

Friends of Bradford's Becks

Minutes of AGM and quarterly 'meeting' on Monday 12th July 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Item																					
Present: Barney, Rose, Wendy, Irene, Rob, Nick, Robert S, Graham, Eddie, Matt, Kevin, Sue, Eleanor Starkey, Amy Jones, Luke, Dal, Andrew M, Apologies: David P, Billy,																					
AGM																					
1. Election of Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chair - Barney Lerner re-elected b. No other posts created. 																					
2. There are no accounts as all our finances go through ART (Aire Rivers Trust). We still have about £9K available, after earmarking £3K towards ART's Pollution Hunter contract.																					
3. Review of the last year – Chair's report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pollution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. we completed our volunteer contribution to PollutionWatch project with Yorkshire Water. There were 1,500 observations made, with 1,350 pollution observations including 550 at outfalls. YW's summary report gives the following table of the issues investigated by them: <p>YW activity initiated by PollutionWatch observations between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021 was:</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Outfalls checked</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Misconnection Investigations</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Misconnections found</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Properties notified</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Misconnections removed by customer</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Misconnections removed by Yorkshire Water</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Misconnections with removal progress unknown</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Complex misconnections to be removed by new Yorkshire Water capital projects</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total misconnections removed</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total misconnections still to be removed or progress unknown</td> <td>35</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> ii. My view is that we haven't found the real issues yet. This limited number of misconnections does not explain the constant 	Outfalls checked	32	Misconnection Investigations	13	Misconnections found	55	Properties notified	22	Misconnections removed by customer	10	Misconnections removed by Yorkshire Water	10	Misconnections with removal progress unknown	18	Complex misconnections to be removed by new Yorkshire Water capital projects	17	Total misconnections removed	20	Total misconnections still to be removed or progress unknown	35	
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<p>discolouration and smell. There must be problems in the culverted sections.</p> <p>iii. The project is not over! See below for next steps.</p> <p>iv. As a result of a tyre fire in Bowling in November 2020, Rob confirmed that Bradford Council do not know where the old, culverted streams are. They cannot provide useful information to the EA which is therefore unable to identify pollution risks arising from fires and other incidents.</p> <p>v. August 2018 wipeout caused by YW sewage: we are waiting to hear if a prosecution by the EA is going ahead. Some of us have given statements of evidence to the EA.</p> <p>b. Valley Rd projects.</p> <p>i. The fish easements and planting have been completed (articles in T&A, The Guardian and Yorkshire Post). Recent electrofishing showed that things had improved, and trout recently born in the Beck were found.</p> <p>ii. The deculverting and renaturalisation of the beck have been separated from the road scheme and £3.25M funding approved. The scheme is now in the design phase.</p> <p>c. Walks, litter picks, awareness, education and talks</p> <p>i. Two guided walks, thanks to Andrew Mindham</p> <p>ii. Four litter picks this spring – thanks to all those who turned out</p> <p>iii. We produced two videos for Bradford Science Festival (pollution, flooding) in Oct 2020, they got lots of hits.</p> <p>iv. Talks given to U3A and Oddfellows (twice, online and in person).</p> <p>d. Deep Lane: Through Mike Pitt’s and Rob’s perseverance, and with the help of YW and Bradford Council, the flow of water which was turning Deep Lane into a beck has finally been stopped.</p> <p>e. Bradford’s Regen and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Somehow we didn’t get our usual chance to report to the committee in Spring 2020, perhaps due to COVID. I still haven’t been invited to a meeting this year but have enquired when it will be.</p> <p>f. Japanese Knotweed treatment continued with 14 locations treated in 2020. There is good evidence that the treatment is effective, although retreatment is needed for several years.</p>	
4. Minutes of 2020 AGM agreed.	
<p>Quarterly meeting – progress in last quarter and plans for the coming period</p>	<p>ACTION BY:</p>
<p>1. Pollution</p> <p>a. Pollutionwatch next steps:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Matt offered big thanks to volunteers. He presented an updated table of results (above), and explained that 17 misconnections were complex enough to justify going into YWS capital programme to be tackled. 18 still to be resolved by householders. ii. Matt asking to change YWS process, eg copying Bradford Council into first notices to householders (as the Council has the responsibility for getting making householders act), and adding the PW app to YWS's system. iii. The initial project brief calls for a 'final action plan/strategy to be agreed between YW, CBMDC, EA and FOBB by 30th Sep 2021. How is this going to be done? Comments from the floor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rob not sure of benefit of app until all reported issues resolved. Generally agreed. Maybe a monitoring period once a year to find new problems, check if old issues resolved. 2. Kevin asked about testing new housing developments when built – Matt working on an internal process to achieve this, making it a condition of providing a new water supply. 3. Irene – can YWS (or someone) teach misconnections issues on plumbers' courses? Generally agreed this would be good. There is registration body for plumbers (see Connectright). iv. We have been invited to join a 'knowledge transfer' project on citizen science called Upstream. This is funding received by RPS (engineering consultants), Newcastle University water group and collaborators in Taiwan. I expect that we will get some pollution sensors to install and look after – Rob and I took Amy and Eleanor around the catchment on a field visit on 2nd July. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amy introduced 18-month project (see slides pasted at end). 2. All welcome to attend workshops, river walks, etc. 3. FOBB expected to get 4-5 Waterbox sensors. 4. https://research.ncl.ac.uk/upstream/ for more info v. Please continue to report pollution to the EA! 0800 807060 	<p>Matt & Barney to follow up with Bradford Council</p> <p>Matt</p> <p>Matt will follow up on suggestions and convene discussions with FOBB, EA and CBMDC</p> <p>Barney, Rob, Matt to continue project and involve others as needed</p>
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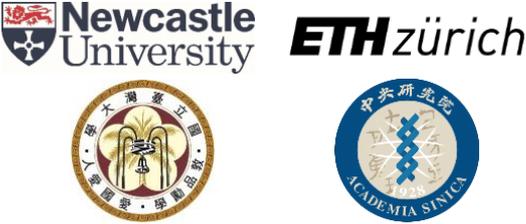
	ALL!
<p>2. Deculverting and renaturalisation from Poplar Rd to Briggate</p> <p>Still waiting to have a workshop about the design. Pretty feeble, this has been dragging on. Barney has sent prompting emails to engineers.</p>	
<p>3. Bradford Science Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We have been invited to provide drop-in events on two days in October half-term. These will be in Community Centres, targeted at families. Our theme will be pollution and misconnections. b. Plan A is that I have applied for a grant to get an interactive working model of a house-sewer system built. We can use it to demonstrate misconnections, the wet-wipe/fatberg problem, and other issues. If we win the funding, this would be a useful tool for future events. c. Plan B: The more likely outcome is that we won't get the money and will fall back on posters, leaflets, video/photos and chatting. We will need to design some low-cost activity to engage people! d. We need volunteers, requests will follow closer to the date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Volunteers to be on the stall for a couple of hours ii. Volunteers to help develop an interactive activity. 	
<p>4. Group activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We have been invited to have a stall in Horton Park in association with a University of Bradford project looking at the heritage of the park and finding the lost Westbrook. 17th July, 10-3. I am borrowing a model about floods and SuDS for use at it. have all volunteered to man the stall, which should be sufficient. However I need help to get the equipment to site and set up, and brought back after – Rob volunteered. b. Knotweed: Planning to get out Sept for more treatment. Volunteers to find and zap it please! c. Should we have any more walks, talks or other activities in the next few months? No. 	<p>Barney Rose, Elisabeth, Andrew, Irene, Pauline, Rob</p> <p>Nick, Wendy, all</p>
<p>5. Signage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Info board for Briggate. Signs workshop has started making sign, maybe £1000 cost. They will install. b. Beck naming. Convention is white lettering on green background, we have permission to put 8 signs up. Maybe £1000 for the set. We should put them up ourselves. 	<p>Wendy</p> <p>Wendy</p>

