

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC) Committee meeting:

Minutes – Tuesday 20 May 2025

Present: Andrew Jenkins (Chair), Laura Demery, Lizzi Testani, Phil Cass

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies: Ed Hall

2. Minutes of the last meeting – and actions arising (below)

Minutes of last meeting agreed and action list updated as below.

2. Review of 2024/25 activities

Committee briefly reviewed 2024/25 activities via discussion.

Community Gardening: Committee does not have a recent update from Butterfly Junction group although the area is looking full of wildlife and well cared for.

Litterpicking: Committee was pleased with high and consistent attendance throughout 2024/25 litter picks and logistics running smoothly but it was noted:

- There is a need to scope out problem area close to Whitehouse Street and consider raising with BCC if fly tipping continues and
- Sometimes even with high levels of attendance litter can be missed – it helps for experienced members to be part of each group and thorough picking can be encouraged welcome speech.

FrANC's photos: FrANC's photos WhatsApp group provides a way for people to be involved in FrANC in a light touch way and potentially get more involved in future.

3. Financial report

Current bank balance is at £587.26

Anticipated upcoming costs are:

- £13 for website domain,
- circa £50 in bank charges and
- circa £400 for volunteer coffees throughout 2024/25 season.

Committee agreed ambition to retain a bank balance of £400 so fundraising is required to support 2025/26 season. Ideas for fundraising were explored during later agenda item.

4. Plans for 2025/26 activities

Community Gardening: Committee agreed a formal link is required between community gardening group and the committee. **Action** Andrew to contact Guy to confirm whether a community gardening volunteer would be willing to join committee.

Litterpicking: Litterpicks to proceed in same format and again to be scheduled for second Saturday of the month from October through to March. **Action** Laura to update the website with dates and draft mailing to include these and other ways to be involved (including justgiving mentioned later).

FrANC's photos: Committee agreed **Action** Lizzi to post a friendly message/reminder to the group that contributions are encouraged and there are other ways to keep in touch and involved in FrANC.

5. Fundraising discussion

Several attempts to fundraise have been explored including:

- ASDA community fund
- Womble Bond Dickinson Fund (FrANC ineligible)
- Several local businesses including Café Grounded
- Barcan+Kirkby Fund (application outstanding)

The committee agreed that a justgiving page might help attract corporate sponsorship and also donations from the community. It was agreed that £500 felt like a modest target that would garner support.

Therefore it was agreed:

- **Action** Lizzi to draft text for a justgiving page and agree it with the committee before setting up a page
- **Action** justgiving page to be shared via WhatsApp Groups, member mailing, BS3 Wildlife, South Bristol Voice and Bedminster Pigeon, plus any other forums
- **Action** Andrew to enquire about outcome of Barcan+Kirby application and conduct another letterdrop to local businesses (including Fowlers Motorcycles and Freedog Climbing Centre) and an email message to Broadwalk Estate Agents
- **Action** Once justgiving live, Laura to reach out to Environment Agenda (or Defra?) and enquire whether they would be willing to contribute following company away day which included a walk hosted by Ed.

6. AOB

Water quality: Before the meeting Ed raised water quality issue and need to connect with Wessex Water to express FrANC's concern for the river's environmental protection. Lizzi is part of a Clean Rivers Working Group and Action agreed that Lizzi will express FrANC's concern and request information/an update from Wessex Water that can be shared with members.

Laura also mentioned proactive steps being taken by Trout on the Trym to encourage members to identify incidents of pollution and take steps to report it to Wessex Water. This is most effective if done directly and every time pollution occurs and is spotted by members. **Action** Laura to include link to this advice in next mailing to FrANC members to encourage reporting of water pollution incidents.

Members Ed, Tess, Roy and Andrew recently met with Oxford University team as part of their project 'Brown River Green City'. This is exploring how to maximise the potential that the River Avon offers to Bristol as a Green City. **Action** Andrew to obtain permission from researchers to share map output via FrANC's website.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 16 September, 7:00pm, Laura's House

| ACTIONS (refreshed list with completed actions removed, outstanding actions updated where necessary and new actions added) | STATUS |
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| Lizzi to include request / suggestion for bins near Gaol Ferry bridge within next communication to Steve Clampin | COMPLETE |
| Andrew to request for information from ecologist on how the impact of works on wildlife is being mitigated and whether they might be willing/interested to present an update about the works at our next AGM | |
| Andrew to make contact Stuart Hatton to explore possibility of sponsorship from Whapping Wharf | COMPLETE |
| Laura to resend login information and Lizzi and Andrew to re-gain access to general enquiries contact inbox. | |
| NEW Andrew to contact Guy to confirm whether a community gardening volunteer would be willing to join committee. | |
| NEW Lizzi to post a friendly message/reminder to the group that contributions are encouraged and there are other ways to keep in touch and involved in FrANC. | COMPLETE |
| NEW Lizzi to draft text for a justgiving page and agree it with the committee before setting up a page | COMPLETE |
| NEW Andrew to enquire about outcome of Barcan+Kirby application and conduct another letterdrop to local businesses (including Fowlers Motorcycles and Freedog Climbing Centre) and an email message to Broadwalk Estate Agents | COMPLETE |
| NEW All justgiving page to be shared via WhatsApp Groups, member mailing, BS3 Wildlife, South Bristol Voice and Bedminster Pigeon, plus any other forums | COMPLETE |
| NEW Once justgiving live, Laura to reach out to Environment Agenda (or Defra?) and enquire whether they would be willing to contribute following company away day which included a walk hosted by Ed. | |
| NEW Lizzi express FrANC's concern and request information/an update from Wessex Water that can be shared with members. | |
| NEW Laura to include link to this advice in next mailing to FrANC members to encourage reporting of water pollution incidents. | |
| NEW Andrew to obtain permission from researchers to share map output via FrANC's website. | |