master regarding the Underfall Yard to book.

ACTION: Laura will look into booking the room.

13. Date, time, and location of next committee meeting. To be decided after the AGM. Perhaps Wednesday the 9th of April 7pm. Laura is happy to continue hosting.

14. Any Other Business

Some emails are opening with the salutation Dear John. The Bristol Parks Forum list John Holland as our contact. **ACTION:** Laura will contact them to change it.

Litter picks will be starting in October on the second Saturday (12th) going to March. Probably concentrate on the south side towards ASDA. **ACTION:** Laura will put out an email and will purchase a new clipboard because the old one has worn out.

More Gaol Ferry litter bins needed. A litter problem is being created because of the takeaway volume from in Wapping Wharf. Bins will need to be emptied regularly on weekends. We need to approach the council. **ACTION:** Ed will speak with Tony Dyer. **ACTION:** Guy will speak to Christine Townsend, the next time he sees her.

Recruitment of new committee members. Raise at the AGM and speak informally with folk at litter picks and Butterfly Junction. **ACTION:** All

There have been issues with attachments being able to be opened due to different devices. Should we be sending minutes and agenda items out via What's App as pdfs or in the body of the message? It seems that everyone has access to pdfs so Guy will try that going forward. **ACTION:** Guy