

ACTION NOTES FROM BERA COMMITTEE MEETING ON 13 November 2019

Those present: Charles Draper (Chair), Ken Ayers, John Mudford, Valerie Hayward, Nola Wright.

Councillors Manda Rigby and Yuktेशwar Kumar

(Items 1 -3 only) BathNES Director Environment Mandy Bishop, and Neighbour Steve Baseby

Apologies: Amie Berkovitch, Sylvia Ayers, Alasdair Barron, Pat Asher, Ric Jerrom.

1. BERA funds stood at £884.74, with a membership of 96.

2. Manda had recently conducted a trial speed-watch at the one feasible spot on the Estate, which was Forester Rd at the entrance road to Frankcom House, between 8 and 10 am. The average speed (in this 20 mph zone) was 30 mph, and some vehicles were doing 40 mph. The numbers were not quite up to the target figure of 100, but she hoped they had provided enough evidence to enable a local speed-watch scheme to be established. **She would pursue this.** If it was approved, she already had enough trained speed-watch volunteers in the ward to run the scheme, but if BERA Members wanted to get trained and join in, they would be welcome. The team doing the trial also became aware of speeding on the Beckford Rd, but as this was a Trunk Road it would need to be addressed by the police.

3. On the RUI coach issue, the only way of prohibiting coaches dropping off passengers at Bathwick St would be by making it a Red (no stopping) Route, which had very strict criteria including a length requirement that would need to include the London Road. This was neither feasible nor desirable. Alternative approaches could be to regularise the situation by reverting to having a drop off area near the restaurant, or converting nearby Residents Parking areas for use as a coach park. Neither of these had any attraction for BERA. The CAZ and anti-idling zones once in place would have a potential impact, though idling in this case was generally not a problem – the RUI coaches were normally parked with the engine off and driver inside. The plan to encourage more coach parking on Pulteney Rd was more promising, though that brought its own problems, as coaches had no easy turn around option beyond the Bathwick Hill roundabout. The Council was looking again at its Coach strategy, as the RUI problem was part of the wider picture. **In the meantime, Mandy would investigate the practicality of dividing the short term parking area on Bathwick St opposite RUI so as to make it impossible for coaches to wait there. And Manda would find out what next steps were envisaged in the letter Councillor Jo Wright had sent the RUI owner.** The other underlying difficulty was that establishing RUI as a Chinese restaurant, rather than a pub, did not itself require the planning consent that would have enabled traffic issues to be taken into account, and Licensing did not address the issue either.

5. The first CPIN meeting with the CPT had not gone well, mainly because the CPINs felt that the new CPT team was not keeping to what they felt their predecessors had committed to, particularly on access issues from Hampton Row. It did not help that imminent borehole work would be accessed entirely from Hampton Row. The broader November meeting for all residents, introducing Beards as preferred contractor, had gone better. The CPTs forward timescales looked very tight.

6. The Council would shortly be imposing an 18 tonne weight restriction on vehicles using Cleveland Bridge because of health and safety concerns, pending a structural refurbishment programme planned for 2020 for which central government funding would be sought. The

weight restriction would clearly have a substantial impact on local lorry traffic. The refurbishment works themselves, assuming they went ahead, would take some months, with even greater traffic impacts, possibly including periods of complete closure. **Manda would check to see if the planned work package included protection for the Toll Houses on the bridge against vehicle impacts of the type that caused much disruptive and expensive-to-repair damage a couple of years' back.**

7. The offer of University of Bath Students doing voluntary work on the Estate was in principle welcome, **but Kumar would tell them that the best first step would be to ask us, perhaps at one of our meetings, what would be most useful.**

8. Charles would encourage BERA Residents to consider whether the ultrafast fibre optic broadband capability being offered locally by Truespeed would be of interest to them, as it would only go ahead on the Estate if a significant number of residents took it up. We would, of course, make no recommendations about taking it up, and other providers might offer better value for money.

9. Next Meetings: Wed 15 Jan, Wed 18 March, Thursday 23 April (AGM – note date change. now booked), Wed 17 June.

CD 17/11/2019