



# Friends of Bradford's Becks

Minutes of Quarterly Catch-Up Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024

7:30-9:00, Saltaire Methodist Church, Saltaire Rd, Saltaire, Shipley BD18 3HJ. In 'The Lounge', accessed via the car park. [Saltaire Methodist Church - Google Maps](#)

<p><b>Present:</b> Barney Lerner, David Powell, Robin Smith, Andrew Pick, Dalvinder Hellawell, Kevin Sunderland, Rob Hellawell, Mark Davis, David Brazendale, Hugh Bryson, Mac Price, Patsy Hayes, Nav from SavetheGreen, Joy Crampton, John Ratnik, Pauline Ford, Onno, Rose Reeve</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Irene Lofthouse, Graham Glover, Lola, Mike Pitts</p>	
<p><b>Item</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p><b>1. Resolution / vote to amend the FOBB Constitution.</b></p> <p>The proposal is to amend the constitution to enable FOBB to apply direct for National Lottery grants. The National Lottery require organisations to have a bank account in their own name. Also, the National Lottery does not allow one organisation to apply on behalf of another; up to now all our grant applications to other funding providers have been in the name of Aire Rivers Trust (ART).</p> <p>The change would allow us to open a bank account specifically to service a grant from a body with the National Lottery's conditions (<a href="https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/financial-governance">https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/financial-governance</a>) but to continue to have ART look after our other funds.</p> <p>The resolution was passed with 14 votes in favour, no votes against, and 4 abstentions.</p> <p>No Treasurer will be needed, Hugh and Barney will be account signatories. A third signatory is to be decided, in case of illness / incapacitation.</p>	<p>Barney</p>
<p><b>2. The Bradford Beck film.</b></p> <p>At the time of writing, there had been over 2300 views on YouTube. <a href="https://youtu.be/BejVahJX7qQ">https://youtu.be/BejVahJX7qQ</a></p>	

<p><b>3. Knotweed treatment.</b></p> <p>Good news on Bull Greave Beck, the largest reservoir of knotweed on the becks. Through persistence by Mike Pitts, the Council is buying treatment of the area from a contractor next year. Thank you Mike!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) It is possible that the contractor is considering spraying rather than stem injection – ART are apparently liaising with them regarding the safest option. Environment Agency (EA) approval would be needed for areas near water.</li> <li>b) It is not clear how the Bradford Council’s financial problems will affect the work.</li> <li>c) Rob suggested that ART might be able to put in a bid to carry out the treatment in future.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Beck Festival 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) This is the plan to hold a distributed festival, ie a series of small events in community centres related to the tributaries.</li> <li>b) The working group of Barney, Irene, Joy, Susan and Hugh have met several times.</li> <li>c) We have had exploratory talks with several centres/groups and currently expect to work in Clayton (Clayton Beck and Middlebrook), Scholemoor (Bull Greave Beck and Middlebrook), Lower Grange Allerton (Pitty Beck), Thorpe Edge (Haigh Beck), Ravenscliffe (Fagley/Carr Beck). Why Don’t We, an adult learning disability group (sessions held at Kala Sangam) with participants from across Bradford have expressed interest in being involved as have Scouts groups across the district.</li> <li>d) A funding proposal was submitted to the LEAP, awaiting result. If unsuccessful, we will revise and submit to Bradford large Culture and Heritage grants, which gave us the money for 2023.</li> <li>e) The LEAP are behind on assessing proposals and we haven’t heard the outcome yet – due at the end of January 2024</li> <li>f) An application for National Lottery Funding can be made when a bank account is open – to cover 2024/5 FOBB events</li> </ul>	<p>Beck Festival planning group</p> <p>Barney</p>
<p><b>5. Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Report presented on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov in City Hall. Thanks to the members who showed up in support.</li> <li>b) The two key resolutions were:</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. That the Committee expresses support for the enmainment of Bradford Beck.</li> <li>ii. That the Strategic Director, Place be requested to work jointly with Friends of Bradford’s Becks on studies, proposals and addressing pollution, including finding sources of pollution beneath the city centre.</li> </ul>	<p>Barney &amp; Rob to follow up (see 9.a below)</p>
<p><b>6. Main river</b> – see 5 b) i. above</p>	
<p><b>7. New edition of the walks booklet – verbal update from Rose</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A group of volunteers are revising the book. Revision will have two main strands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. existing walks will be revisited, text /routes changed and updated as needed. The amount of text for each walk will be reduced, although it is possible that additional information could be put onto a website at a future date.</li> <li>ii. The area covered by the book will be expanded outside the streams/becks draining into Bradford Beck. New walks will be added, the text / directions will be tested by volunteers. All walks will be beside becks.</li> <li>iii. Suggestions were made about adding becks that drain into the Calder e.g. Blackshaw Beck, Judy Woods.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Onno asked if it might be possible to have an electronic version – this could also show the location of the walks in relation to the becks network.</li> <li>c) An estimate of printing costs will be needed at some point.</li> </ul>	<p>Rose and booklet updating group</p> <p>Rose / group</p>
<p><b>8. Anti-pollution game – verbal briefing, Barney</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) We put out a call for proposals to create a fun and educational game about how NOT to cause pollution of the becks. There were six proposals submitted. Barney, Rob and Irene judged them, selected two for on-line interviews, and accepted a proposal from Patrick Ross for a table-sized snakes and ladders style game printed on a folding table approx 600m x 2m. They had a briefing meeting on 13th Dec and we expect delivery in mid March.</li> <li>b) Game name is ‘Drain of Thrones’. Other names were discussed but no changes were made.</li> <li>c) It is aimed at families with children over 7 yrs of age approx. The game takes about 5 minutes. Additional educational material will be linked to the game, and a member of FOBB or other suitably qualified person will be nearby to answer questions.</li> <li>d) There are 6 playing stations, each allocated a name:  Miss Connection (female);      Professor P (male);  Inspector Homes (male);      Beck (male child);</li> </ul>	<p>Barney / Irene / Rob</p>

