

Bathwick Residents' Association Newsletter Spring 2015

This newsletter is circulated to the whole of Bathwick Hill as it is a chance for any resident to see what we have to offer and to join us. It contains our diary for the year, AGM agenda, details of how to pay your annual membership subs of £5 per household, as well as news on current issues. Sadly no pictures this time – too much to write about!

Our Autumn event 2014 was a talk on the Beau St. Hoard

Stephen Clews, Director of the Roman Baths Museum, gave a fascinating talk and power point presentation on The Beau Street Hoard at the BHRA Autumn event. This amazing collection of over 17000 silver coins spanning a 300 year period during the Roman occupation of Bath, was discovered when archaeologists were investigating the new Gainsborough hotel site close to the Thermae Bath Spa complex. Residents were able to handle Roman coins, and consider the weight of the bagged coins. It was so interesting to be told more about this extraordinary discovery.

Colin Martin is standing down as our Chairman

We'd like to thank Colin Martin who has chaired our Association since 2009 is stepping down at the AGM in March. Colin has led the Association with wit and wisdom over the last 6 years, he has kept the focus on fostering community relations and taking up the issues that most affect life on the hill, where a community consensus has been important.

Recently some of the issues have involved protecting the footpath running through Smallcombe Farm, the objection to Tesco's application for extended licensing hours and ensuring a sympathetic treatment for the boundary to the railway, where it runs through Sydney Gardens, a project that is on-going with the electrification of the line.

Colin has made sure that we keep up our social events and not least been influential in keeping the Autumn happening going through the depths of winter! Colin has not been in the best of health recently and we wish him the very best for the future.

Tesco have made an application to extend their opening hours to 6:00 am to midnight. The application can be found on the Bath & N.E. Somerset council web site - use link below - the application number is 15/00160/VAR, the consultation ends 20/2/15 and the target decision date is 16/3/15. Given the time constraints we cannot canvas the residents and suggest you make your own objections. Details can be found online at <http://isharemaps.bathnes.gov.uk/projects/bathnes/developmentcontrol/>

Diary of events for 2015

Thurs 19 March AGM 7.00 pm, St Mary's Bathwick Church Hall (agenda below)

Easter egg hunt Sat, 4 April 10:30 am to 12:30 Easter egg hunt at Little Claverton, Bathwick Hill, all members welcome with guests. Please bring nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

Saturday 6th June Open Gardens 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm - We hope to open gardens in the lower part of the Hill – If you would like to open your garden please let Sarah or Claire know.

Monday 13th July Summer Walk with Julie Hayward – a Mayor's guide. Meet outside the pump room at 6:00 pm. Finishing at about 7.30 pm at the Crystal Palace, Abbey Green for a drink & food. RSVP to Claire Jackson

Thursday 29th October 7.30 pm Autumn event – speaker to be confirmed.

All events are free except the Autumn event where there is usually a charge of £5 per head.

Other events, as yet unscheduled:

A tour of the Ironworks workshop - they made the sunflower at the bottom of the hill, and would welcome a group visit from us.

Also the new director of the Holburne has offered to give us a talk about the Holburn

Bathwick Hill Residents' Association Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm Thursday 19th March at St Mary's Church Hall with guest speakers Peter Dawson and Cllr Lisa Brett

Arrivals 7.00-7.30 pm for drinks and nibbles

7.30 pm Welcome from the Chairman

Guest Speakers –

Peter Dawson, Group Manager Transport and Planning Policy, Bath & North East Somerset Council and Cllr Lisa Brett

Followed by the AGM agenda as below :

Apologies for absence

Election of Chairperson and the Committee

Chairperson's Report

Treasurer's Report

Federation of Bath Residents' Associations Report

Adoption of new Constitution

Annual Programme of Events

Local Councillors' Report

Any Other Business

The Committee are :

Chair person : Colin Martin (retiring). Nominees Sarah Trimmer, in the event of no other nominees.

Anyone wishing to volunteer as committee members please contact up to one week in advance

Claire Jackson , 3 Woodland Place, Bathwick Hill Claire.jackson77@btinternet.com

All other members have agreed to stand again as follows:

Secretary – Claire Jackson

Treasurer – Andrew Temple-Smith

FOBRA representative – Colin Clark

Social organiser – this post is to be shared between committee members in the absence of a volunteer to take on the role.

Committee members – Julie Hayward, Helen Green, Felix Moore & Basil Snook

We will ask for seconds at the AGM, and then take a vote using a show of hands.

We would also like to appoint a volunteer web manager to administer our web-site, this does not need to be a committee position but will be carried in consultation with the committee.

Report from FOBRA - Federation of Bath Residents' Associations

Peter Dawson, Group Manager Transport and Planning Policy has agreed to speak at the AGM on 19 March.

This report has been prepared to provide some background.

TRANSPORT

For many years FoBRA, on behalf of the Bath residents' associations, has been urging the need for a Transport Strategy to tackle Bath's congestion and pollution problems. In recognition of this FoBRA was represented on the Transport Commission established by Banes under the chairmanship of Sir Peter Hendy, a Widcombe resident and Transport Commissioner for London. The Strategy developed by the Commission was subject to consultation during last spring and summer and approved by Banes last November.

This is a major step forward. The Strategy, which is expressed in terms of high level objectives, is available on the Banes website. It sets out a long term vision of Bath enhancing its unique status by adopting measures that promote sustainable transport and reduce the intrusion of vehicles, particularly in the historic core. The purpose is to foster economic growth, enhance Bath's special character as a World Heritage City and improve the quality of life of residents.

