

Friends of Bradford's Becks

Minutes of for quarterly meeting on Monday 16th Oct 2017

Kirkgate Centre, Shipley, 7:30-8:30 pm.

Item	Action
<p>Present: Elisabeth, Graham, Kevin, Wendy, Rose, David, Barney, Eddie, Apologies: Philip S, Rachel K, Rob, James, Tony, Judith, Pauline, Geoff</p>	
<p>1. Review of Saltaire Festival event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Alex's workshop was very popular. Only a little feed across to the FOBB stall. b. Definitely raised awareness, didn't get more people actively engaged with our activities. c. Walking the streets and handing out leaflets worked well, brought lots of people to the stall. d. 40 new names on email list, a couple new on Facebook e. £430 raised f. Good for raffle. Walks booklet popular, poetry and glass ornaments a harder sell. 	
<p>2. Review of River of Light event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Raising the manhole is great for raising interest, eg for a petition. Hundreds of people stopped to look and most were interested in anything we said about the Beck. b. Definitely raised awareness, didn't get more people actively engaged. c. 19 new names on email list, none on FB. d. £132 raised e. Smelly – varies with the wind. It's a result of the enclosure. f. Railing was a bit flimsy but adequate. Pegging it down would be good if we can. g. Walks booklet popular. 	

<p>3. Listening sculpture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. See briefing paper which was tabled in advance (attached as appendix) b. After a long discussion based on the briefing paper circulated in advance, the meeting unanimously decided to suspend fund-raising for the listening sculpture. It was agreed that the project would be revived if a sponsor came forward, and Barney stated that he was willing to meet with potential sponsors if introductions were made by FOBB members. c. It was also agreed to return donations for the sculpture to those who request it, but to request that we could retain them to support other FOBB projects to raise awareness. 	<p>Barney to inform Judith, Tony, Alex and other sponsors.</p> <p>Barney to inform T&A in due course</p>
<p>4. Canal Rd and renaturalisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Barney walked reach from Shipley station to Stanley Rd with EA (Rachel) and Bradford (Syd – drainage, Saira and Roger – Landscape). Discussed FOBB ideas and opportunities for improvements. Well received, all interested in looking how we can move forward to fund action. The DNAire scheme may be of value as well (see below). 	<p>Barney waiting for Saira to call next meeting.</p>

7. River Stewardship

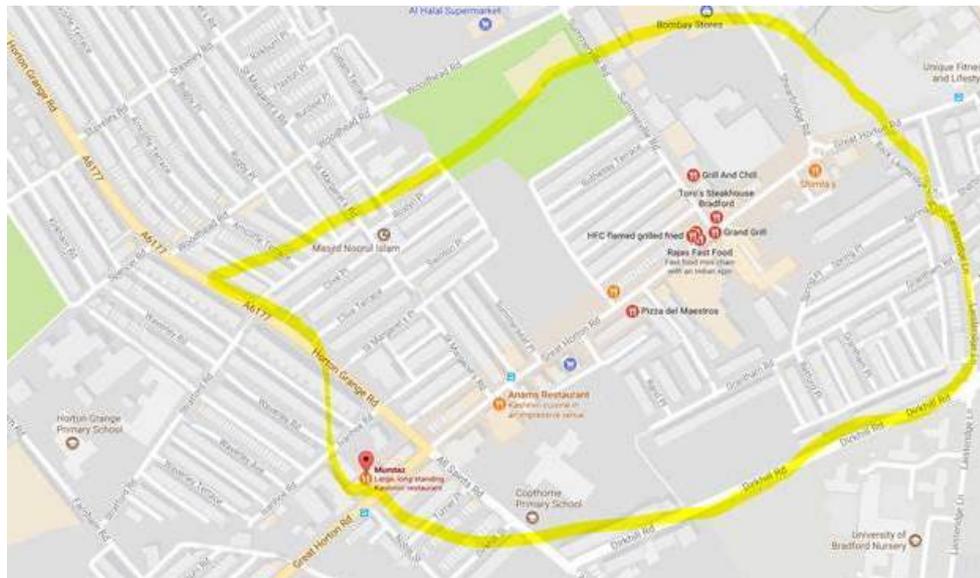
- a. ART has been awarded £52K to organise “River Stewardship” on behalf of Bradford’s Flood Resilience and River Stewardship group. To achieve this, the objectives of Phase 2 of River Aire Care (i.e. 2017-18) are:
 - i. Create or support at least six “Friends” groups in different areas (including ART)
 - ii. Develop strategies for the groups which combine flood resilience with environmental aspects
 - iii. Successfully bid for continuation funding for 2018-19 and beyond
- b. ART has added £21K to this pot, and will be recruiting a full-time project officer to carry out the project and work towards more income for ART. Barney and Kevin are managing this for ART.
- c. Leeds Community Fund has added £15K to the project.
- d. Barney and Kevin are managing the project for ART.

