



Friends of Bradford's Becks

Agenda and Report for AGM and quarterly 'meeting' on Monday 12th July 2021 at 7:30 pm.

7:30-9:00, Kirkgate Centre, Shipley <http://www.kirkgatecentre.org.uk/directions/>

Item	Action
<p>Present: Barney, Kevin, Rose, Joy, Pauline, David, Hugh, Graham, John, Nicholas, Richard (newbie!)</p> <p>Apologies: Rob, Dal, Irene, Eddie, Nick, Jamel</p>	
<p>AGM</p>	
<p>1. Election of Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chair: Barney Lerner elected unopposed b. No nominations for other roles 	
<p>2. Finances: There are no accounts as all our monies go through ART (Aire Rivers Trust). In ART's FY to March 2022, we had £7500 income and £3600 expenditure. So far this FY, we have no income and £1260 expenditure (all sums rounded). We have approx. £15000 in the bank, including £7500 for the model house still to be built.</p>	
<p>3. Review of the last year – Chair's report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pollution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Confirmed that the Premier Inn (the ex-YW headquarters!) in the city centre is misconnected into Eastbrook, largely due to efforts of Peter Kirton ii. The blockage in Eastbrook (upstream of the Premier Inn) was finally cleared due to perseverance of Rob and Wasim of Drainage Dept. This should resolve the flooding on Gibson St. iii. YWS tell us they are going to be inspecting the connections from new housing to avoid misconnection issues. iv. YW appeared in court in February over the pollution of the Beck in 2018. Case postponed 	<p>Barney to ask for progress report</p>

<p>until 18th July, when we expect a guilty plea and sentencing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. YW have made available the results of their other study on Bradford sewage related pollution. This involved collecting flow, rainfall and water quality data for over a year and modelling the system. They have let us have the monitoring data and a summary of the outcomes. Barney and Rob discussing with Leeds Uni about possible student projects to analyse the data. vi. The EA has investigated some historical incidents related to housebuilding on Fagley/Carr Beck that we reported. vii. Continuing pollution in Barnsley Beck and Carr Mires Beck reported. viii. We have started a 3-month PollutionWatch from June to August (see below). <p>b. Valley Rd projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The deculverting and renaturalisation of the beck has had an outline design and a public consultation, in which it got plenty of support. Final design is underway for a start on construction in November 2022. Consultation with us has been lighter than expected. <p>c. Walks, litter picks, awareness, education and talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. We did stalls for Bradford Science Festival at SHINE (BD5) and Laisterdyke with free jigsaws, walks booklets and the SuDS house. And a stall in Horton Park in July in association with the University. Also a stall Scholemoor Beacon prior to the litter picks. Thanks to all who helped at these. ii. Litter picks on 13th and 27th March. Four full days of litter picks on Bullgreave Beck in conjunction with ART in April - what a lot we got! Thanks to all those who turned out. iii. Interview on Radio Leeds in Sept. iv. T&A articles on Scrutiny Committee report and Premier Inn and on Bullgreave Beck litter pick. v. Miss Connection has done two school events in the past year. Rob has done one at Saltaire School and I visited Farnham Primary. <p>d. Bradford Council:</p>	<p>Barney and Rob</p>
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- i. Bradford's Regen and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee: We reported to the Committee in Sept 2021 (report on our website). Despite the warm words, nothing much has come of it.
- ii. We had a nice letter of appreciation from the Chief Executive:

Date: 26 May

Dear Barney

I am writing on behalf of members of Bradford Council who earlier this year approved a motion "Respecting Our Rivers", the full text of which is attached below. Councillors expressed a number of concerns about the condition of rivers and watercourses nationally and cited local examples such as that of Bradford Beck, where water quality has been affected by pollution. Issues raised included those relating to sewage discharges from water companies, the run-off of nutrients from farms and persistent organic chemicals.

Councillors asked me to write to the Secretary of State among others calling for urgent action to be taken and for the greater use of existing regulatory powers. For its part the Council will be undertaking a review of its management of its own watercourses.