These objectives will be achieved by reducing congestion to make it easier to move around the city and improving air quality by reducing vehicle carbon emissions.

Key proposals include:

- Developing a walking/cycling strategy to make Bath the UK's most walkable city;
- Better management of HGV's in the city;
- Continued expansion of Park and Ride sites ;
- A new location for coaches to park after dropping visitors off in the centre.

Fobra warmly welcomes the Strategy as a key opportunity to tackle the congestion and air pollution in the City. Nitrogen dioxide levels along most of the main road network are 50% above the legal limit at which pollution becomes a potential health risk, especially of heart and lung disease. The Supreme Court has ruled that the government has a legally enforceable duty to bring pollution down to the levels required by its own laws.

Traffic has a major negative impact on the overall appearance and amenity of the city. Queen Square, is little more than a roundabout on the A4. The Circus is a rat run. Pollution and vibration take a toll on the fabric of the city.

The Strategy was voted with all party support, which is crucial, as its implementation will stretch over many years. It is a good start but implementation will be critical.

Fobra supports the vision of reducing the intrusion of vehicles in the city, especially in the city core, but would like to see the city centre free of all but essential traffic.

However, traffic on the key arterial routes must be tackled too. Through traffic, especially HGVs, must be removed from the city. An A36/46 link road is essential, since it is now clear from a Department for Transport decision that traffic cannot be banned from Bath in the absence of a new alternative route. Fobra welcomes the Council's commitment to work with Wiltshire and the Department for Transport on this. Fobra supports a Park and Ride to the east of Bath. All the Park and Rides should operate later into the evening and have secure overnight parking, so that they can be used by evening and overnight visitors. Fobra supports more pedestrian access, cycling, better public transport and improved freight delivery. But these will have limited impact if motorists remain able to drive into the centre and park at will. So we support the proposals to develop a traffic management plan for the city and to reduce visitor parking in the centre, as the Park and Rides are expanded.

The strategy includes work on a Low Emission Area (LEZ). We welcome this, but the LEZ should cover the whole city centre, not just a small area close to the bus station as currently proposed. Council Leader, Paul Crossley, has agreed in principle that the strategy should be more ambitious and Fobra is urging that it should cover the whole of the centre, plus Great Pulteney Street and the Henrietta area.

Looking ahead to implementation a Transport Plan will be necessary containing detailed projects with timescales and budgets, and with annual progress reviews. An essential element of the Plan will be a traffic management plan to reduce traffic volumes in the centre and other areas.

The strategy should recognise the connection between land use and traffic. Traffic modelling studies should be carried out when major developments are considered. Fobra has not yet seen an assessment of the traffic implications of the major Riverside Enterprise Area development or of the new housing developments planned on the edges of the city.

The Transport Strategy complements the Placemaking Plan. In consultation on the Placemaking Plan Fobra emphasised the need to ensure that the infrastructure necessary to implement the Transport Strategy is delivered in a timely manner. Infrastructure to remove through traffic, especially HGVs, from Bath is particularly important but depends on achieving agreements with Wiltshire and the Highways Agency. Any information our guest speaker can give us on progress in the discussions already underway on this last issue; on the implementation timetable for the Strategy as a whole, and on funding, will be particularly helpful.

Closer to home, our guest may also be able to update us on speed limits and enforcement on the Hill; when long promised real time indicators will be installed at the bus stops and the implications of continuing growth of the University for the frequency and vehicle quality of our bus services.

MEMBERSHIP YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE

Once again the tricky subject of membership subscriptions raises its head.

The subscription of £5 per household is due in March each year

it can be paid as follows :

- at the AGM in cash
- by standing order (see below)
- or cash delivered to Andrew Temple-Smith at 2, Dunsford Place, with your name, and post code as a reference

New members: Please apply by email or post your name, address, phone number and email address to Andrew Temple-Smith. Then either enclose £5 cash with it or set up a standing order as below. We prefer standing orders to reduce administration work.

Standing order mandate

Please set up an annual standing order for £5 to Bathwick Hill Residents' Association to be paid annually on March 17th starting on March 17th 2015.

Payable To : Bathwick Hill Residents Association , Santander Account : 48259801 Sort code : 09-01-55

Reference : ____
(last 3 characters of Post code and surname)

From my account:

Account name _____

Account number _____ Sort Code __ - __ - __

Please send or take this to your bank. You may also be able to set up a standing order online if you do internet banking. Thank you.

Our Web site - www.bathwickhill.info.

For our calendar, up to date posts and news, and the latest newsletter please look on our web site. We are planning to change this so the main pages are not password protected. However to make posts you still have to email the committee as we do not have the man power to monitor the web site.

If we don't have your email address please let us have it as you will then get notification of all posts for our events, and issues affecting Bathwick Hill residents.

If we have your email and you are not receiving posts – check your spam. Also make sure you let us know if your email address changes.

OUR CONSTITUTION

We have updated our constitution to bring it more into line with how we see ourselves now, it is around 20 years old and the BHRA has changed in that time. We will post the new version on the web site and will have the paper version available at he AGM to be approved by the membership. If anyone would like a copy before the AGM and does not have internet please let us know.

Bathwick Hill Residents' Association contacts :

Secretary: Claire Jackson, 3 Woodland Place, BATH BA2 6EH Tel: 01225464228

Treasurer: Andrew Temple-Smith at 2, Dunsford Place, Bath,

Web site : Sarah Trimmer, email : trimmer.sp@btpopenworld.com, Tel: 01225 330928