6. Enforcement Undertakings – no news	
<p>7. Any other business and news</p> <p>a. Odeon and Plaque 1 – replica is now with Lee Craven. Original stone in Barney’s garden. Wendy will visit to see if replica can be re-installed temporarily.</p> <p>b. SUDS Champion.</p> <p>One of the great friends of FOBB, Saira Ali, has been nominated (by Barney) for an award. Please follow the link and vote for her! Saira is the main reason we are having the renaturalisation/decultivating project on the Beck.</p> <p>c. I had a long catch-up with Ed Norfolk, Chief Drainage Engineer and discussed: building sites, Eastbrook blockage, unmapped culverts, tackling domestic misconnections, Ambler Mill smells, River Worth oil pollution, en-maining Bradford Beck, Toad Holes Beck, Barnsley Beck, Haigh Beck, Upstream monitoring project, Valley Rd renaturalisation and other topics.</p> <p>d. Should we replace Google map on FOBB website, perhaps with PW map. Wendy offered to take a look at updating the website in general.</p>	<p>Wendy</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>Wendy</p>
8. Minutes of last meeting – agreed	
<p>9. Next meetings and events</p> <p>a. Riverside – “a live investigative documentary” by George Monbiot, 14th July 7-8pm https://www.facebook.com/RivercideTV/</p> <p>b. Horton Park stall, 17th July 10-3. Come along!</p> <p>c. Saltaire Festival, 15th Sept. Eddie’s Airey Tales will be premiering</p> <p>d. Bradford Science Festival, 23-31st Oct. Our days are 26th and another.</p> <p>e. Quarterly catch-ups:</p> <p>i. 11th October</p> <p>ii. 10th January 2022</p>	

Slides introducing Upstream project



Community-led monitoring to improve water quality

<p>Community groups</p> 	<p>Academia</p> 
<p>Research council funding</p> 	<p>Industry</p> 



Community-led monitoring to improve water quality

 <p>What?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuously monitor water quality with low-cost, adaptable sensors ('WaterBox') <p>Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You don't need to be by the beck when pollution happens. Spot data patterns, help find when and where pollution happens. 	<p>How can you get involved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All welcome! You know the becks! Share your knowledge and concerns (contact details below) Attend workshops, seminars and river walks Get involved with monitoring  <p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose monitoring sites and what to monitor Order equipment!  <p>https://research.ncl.ac.uk/upstream/ Amy.Jones@rpsgroup.com - 01332 956 098 eleanor.starkey1@ncl.ac.uk</p>
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