

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

### Minutes – Tuesday 4 November 2025

**Present: Andrew Jenkins (Chair), Laura Demery, Ed Hall, Phil Cass, Sue Chubb (observer) and Matthew Feltham (observer)**

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies: Lizzi Testani

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

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

#### 3. Review of finances

- Current bank balance is at £1,944.91.
- Started 2025 with balance at £748 so significant improvement due to crowdfunding drive and John Laing Charitable Trust donation.
  - *Crowdfunding received to the value of £584.86.*
  - *Donation from John Laing Charitable Trust received to the value of £1,000.*
- Expenses include drinks post litter picks and also £147 for female holly trees for butterfly junction.

#### 4. Butterfly Junction Update

Butterfly Junction report November 2025 – Sue Chubb

- We have been able to supply some spare tools to the Dame Emily Park group after their tools were stolen in August. These will be helpful for their community gardening sessions.
- We planted vegetables in the wooden planters opposite the main site at Butterfly Junction - spinach, cabbages and herbs to encourage more butterflies and insects.
- We have recently planted several female holly bushes to go with the male plants in the area near Underfall Yard in the hope we will get berries, to encourage birds and other wildlife. The bushes are protected by stakes and chicken wire.
- Hollyhock seeds have been scattered and we did have hollyhock flowering this summer, some daffodil bulbs were also planted in the Spring.
- Brambles and bindweed have been regularly cut back and cleared from areas around the fruit trees which were watered in the summer when there was very little rain.
- Guy Malkerson did an interview recently with a PhD student on climate justice at Butterfly Junction.
- The brambles and ivy on the main patch are cut back each month in the Autumn and Winter to stop them encroaching on the meadow land at Butterfly Junction and to maintain an open area with grasses and wild flowers for the butterflies.
- A colony of bees are now living in one of the compost bins on the main patch.
- Butterfly counts were done over the summer months by Roy - the main ones found were small and large whites and also cinnabar moth caterpillars appeared.
- There was concern in the group regarding the future of Butterfly Junction in relation to the Harbourside development plans and what will happen to the land here. A number of us spoke to development reps at the community consultation held at Underfall Yard in the summer, expressing our concerns, as Butterfly Junction appears on their maps. We were advised to keep doing what we are already doing, which aims to increase biodiversity at the Junction. The more biodiversity we can create the more chance Butterfly Junction land has of surviving the development intact.

5. Plans for AGM
AGM confirmed for 2pm, 23 <sup>rd</sup> November at the Underfall Yard Education Room with visit to café afterwards. Laura has confirmed venue is available and notified FrANC membership.  Venue hire is free but the meeting agreed that FrANC would provide £50 donation to the Underfall Yard for use of facilities.
6. Future Committee Membership
Committee always interested in encouraging new members. Sue and Matthew attended as observers and will consider joining to provide link with Butterfly Junction volunteers – no pressure though!
7. AOB
<b>Laura:</b> As part of engagement with the ongoing harbourside works Ben Barker has asked FrANC for short statement on our work and what we have done to encourage biodiversity. Laura to draft short statement.

ACTIONS (refreshed list with completed actions removed, outstanding actions updated where necessary and new actions added )	STATUS
Lizzi to include request / suggestion for bins near Gaol Ferry bridge within next communication to Steve Clampin at BCC. <b>New action: Members can report the issue on Fix My Street <a href="https://fixmystreet.bristol.gov.uk/">https://fixmystreet.bristol.gov.uk/</a></b>	Lizzi spoken to Steve C at BCC and Ed with Tony Dyer. Members can report the issue on Fix My Street
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	AJJ approached BCC regarding presentation at AGM. Not available.
Andrew to make contact Stuart Hatton to explore possibility of sponsorship from Whapping Wharf	AJJ approached SH regarding potential funding for additional bins around Wapping Wharf. Meeting TBC.
Andrew to investigate whether somebody from BCC or ecologist could give a talk at the AGM	Phil and Lizzi have suggested contacts and will follow up.
Raise topic of additional activities for members at AGM	
Donation of £50 to Underfall Yard to be made in respect of venue use for AGM. <b>New action: Laura</b>	
Short statement from FrANC on our work and what we have done to encourage biodiversity. This is in response to an approach by Ben Barker as part of his community engagement with the ongoing harbourside works. <b>New action: Laura</b>	