I was also asked to write to Friends of Bradford Becks to express Bradford Council's support and appreciation for your work to improve the beck and its catchment. The quality of our watercourses is indicative of the quality of our wider environment and your work to tackle pollution, promote community engagement and restore our becks is much appreciated so, on behalf of Bradford Council, I would like to put on record our thanks for your on-going efforts.

Yours sincerely



Kersten England CBE
Chief Executive

- iii. We continue to have good working relationships with various officers in drainage and landscape.

- e. Signage: An information board is now in place near Briggate, and eight beck naming signs have been installed by Bradford on our behalf, all organised by Wendy. The meeting offered thanks to Wendy for organising.
- f. Enforcement undertakings: Despite the occasional flurry of emails, no actual funds have come our way (yet).
- g. Upstream: Progress is slow on this joint project with Newcastle U, Taiwan and YW. However signal testing is now complete and we may see the sensors fully installed soon.

Barney to thank Wendy

4. Minutes of 2021 AGM – on website - approved

Quarterly meeting – progress in last quarter and plans for the coming period

1. Pollution

- a. Pollutionwatch 2022:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. We had an explanation and field demonstration of YW equipment. A misconnection was found during the demo! ii. We have got up and running with about 10 volunteers who made about 120 observations in June. It is not too late to join in, advice and instructions are available. iii. Severe pollution on Bolton Beck has been spotted, more reports would be good! Carr Mires Beck continues to be continuously polluted. iv. YW update presented. Thanks to Jamal for this. Up to today, 165 observations, pollution seen 45 times, 12 reports to EA/YW. v. Please continue to report pollution to the EA! 0800 807060 <p>b. YW prosecution. They will be in court on 18th July, Leeds Magistrates.</p>	<p>Barney to thank Jamal and circulate update</p> <p>ALL!</p> <p>Anyone can attend</p>
<p>2. Deculverting and renaturalisation from Poplar Rd to Briggate</p> <p>Next stage of the design shown and discussed. The EA has commented that it still looks very engineered. Still waiting for proper consultation.</p>	
<p>3. Model to demonstrate misconnections. A model house isn't going to work due to scaling problems so I'm now seeking an 'educational aid' to convey misconnections and CSOs. Bradford College is considering doing a student project to design a educational aid (I've since been informed that they cant fit it in). Also pursuing a possibility with a model maker contact of one of the ART trustees.</p>	<p>Barney</p>
<p>4. Group activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We have been invited to attend the centenary of the closure of Bradford Canal (100 years ago?) and speak a little on Bradford Beck. Nick can't represent us due to COVID. They are also having a walk along the old canal route and the Canal Society would like a FOBB person to tell them about the plans. b. Knotweed: Volunteers to find and zap it please! c. 	<p>Any volunteers?</p> <p>Nick – organise training day please</p>
<p>5. Enforcement Undertakings – no news</p>	<p>Barney</p>
<p>6. Any other business and news</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proposal from Rob to join Trout in the Town – agreed to sign up b. Proposal from Rob to have at least three elected officers – agreed to postpone until next meeting so that Rob can attend and explain the reasoning. c. Flood grants (£500 survey, £4500 available for works) after Storm Caira from Council. John organised 18 households in Middlebrook area to get grants and shared the funds so that no one had to pay an excess. Well done John! d. Agreed to make a “Best friend of Bradford Beck” award to Peter Kirton of the EA and invite him to next meeting to receive it. 	<p>Rob to action</p> <p>Rob</p> <p>Barney</p>
<p>7. Minutes of last meeting – on website</p>	
<p>8. Next meetings and events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Leeds and Liverpool Canal Society event to mark 100 years since the last boat to sail on the Bradford Canal, 16th July 11-4, Kennet moored at Shipley b. Quarterly catch-ups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 10th October ii. 9th January 2023 c. Bradford Scrutiny Committee, 18th Oct 	<p>All welcome to attend</p>