<p>Aunty Poolushun (female)      Akeela, (female child), both global majority, but indistinct ethnicity)</p> <p>e) The game will be funded from the Neighbourly grant which was originally for building a device to teach about misconceptions, however no suitable design could be found</p> <p>f) If you have (grand)children, youth group or similar and are interested in testing a draft, let Barney know.</p>	<p>ANYONE???</p>
<p><b>9. Pollution.</b></p> <p><b>a) Pollution Reduction Strategy.</b></p> <p>Now that Rob is employed as a Water Quality Officer by ART, we are hoping to develop a more robust way of finding the problems in the culverts. We have approached the EA, YW and the Council with a case for working together to find and cure the sources in the culverts. The Council and the EA have agreed to meet; at the time of writing YW have not responded despite 4 or 5 emails from Barney, who will now contact the Head of Corporate Affairs at YW.</p> <p>It was suggested that several FOBB members could contact the Head of Corporate Affairs – Barney did not feel that this would be helpful.</p> <p><b>b) Survey of water quality.</b> Verbal report by Rob</p> <p>Rob is working with Prof Rick Batterbee to create a sampling campaign of approx 20 points across the whole network of becks, including under culverts if possible. The aim is analysis of faecal indicators, nutrients and other inorganic species and organic chemicals, plus other environmental indicators such as riverfly monitoring, to help pinpoint any specific areas where water quality is shown to be impacted.</p> <p>Initially, a costed plan to be ready before the end of the financial year with a view to sampling and testing being undertaken in the summer of 2024 subject to funding being available. Volunteers will be needed for testing and sampling, training will be needed. This is a follow up on the work done by FOBB in 2012 for the Catchment Management Plan.</p> <p><b>c) Verbal update on incidents - Rob</b></p> <p>i. Bradford Beck still continues to be polluted in dry weather downstream of the city centre. YWS report that it is not from any of their assets.</p> <p>ii. Fagley Beck is still being intermittently polluted with sediment from construction run off, also fresh foam pollution from newly built industrial estate upstream. Most satisfying that both reports came from concerned members of the public. EA and Bradford Council are investigating.</p>	<p>Barney</p> <p>Rob</p>

<p>iii. Problems with farm slurry in Little Beck and River Aire, Saltaire. EA visited farm responsible.</p> <p><b>GOOD NEWS!</b></p> <p>i. Clayton Beck – Manure pile removed from the bank of the beck.</p> <p>ii. Carr Beck, Greengates – Much less sewage litter noted on banks downstream of A647. Evidence of better maintenance of nearby overflow detention tank by YWS.</p>	
<p><b>10. Research projects.</b> Verbal update from Rob</p> <p><b>a) Waterbox</b></p> <p>Funding has ended, the project is formally closed. The sensors have not been robust enough to withstand the rigours of being sited in the beck. However, the WaterBox is still reporting back using the Internet of Things! (IoT) Permission given by Bradford Council to test the IoT signal in the culverted beck in the city centre. Measurements included ph, turbidity, temperature, conductivity.</p> <p><b>b) Eyes on the Water – the idea of Ed Buttterworth</b></p> <p>Student led machine learning project to automatically detect pollution from photographs. Phase 1 is complete, 5 groups of students put forward models which were judged in December. The best models are now to be refined further.</p>	<p>Rob</p>
<p><b>11. Enforcement Undertakings (EUs)</b></p> <p>a) We have received a £75K donation from Barratt homes in respect of their pollution of Fagley Beck. The money is with ART as it must be given to a charity.</p> <p>b) Thanks to the various FOBB members and the public for reporting the problems, and especially to Rob for dogged evidence gathering and liaison with the EA.</p> <p>c) The intention is to use the funds to improve Fagley Beck and to try and create a local friends group. Barney’s expectation is that this work will be led by ART staff with FOBB members in support.</p> <p>d) Barney is meeting with ART later in January to plot a way forward.</p> <p>e) Rob has been invited to visit Fagley Beck with local councillor(s), to discuss problems in the area.</p>	<p>Barney</p> <p>Rob</p>