Barney/Kevin

8. Environment Agency report

- a. DNAire HLF award announced. £850K awarded, subject to matched funding and successful phase 1 of preparatory work. The project is to finish the set of fish passes to bring salmon up the Aire, as well as community engagement activities around both waterways (river and LL Canal).
- b. The EA has commissioned a study of the Westbrook area to resolve the pollution (curry) issues. They are asking for any info we have in the marked area.

Barney to enquire of urban explorers on FB



<p>9. Any other business and news</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ICASP – no news b. History paper for Antiquary printed, paper copies distributed to attendees. c. Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme phase 2, consultation under way. Will include weirs that can be raised to flood onto the flood plain at Kirkstall, Rodley, Woodhouse Grove. 	
<p>10. Minutes of last meeting agreed</p>	
<p>11. Next meetings and events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Quarterly catch-up 15th January b. Leeds FAS consultation on Thursday at George and Dragon, Apperley Bridge. 	

APPENDIX: Listening Sculpture funding options

So far. Total required (including community activities) ~£64K

- Donation of £3000 to get started
- Had the successful design competition
- David P is helping with applications
- Got planning permission
- Lots of publicity and awareness, including Saltaire Festival
- Raised £2000 in donations and commitments, plus £3000 in funds already and £15K in in-kind support. Total gathered so far ~£20K. Trimming might save a few thousand.
- Applied to Arts Council, unsuccessful
- Enquired of Heritage Lottery, not encouraging
- Scanned database of funders, no obvious targets for whole sum
- Had funding strategy discussions with Phil Marken (OSA). He emphasises the need for a wide ranging and long-term funding strategy, building relationships
- Attended Focus on Funding, Funders Fair – too crowded and unstructured to be of use
- The funding-raising team is only David P and Barney; this is not enough.

Options

All of these options require time, energy and commitment. In order to proceed, we need a bigger team of FOBBs pushing forward, thinking strategically and taking the actions.

1. Focus on Arts Council and/or HLF

Build up a relationship with them through a series of projects over several years. Talk to them. Start with small projects, deliver well, increase their confidence, and eventually bid for a big grant. (DNAire link to HLF?)

2. Work towards commercial/personal sponsorship

- Get one or more patrons to raise our profile and provide contacts
- Get involved in Chamber of Commerce and other local organisations
- One of the restaurant chains?
- Offer corporate environmental days

All of these require relationship building and will take time and energy.

3. Try online crowdfunding

This is when one invites donations of any size towards a project through a webportal. We can offer rewards, eg walks booklet, Becks anthology, glass ornament, opportunity to sandblast a word, etc. We could allow donors to sponsor a stone (~100 needed) or a glass insert but we don't want their names emblazoned on it.

Not many projects of this size succeed unless they have some special appeal and large campaign behind them. More successful if at least 1/3 of funding is secure before opening the bidding. Money returned if the campaign is not successful.

4. Try the BID (Business Improvement District) <http://bradfordbid.co.uk/>

This is a scheme to add 1.5% to business rates in the City Centre, and use the £500K/year to fund improvements. Ideas for projects are put to a vote of the members. If the scheme goes ahead, it would start in Dec 2018, so we would be several years before we won any money.

5. Persuade the Council to allocate CIL

CIL or Community Infrastructure Levy replaces the Section 106 contributions from developers. Most of Bradford centre is rated as a CIL rate of £0m/m², except retail warehouses and large supermarkets, so the CIL income will be limited. Public realm improvements are on the list of fundable activities.

There are lots of demands on the fund and I fear we will be a "nice to have" rather than a "must do", especially as we don't have a District Councillor batting for us.

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/community-infrastructure-levy/>

6. Try the various competition funders

Various funders invite you to enter a competition where you have to get voted by the public (ie your friends) as the favourite to get the money. Aviva have one for up to £25K. Few others would be big enough.

7. Revisit the database of funders

Have we missed any suitable fund?

8. Employ a professional fund-raiser

On commission?

9. Change project

Find another, cheaper way to continue marking the beck. For example:

- expand the plaques trail with pavement markers in between plaques (maybe small glass inserts from Alex)
- Get funding for the fingerposts on the footpaths
- Others?

10. Abandon project

Recognise (a) there isn't an easy case to make and (b) it may not be our highest priority. Decide not to continue seeking funding for the sculpture. We may need to return some donations, although we have already had expenditure on e.g. Saltaire Festival.

Focus on a mix of priority (renaturalisation, pollution) and smaller projects (education, signage) until we have built up a reputation and contacts.