


Friends of Bradford's Becks

Minutes of quarterly catch-up on Monday 9th Jan 2023

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

Present: Barney, Joy, Peter Kirton, Rob, Dalvinder, Rose, Sara, Graham, Geoff, John, Kevin, David, Hugh, Andy, Lola.	
Apologies: Robert Scott, Eddie Lawler, Irene Lofthouse.	
NON-AGENDA ITEMS	Action
<u>MBE - Barney</u> Rob congratulated Barney on his recent MBE award, given for services to the environment in Bradford, on behalf of FOBB and all Bradfordians. Rob expressed gratitude for Barney's work and achievements with FOBB, and a temporary MBE medal was presented pending the official investiture later in the year. Thanks are extended to Joy for food, Dalvinder / Rob for drinks and room decorations.	
AGENDA ITEMS	
1. The meeting confirmed Joy on her election unopposed as Secretary.	
2. Peter Kirton of the Environment Agency was awarded 'Best Friend of Bradford's Becks' for his huge commitment to investigating the pollution incidents on Bradford Beck and beyond. A plaque was given. Peter thanked the group and expressed his passion for preserving the health of Bradford's waterways. He is the first non-volunteer to have received this award.	
3. Pollution <ol style="list-style-type: none">PollutionWatch 2022. Unfortunately Jamel was not present to provide an update from YW on problems found and progress in resolving themPlease continue to report pollution to the EA! 0800 807060Peter has received information from YW regarding 12	

<p>detention tanks in Bradford; he will analyse this and liaise with YW re correct record-keeping / upkeep / water and sewage discharge procedures. With a view to YW correcting any malfunctions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Barney has given YW a list of possible Beck improvement projects, e. Rob mentioned recurrent sewage leaks on Hirst Lane, Shipley - not affecting watercourse, but public health hazard. Reported to Bradford Council and YW f. Rob reported that 1st solar monitoring equipment has arrived from Taiwan – struggling to cope with UK climate! Flat battery. Liaising with suppliers. g. Kevin reported some Beck monitoring equipment has been stolen as it is valuable. Not vandalism. 	
<p>4. Trout in the Town status. Rob</p> <p>We now have Silver Level Accreditation of the 'Trout in the Town' scheme organised by the Wild Trout Trust – there are only 4 Silver Level areas in England. 'Trout in the Town' handbook was passed round the meeting. The 'Trout in the Town' logo below can now be used by FOBB.</p>  <p>John and Andy reported seeing trout in Middlebrook and Pitty Beck, respectively.</p> <p>Trout in the Town are involved in the design of the Shipley daylighting project.</p> <p>Rob / Barney will liaise re an article in T & A regarding accreditation</p>	<p>Rob / Barney</p>
<p>5. Liaison with YW Corporate Affairs. We've now had three discussions. Issues on the table include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Carr Mires Beck – Keepmoat are finally disconnecting their development from the Beck and routing it to the sewer! b. Gordon Street detention tank malfunctioning and repair 	<p>Barney</p>

<p>– see 2c above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. An anti-litter fence on Hunters Park Avenue – no response so far, Barney will continue to raise. d. More information on how the sewer network is connected in Bradford , and where detention tanks are – ongoing. e. Rolling out PollutionWatch app to other areas and groups. YW are keen on this, we have offered to assist, will only be useful if YW monitor the results. . f. Possible projects on the Beck (see 8b below) – awaiting another meeting. 	
<p>6. Group activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Agreed two Sundays (12 & 26th March) and two Saturdays (8 & 22 April). NB 8th April is Easter Saturday. b. Locations? - to be decided – possibly downstream from Shipley station. c. Proposed Action day at Bull Greave Beck, locals may be interested, also possible liaison with Council re knotweed treatment there. ART will help with this. Joy to liaise with Nick M re dates / arrangements- d. ART have received funding from Bradford Council for environmental improvement schemes ‘Aire Care 2’. 	Joy
<p>7. Deculverting and renaturalisation from Poplar Rd to Briggate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We had a further update on design progress on 16th Nov. No significant changes to sketches shown last time. b. The contractor is costing up the proposal at present, we hope to see this at the next meeting, 11th Jan. c. The timetable continues to slip, we’ll know more after 11th Jan. d. We (Rob and Barney) had a site meeting with EA, Council (Andrew Mindham) WTT (Paul Gaskell) on 14th Dec to discuss what enhancements to the project could be carried out with additional funding. The idea is to bid for some EA WEIF money. Lots of ideas to put in a menu style bid. e. Daylighting celebration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Date not yet decided as completion date of works not known. This is unlikely to be decided soon so event will now go ahead even if works not completed, if possible. Likely to be August, weekend ii. Likely to be at daylighting site, family orientated 	