<p><b>12. Middlebrook Wetland.</b> Verbal update – Barney</p> <p>Barney has still been unable to contact Alan Lewis, the landowner of the area near Sam’s Mill where the wetland is proposed. Comments to Barney by several people suggest that the landowner is notoriously difficult to contact, and that he is unlikely to be interested in installing the wetlands unless he has no choice.</p> <p>If he decides to develop the land, a biodiversity project would be necessary to gain planning permission, at this point the wetlands project might be helpful to him and he might be more willing to liaise with FOBB.</p>	<p>Barney</p>
<p><b>13. Litterpicks</b></p> <p><b>a) Joint ART and FOBB litterpicks</b>  Rob provided a list of ART litterpicks to be held jointly with FOBB. Barney agreed to the dates. These are:</p> <p>Saturday 16/3/24 Clean up organised by Cllr Jeanette Sunderland  A return visit to Haigh Beck, Thorpe Edge, BD10.</p> <p>Thursday 21/3/24 and Friday 22/3/24  ART clean up of Holme Beck, Holmewood, BD4.</p> <p>Thursday 28/3/24  ART Clean up of Fagley Beck, Foston Lane, BD2.</p> <p>Thursday 4/4/24 and Friday 5/4/24  ART clean up of Fagley Beck, Ravenscliffe, BD10.</p> <p>Thursday 11/4/24 (In river work with water safety trained volunteers)  Friday 12/4/24 – out of river litterpick  ART clean up of Bradford Beck, Valley Road, Shipley, BD18.</p> <p><b>b) FOBB litterpicks</b>  Additional dates were suggested, at weekends.</p> <p>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March (Easter Saturday) possibly Pitty Beck wetlands up to Allerton Lane – location to be decided.</p> <p>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April – location to be decided. Chellow Dean Beck, Munby Street and Bull Greave were suggested, John Ratnik agreed to check Munby St (and Chellow Dean Beck?) for litter.</p> <p>Pinch Beck was also suggested, but there is no public access.</p> <p>ii. A litterpick with the Children’s Centre / Scouts / is taking part in Thorpe Edge / Ravenscliffe area – Patsy agreed to contact them re the date and the possibility of FOBB joining them,</p>	<p>Rob / Barney</p> <p>John Ratnik</p> <p>Patsy</p>

<p>iii..Concern was raised that all ‘Friends of...’ groups working with ART should observe identical stringent Health and Safety procedures. Barney stated that risk assessments will take place and appropriate precautions taken, in line with the policies of ART and their insurers.</p>	
<p><b>14 Any other business and news</b></p> <p>a) Barney received his MBE on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec at Windsor Castle., This was for ‘Services to the Environment in Bradford’.</p> <p>b) Barney gave talks given to West Bradford Rotary, Shipley Rotary and Ilkley U3A Environmental Forum.</p> <p>c) Talks scheduled in next quarter: Low Moor History Society</p> <p>d) The ‘Friends of Chellow Dean’ group are wanting to expand their activities and membership. They are keen to hear from anyone local who is interested. Their activities concentrate on the Chellow Dean reservoirs and woods areas, rather downstream of these (Chellow Dean Beck and wetlands). They have an active Facebook page.</p> <p>e) There is also an interest in starting a Friends of Harden Beck, let Barney know if you’d like to contact them.</p> <p>f) ‘<i>These Men</i>’ are making a little film about the beck. We are lifting the manhole in Millergate on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan to let them film. It will premier at South Square, Thornton, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, showings at 4.30 pm and 7.30 pm, lasting about an hour each. Joy and Rose have volunteered to say a few words about FOBB - the more the merrier.</p> <p>g) Ed Norfolk, drainage engineer for Bradford Council, is leaving and said:  “I would just like to thank you and all the team at FOBB for the relentless work you all do on improving the health of Bradfords Becks. The amount of personal time and effort you all put in is admirable and has been vital in pushing policies and agendas in the right direction.”  No replacement has been appointed yet – it is unclear if the Council’s limited finances will allow this.</p> <p>h) Knotweed – the Green Party have apparently stated that Bradford Council are banning the use of glyphosate, (the most effective weedkiller for knotweed). Concern was raised about the effect on knotweed treatment – this would be for the contractor at Bull Greave, hired by the Council, and address.</p>	
<p><b>15. Minutes of last meeting – on website</b></p>	<p>Barney</p>

<p><b>16 Next meetings and events</b></p> <p>a) Quarterly catch-ups: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024?</p> <p>b) These Men – South Square, Thornton, 10 Feb 2024.</p> <p>c). Litterpicks 16 March, 21/22 March, 28 March, 30 March, 4/5 April, 11/12 April, 21 April</p>	Barney
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