

Friends of Bradford's Becks

Agenda and Report for quarterly catch-up on Monday 3rd April 2023

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

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| <p>Present: Barney, Rob, Geoff, David B, Irene, Dalvinder, Elizabeth, Pauline, Kevin, Sara, John, Joy, Hugh (part).</p> <p>Apologies: Lola, Andrew, Madeleine M, David P, Graham, Rose, Liz Rogers.</p> | |
| <p>Item</p> | <p>Action</p> |
| <p>1. Funds received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We have received £135K from Keepmoat Homes (£100K) and Applebridge Construction (£35K). These are their charitable donations for the Enforcement Undertakings (EUs) with the Environment Agency for the pollution of Pinch Beck several years ago. As we don't have a bank account, the money has actually been given to Aire Rivers Trust (ART), but is earmarked for FOBB use. b. We have received a grant of £6500 from Bradford Council for the Festival of the Becks 2023 (FotB23). This is the amount we requested. Again, it is actually held by ART on our behalf. | |
| <p>2. Spending the EU funds</p> <p>FOBB submitted proposals on how we would spend the EUs to the two firms in order to persuade them that we would be worthy recipients.</p> <p>The highest priority item has always been to create a Pollution Hunter post, given the success that previous versions of this have had. Our original proposals were made and costed 5 years ago and are unrealistic now, particularly as ART were underestimating their overheads then.</p> <p>Barney has agreed a budget with ART of £93K for a 3 d/w, 3-year post and recommends we proceed on this basis.</p> <p>This budget and post were agreed by the meeting, and Geoff will progress this appointment.</p> | <p>Geoff / Rob</p> |

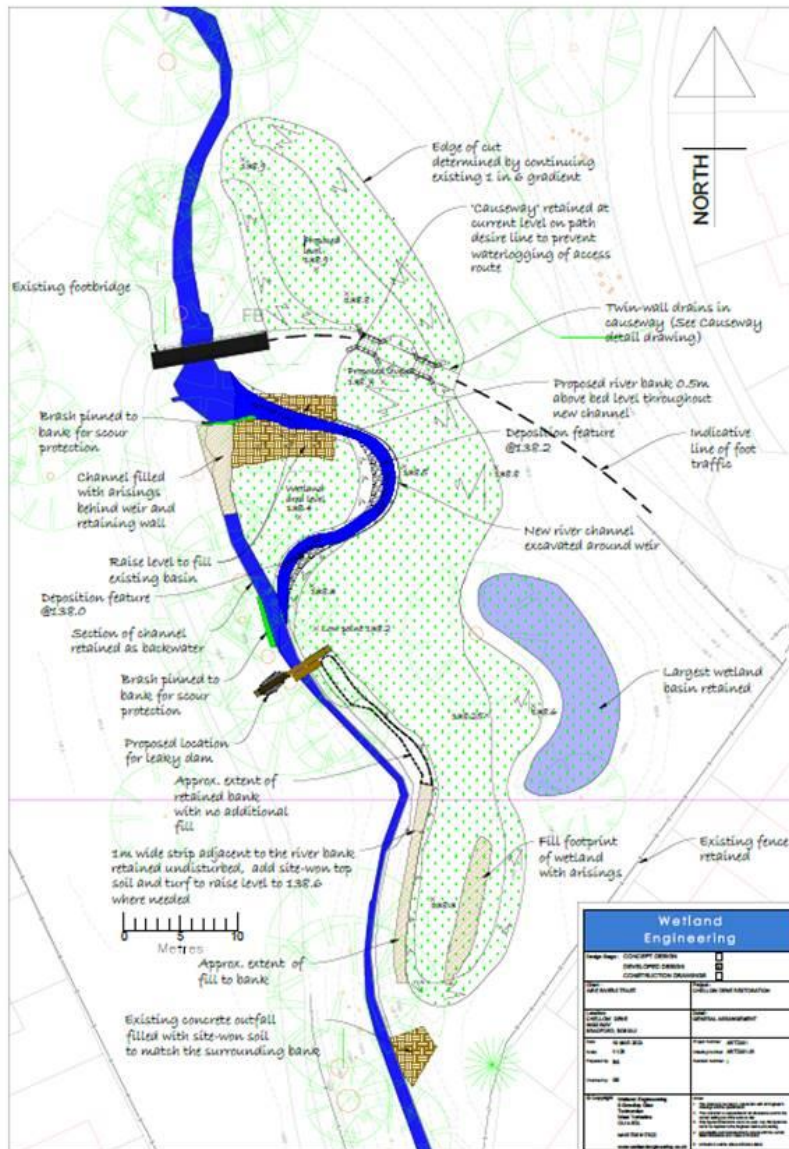
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| <p>The second priority project was a feasibility study for a wetland by the Sam's Mill weir, which is now covered elsewhere, as Yorkshire Water have agreed to undertake this (6a).</p> <p>We will hold the remaining EU funds until suitable projects are identified.</p> | |
| <p>3. Deculverting and renaturalisation from Poplar Rd to Briggate</p> <p>The daylighting and naturalisation project is not going to happen this year. Technical difficulties and rising costs have pushed the price (£5M) beyond the available budget (£3.25M). This means the ESIF money (half) will have to be returned which pushes the deficit even higher.</p> <p>Despite reassurances from Susan, Alex Ross-Shaw and the Landscape team, no dates could be given and it is possibly lost for the foreseeable future.</p> | |
| <p>4. Festival of the Becks 2023 (FotB23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A working party of Barney, Joy, Rose, Irene and Nick have been meeting to plan this. Barney will contact the Council to advise of changes following the postponement of the deculverting project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Hugh Bryson agreed to act as site manager on the day b. Date - Sunday 20th August, 12 noon to 4pm, on the grassed area by Bradford Beck between Valley Rd, Briggate, and the Canal Rd Greenway in Shipley. c. Attractions will be themed around the beck and its ecosystem, things to do and things to see, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. storytelling, modelmaking +/- colouring, also possibly a board game from ART ii. examination of live invertebrates from the beck, iii. music from Two Rivers Big band, iv. Calligraphy workshops from Razwan Ul-Haq, who exhibited at the recent Van Gogh experience v. walkabout actors, posing as trout, mayfly and dipper, chatting with public vi. films to be made about the beck, by Billy White – to be shown on the day, then updated to include the festival and presented to groups / organisations with an interest in the beck. vii. tours of the site and possibly of the beck downstream from Shipley station to the Festival | <p>FotB23 working party</p> |