<p>event, arts / education / fun</p> <p>iii. Attracting public to event likely to be challenging as it is not heavily populated, car parking limited.</p> <p>iv. Rob offered possible loan of 2 gazebos from 2CV organisation.</p> <p>v. Next daylighting sub-committee meeting Friday 13th Jan</p>	
<p>8. Model to demonstrate misconceptions</p> <p>This has ground to a halt again, the FOBB member who took it on doesn't want to proceed.</p> <p>Barney will chase up a model maker in Stanningley, also Geoff will ask Rivers Trusts if they have similar models which could inform FOBB project. Funding is available.</p>	Barney / Geoff
<p>9. Enforcement Undertakings</p> <p>a. Fagley Beck. Updated proposal requested from a housing developer which intends to make an EU offer to the EA. Some debate about the acceptable level of funding!</p> <p>b. Bradford Beck. YW have requested information about possible projects on Bradford Beck in case they wish to offer an EU. They were interested in the idea of a wetland at Sam's Mill and we are planning a site visit.</p> <p>c. Geoff reported that Water Company fines for environmental breaches will now be ringfenced for environmental improvement projects. Awaiting further details of how that might affect local projects.</p>	Barney
<p>10. City of Culture.</p> <p>a. Barney, Geoff and Simon Watts met with Shanaz Gulzar, Creative Director for BD2025 on 16th Nov. She wants links with rural parts of Bradford, links with visual arts, 'runway' events leading to 2025. Interested in links with rivers/becks. No definite proposals came out of the meeting. There is not a big pot of money!</p> <p>b. If the daylighting celebration is our 2023 'runway' event, we could do an event on the tributaries in 2024, and a city centre event in 2025.</p> <p>c. Rob – could Horton Beck / Westwood could be part of celebrations? Possibly 2024 as daylighting celebration is main 2023 event.</p>	Barney
<p>11. Any other business and news</p> <p>a. Rob – is anybody interested in FOBB branded clothing? He will provide a sample at next meeting. High vis vests might be useful but Rob unlikely to be able to supply</p>	Rob

<p>these.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Salmon have now been identified in upper Calder – Bradford water quality not yet good enough c. Science Festival moving to Spring Bank weekend as Science Museum closing for refurbishment. FOBB will not have a stand this year as concentrating on daylighting event. ART will have a stand, could display FOBB poster? d. Rob – went to a school recently and children had never seen fish. Have we a demonstration tank / fish to show children? Trout in the Town have an educational project showing complete life-cycle of trout – Rob will investigate e. Sara – are we likely to repeat event allowing public to look down manholes at Bradford Beck? This was part of City of Light event – this is likely to be part of 2025 City centre FOBB event. 	Rob –fish demonstration tank
12. Minutes of last meeting – on website – no concerns raised	
<p>13. Next meetings and events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Quarterly catch-ups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 3rd April – 7.30, Kirkgate Centre, Shipley ii. 3rd July? - venue to be arranged as Kirkgate Centre likely to be closed for renovations b. Litterpicks: 12 & 26 March, 8 & 22 April c. Bull Greave Action Day tba d. Daylighting celebration tba 	<p>Joy book room (now booked)</p> <p>Joy find venue</p>