



Friends of Bradford's Becks

Minutes of AGM and quarterly meeting on Monday 25th July 2016

Item	Action
AGM	
<p>Present: Barney, Steve, Irene, Ed, David B, Elizabeth, Tony, Richard Emmott, Geoff, Rachel Kipling (EA)</p> <p>Apologies: Graham, Eddie, Colin, Wendy, David P,</p>	
<p>1. Election of officers</p> <p>a. Barney Lerner nominated by David Brazendale, seconded by Irene Lofthouse. No other nominations. All in favour.</p> <p>b. Agreed no other officers required</p>	
<p>2. Finances: There are no accounts as all our finances go through ART (Aire Rivers Trust). In outline:</p> <p>a. The plaques project is in a modest surplus</p> <p>b. The listening sculpture project is in budget for the design phase</p> <p>c. The Urban Pollution project underspent, and there are substantial funds carried forward into this financial year. They can be used for education related to urban rivers and urban pollution.</p>	
<p>3. Review of the past year: Chair's report. Busy year!</p> <p>a. Poetry. The poetry competition was successfully concluded, an anthology of the poems published (£3.50), and a CD of the poems with over 40 readers made (for sale at £5). Thanks to Ed (and the poets!) for all his work.</p> <p>b. Plaques. 8 plaques are in place. Good cooperation from the council. Lots of publicity in the T&A. Again, thanks to Ed for all his work (and to Pat for the carving).</p> <p>c. Events. Poetry anthology launch in January. Beck walks in Aug 15 and June 16. Three litter picks. Various appearances in the T&A, BCB Radio, event Radio Leeds once. Words in the City at Waterstones (part of Ilkley Literature Festival) on 9th July.</p> <p>d. Pollution project. The urban pollution finding project with Project Officer Gary Rushworth was a success. Methods refined, lots of samples taken, new volunteers recruited, more pollution found, training materials produced. Didn't manage to complete the educational activities in time, but Irene has been doing more work since the formal end of the project. (See below)</p>	

- e. **Invasive species.** Extensive knotweed mapping and treatment done back in 2014. However the group isn't functioning anymore as the coordinator is no longer active in FOBB.
- f. **Listening sculpture.** A generous donation has enabled us to launch a design competition which closes 29th July 2016. Lots of good publicity. Thanks to Ed (again – what would we do without him?), Geoff and Wendy.
- g. **Renaturalisation** of the Beck along Valley Rd. Very frustrating. We provided an outline design for a Valley Rd scheme (thanks to Dave Mould of JBA for help). The Council agreed to provide some funding for an initial contaminated land assessment along Valley Rd as preparation for a design leading to a funding bid. Never done, turned out the money had been spent elsewhere. The Council (Drainage Dept) seems to have taken our ideas for Valley Rd and put in a bid for some Regional Flood levy money without involving us. We will make sure we are involved as the project goes forward!
A major ART project for heritage and renaturalisation of the Aire called DNA is being driven by the EA with ART as the key partner. A first stage lottery bid has been submitted. Clearly this would be an important context for any Bradford Beck bid.
- h. Relations with Bradford Council. As hinted above, these are variable. We have great support on the plaques and sculpture, the Environment Scrutiny Committee remains very supportive
- i. **Websites and social media.** The original website www.bradford-beck.org pooters along as a repository of material.

A fantastic new website www.MarkingBradfordBeck.org has been created by Geoff and Wendy for the plaques, poetry and sculpture activities. Thanks to Martyn for the photos at the plaque sites - well worth taking a look!

Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/BradfordsBecks) is our main news channel and the group there has 298 members.

We are also on Twitter @BradfordBecks.

4. Minutes of last year's AGM - approved	
5. The AGM closed.	
Quarterly meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finishing up the Urban Pollution project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Irene explained her work with New Laithe Y6 kids based on the concept of a "visiting scientist from 2036" and submitted her report. Main difficulty had been getting schools to engage, given their full timetables and long lead times, but the effort at New Laithe had clearly been successful. She may offer the package to other schools on a commercial basis. b. Wendy and Barney have had to abandon the plan to build a 	Irene

<p>model for YW to use for teaching about misconceptions etc in the Esholt centre because they are moving premises.</p> <p>c. Due to the delays in education aspects of the project, there is carry-over of funds into this. The World Rivers Day event is intended to educational and will adsorb some of the funds. Suggestions welcome for other activities.</p>	All
<p>2. Plaques progress.</p> <p>a. Ed reported which plaques were in place and which others are carved. It will be a close call getting the last ones ready and installed by 25th Sept, but Pat Walls sculptor is still confident. Arrangements being made with the Council for installation. A resin cast of Number 1 (Odeon) will be installed on the hoarding there until redevelopment work is finished.</p> <p>b. We need a trail guide available to hand out on 25th. This can be based on the pull-up banner of the plaques.</p> <p>c. The book and CD of poems will be available via a shop on www.MarkingBradfordBeck.org as soon as Geoff has set it up!</p>	<p>Ed to continue</p> <p>Ed and Barney</p> <p>Geoff</p>
<p>3. Listening sculpture</p> <p>a. 10 expressions of interest by the closing date. Entries due by 29th July. The one entry seen so far looks good, so high hopes. Shortlisting arranged for 23rd Aug at Cartwright Hall</p>	Barney
<p>4. World Rivers Day (25th September)</p> <p>a. David and Barney reported on the early morning lifting of a manhole at Millergate, which provides a possible site for an activity on the day. Wendy to plan including a risk assessment, and contact landowner and possibly Council.</p> <p>b. Irene advised that a gazebo near the pavilion was a severe risk from the wind, and should be repositioned.</p> <p>c. There will be two kinds of guided walks, one led by Steve and Eddie, the other by Rose and Pauline. Steve suggested that it might be wise to start at plaque 3 to avoid crossing the main road.</p> <p>d. Irene took a copy of CD to arrange for it to be played on the big screen.</p> <p>e. A good line up of partners are taking part: ART/ACCP, Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, ART, Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society, Wild Trout Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, JBA Trust, Riverfly as well as FOBB.</p> <p>f. A detailed plan for day to be drawn up and circulated!</p>	<p>Wendy</p> <p>Barney</p> <p>Irene</p> <p>Barney</p>
<p>5. Environment Agency</p> <p>a. The EA's new catchment coordinator for the Aire and Calder, Rachel Kipling, introduced herself to the meeting and was</p>	

<p>welcomed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Only one pollution incident to report, which took place today in Westbrook. c. Gave us the news that Bradford's proposal for daylighting on Valley Rd had been awarded some funding from the regional flood levy earlier in the week. Offer to put us in touch with Nicola Morley from the EA to discuss how we can be involved in taking the project forward and aligning our renaturalisation project with it. 	<p>Rachel, Barney, Dave Mould</p>
<p>6. Minutes of last meeting – accepted.</p>	
<p>7. Next meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Saltaire Festival, weekend of 17/18 September b. World Rivers Day (25th September) c. L&L canal event 16th Oct d. Quarterly catch-ups, 17th Oct and 23rd Jan 	<p>Barney to book room and post dates</p>