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| <p>site. Leaflet possibly to be written for self guided becksideside tour of this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> viii. FOBB / ART information stall, other relevant organisations e.g. Wild Trout Trust will be invited ix. ice cream, food, beverages x. It is likely to be difficult to attract the public as the area is not residential, planned publicity will include a banner near the site, leaflets, BBC Look North, local radio and newspapers, social media. xi. Feedback from this event will be used to inform the 2024 and 2025 Festivals of the Becks events. | |
| <p>5. Liaison with YW Corporate Affairs. Rob and Barney have now had several discussions and email exchanges with the new Head of Corporate Affairs (Tim Myatt) and assistant (Kellie Foster). Issues covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Carr Mires Beck – the Keepmoat development (Leeds Rd) has finally been disconnected from the Beck. b. Feedback on PollutionWatch reports. Apparently, Jamal was engaging with us last summer as an interest project. No further action was taken, and there is an unwillingness to give us detailed feedback on the outcomes. We are still pursuing this, and pointing out that rolling out PollutionWatch app to other areas and groups will require more engagement than this. c. An anti-litter fence on Hunters Park Avenue. They agree it is their land but they cant afford a fence. They will do the litter picking themselves. d. More information on how the sewer network is connected in Bradford. We’ve been offered access to a system that we can buy maps from. Pointed out that this is designed for companies not voluntary groups and asked them to reconsider. e. We’ve been invited to see the proposed live Events Duration Monitoring (EDM) website. f. Rob and Barney plan to take Tim Myers and Kellie Foster to tour the beck, to highlighting problems and more healthy areas. | <p>Barney, Rob</p> |

with Bradford Council.

