

ACTION NOTES FROM BERA COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING ON 14 October 2020

Those (virtually) present: Charles Draper (Chair), Valerie Hayward, Amie Berkovitch, Nola Wright, Sally Galsworthy, Alasdair Barron.

Councillors Manda Rigby and Yuktेशwar Kumar

Apologies: Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers, John Mudford; Ric Jerrom

1. Sally Galsworthy was welcomed as a new committee member. She was a Forester Avenue resident, but had agreed to be the road rep for Beckford Road and Beckford Gardens. Her background in journalism should be useful in helping our communications.

2. BERA funds stood at £835.74, before the grant referred to below. We currently had no income, but few outgoings either.

3. The growing covid infection rates in Bath were mainly focused in areas with student concentrations. The official data showed our Estate as having a lower rate than Bathwick as a whole.

4. The Cleveland Bridge repair proposals were coming back to the Planning Committee shortly. All were agreed on the objective of trying to make the 18 ton weight limit permanent.

5. We were very grateful for the £500 grant from Manda's Councillor funds for more street trees. Alasdair was in discussion with the Parks department on how best to use it. **Committee members should tell him if they had particular views on locations.** Manda had also provided funds for better signage on Powlett Rd. Kumar had also asked us earlier in the year if we had a good use for his allocation.

6. There seemed to have been a higher level of petty crime – e.g. thefts from cars and garage break-ins – on the Estate recently. Some areas had tried installing CCTV cameras on their houses, and this seemed to have helped, but this would not be everyone's choice. Local vigilance and good security practices would help.

7. We should have a AGM in April next year even if, as seemed likely, it would need to be on Zoom. We should make a renewed attempt to broaden interest and participation in what we do beyond the 70 or so we had on our email contact list, including broadening the demographic. We had debated this many times, but covid will have changed some perceptions. We needed to ask ourselves why people would want to join. How do we sell BERA? **Suggestions to me, please, for discussion next time.** There would be practical problems with the mechanics of membership using our current methods, but in some ways that was less important.

8. Now that Sally had joined us it would be practicable to take up the idea of a regular newsletter. For discussion next time. We could consider social media options then, too, though the benefits were not obvious.

9. Next Meetings – Wednesday 9 December, and Wednesday 10 February.

CD 15/10/20