

ACTION NOTES FROM BERA COMMITTEE ZOOMMEETING on 23 March 2022

Those (virtually) present: Charles Draper (Chair), Danielle Sellwood, Alasdair Barron, Ric Jerrom, Mark Thurstain, Nola Wright, Sally Galsworthy, Wendy Powney.

Also present for all except the last part of the meeting: Councillor Manda Rigby, Councillor Yuktेशwar Kumar.

Apologies: Amie Berkovitch; Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers, John Mudford.

1. Francoise Pace had resigned because of the ill health of her husband. We were grateful for her service and wished both well.

2. CPT were seeking a meeting with the CPINs and appeared to be close to a decision on an operator; Charles would like to attend..

3. Danielle had a very useful meeting with Councillor Jess David and Environment Manager Mark Minkley about the river erosion problem. They were well aware of the problem, and keen to consider what they could do. They would come back in April with ideas. They would be taking it up with the operators and other interested parties. The River Flats would put up relevant signage visible from the river as a short- term measure. It was clear that there was no simple solution (as Amie's comments had illustrated) but the discussions had given a welcome stimulus to BathNES taking the issue more seriously for the city as a whole.

4. The thrust of Danielle's presentation at our AGM would be that river erosion was a serious problem for parts of the Estate; speeding river craft contributed to it; we needed a solution through discussions with all interested parties. This was now urgent as we could expect the opening of Cleveland Pools to lead to more river traffic. The barge being used in the CPT construction phase was already having a noticeable impact. This was an important issue for the city, and part of a longer- term failure to appreciate the importance and potential of the river for us all.

5. The Swifts project was proceeding well with plenty of support in the current pilot year.

6. Following Francoise's resignation, Alasdair had temporarily resumed responsibility for ongoing aspects of our Estate Trees Project. It would be good if our AGM identified a long-term successor.

7. There was no evident demand for a Queen's Jubilee event in our Estate. The Council had arranged some city events that residents could partake in if they wished.

8. We expected to hear more from Fiona Carnie about plans for the Community Day on July 2nd. We agreed that street reps would be happy to deliver leaflets for it.

9. Since we were preparing for meetings in person, Wendy and Charles had agreed that we should take out Public Liability Insurance to guard against risks from slips and trips etc at meetings. It was not designed to include insurance for potentially hazardous activities such as climbing ladders to instal swift boxes. Individuals doing so would need to self-insure, and ensure contractors were properly insured.

10. The AGM letter and flyer were agreed, with some further emphasis on the need to join before the AGM, and the fact that membership was individual, not by household. Charles would email existing members with the finalised flier soon so people could get it in their diaries. He would also organise printing of the letter/flyers, and distribute them to street reps in the week before Easter (i.e by Thursday 14 April) so they could be distributed as soon as practical. (Each street pack would be accompanied by a list of the addresses that would not need leaflets as they were members who had been emailed.) On the day itself Committee members should turn up by 7 if possible to help set up. Following recent practice, Charles would produce an action record (with the help of an audio recording) afterwards.

11. John Mudford had decided to stand down as Rockliffe Rd Street Rep, so that would also be a vacancy for the Committee elections.

12. It was regrettable that the Council had no powers to control whole-property Airbnb numbers; this was a national problem. There were also concerns about the paving over of front gardens.

13. The nature of the building work on the once derelict houses at the end of Hampton Row was also giving concerns. Ric would report on this in due course. The issues were already being investigated by planning enforcement officers.

14. Next Meeting – Wednesday 4 May.

Committee only discussion

15. There was a particular concern over one house in Beckford Gardens with large gates, paved front garden and a dropped kerb that seemed very out of keeping with the neighbourhood. Concerns had been expressed to planning officers, who seemed unclear on the need for permission to instal a dropped kerb.

16. Another issue was the number of cars parked on paved front gardens which also intruded over the pavement. We hoped the expected pavement parking legislation would address this.

17. The Council's policy on storm damaged trees seemed to be to remove and replace them, rather than help them survive. This seemed wrong. Alasdair would write to the relevant officer on BERA's behalf.

CD 27/03/2022