ART has raised the funds to revamp this as a small flood storage and improved habitat. This will see silted up old wetland cells replaced with a new reconnected floodplain, improvements to the management of the mature reedbed, a floodable meadow, removal of a barrier to fish passage, and a leaky dam.

Work should be carried out later this year. See plan on next page.



7. Group activities

- 12th March litter pick cancelled due to weather
- 26th March litter pick on Middlebrook was a huge success, collected 105 bags of litter, also mattresses, tyres shopping trolley and much other waste. This has now been removed by council, who have also made the area harder to access for future flytippers. Thanks go to Rob and John for leading this, to all volunteers for taking part, Sara for first aid duties.

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| <p>c. 8th April, Easter Saturday litter pick to be on Haigh Beck, a new one for us, Meet at the Springfield Centre BD10 9JB, 9:30,</p> <p>d. SUNDAY 23rd APRIL (DATE CHANGE from 22nd) litter pick: - Shipley. David agreed to collect equipment, and a leader is needed (manage sign in, keep an eye on everyone). Sara will act as first aider.</p> <p>e. Bull Greave Beck, joint with ART., Friday 12th May Litterpick. – Rob H and Sam of ART will liaise with local community group Dawoodi Bohras, who have helped with previous litterpicking, to assist.</p> | <p>David, Sara etc</p> <p>Rob</p> |
| <p>8. Any other business and news</p> <p>a. Congratulations and thank you to Sara for successfully completing First Aid training to act as FOBB first aider.</p> <p>b. Rob – after persistent research, he has discovered that Haworth Scouring Co released 6 – 7 tons of wool grease into Eastbrook during 2019. He is aiming for damage reparation.</p> <p>c. Rob / Dalvinder, - Branded clothing. Two roundel designs were shown, one already used on the new FOBB hi -is vests, the other based on the cloth FOBB sew-on badge. Hoodies likely to cost £20 - £25, t shirts and other garments available. Barney will circulate details to FOBB members.</p> <p>i. FOBB volunteers helping out at events will wear the new hi vis vests, as we already have these.</p> <p>d. Merchandise to sell, – discussed mugs, pens etc, - merch has not sold well in the past, therefore agreed to assess the response to branded clothing before buying other merch.</p> <p>e. John – would it be possible to advertise litterpicks by attaching temporary notices to the existing Council ‘Don’t be a Tosser’ anti-litter signs - to be discussed at a later date.</p> <p>f. Elizabeth – QR codes – could these be added to FOBB publicity? Linking to a litter-picking website which would be updated as needed. To discuss at a later date.</p> <p>g. Yorkshire Water have just published the 2022 figures for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) (aka Storm Overflows) discharges.</p> <p>i. They plan to publish a live map of CSO discharges, starting in 2023, using ultrasound Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) equipment which is installed in</p> | <p>Barney, Rob, Dalvinder</p> |

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| <p>98% of CSOs and should be in all CSOs by the end of 2023 per YW.</p> <p>h. FOBB Book ‘Walks around Bradford’s Becks’ Can we create a group of people to revisit the walks and update the book?</p> <p>i.</p> | |
| <p>9. Minutes of last meeting – on website</p> <p>Kevin pointed out an error in the Minutes of the Jan 9 quarterly catch up.</p> <p>Point 11 (b) states that the water quality of Bradford’s becks is too poor to sustain salmon - this is not true. It is only too poor if a pollution incident has occurred.</p> <p>Apologies from Joy who recorded the minutes, which will be amended</p> | <p>Joy</p> |
| <p>10. Next meetings and events</p> <p>a. Quarterly catch-ups:</p> <p>i. 3rd July – Quarterly Catch up and AGM -</p> <p>This will not be at our usual Kirkgate Centre venue as it will be closed for renovations. The new venue is Saltaire Methodist Church, Saltaire Rd, BD18 3HU. Details re parking etc to be circulated separately.</p> <p>ii. 2nd Oct, also Saltaire Methodist Church if the July meet goes well.</p> <p>b. Litterpicks as above</p> <p>c. Daylighting celebration 20th August</p> | <p>Joy</p> |