

Minutes of the IFRA meeting held on Monday 8 November 2021 by Zoom

Present: Jon Rees (Chair), Ben Pinches, Simon Fisher, Samantha Robertson, Barbara Ashcroft, Denise Cullington, Thelma Martin, Christine Hogg, Kay Millar, Luke Bolton, Janet Hall.

Susan Bedford, Cllr Chris Jarvis, Ruth Ashcroft (FoAE), Nick Barrett (Falcon), Peter Sidgewick.

Apologies – Cllr Damian Heywood, Emily Kerr

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September were approved as a correct record.

2 Matters arising

Children's Playground flooding: Cllr Jarvis reported that he was continuing to take this up with ODS. It was suggested that the water might include sewage and he agreed to follow this up.

Falcon/footpath fencing - Nick Barrett reported that the type of fencing had not yet been agreed, but would allow for the wildlife corridor and not impinge on the public footpath.

3 The tree outside Ladbrokes - Jon reported about concerns, not only about the loss of the tree, which had no structural issues. The tree was likely to be replaced by a smaller thinner tree. The lack of consultation and transparency was damaging community relations with the Council. ODS, as a privatised arm of the Council, was not subject to the same rules on FOI or accountability. It was agreed that as IFRA was working with ODS on this and on the Rec planting, that a Director should be invited to the next meeting.

4 School streets

Funding to expand the "School Streets" programme is now not likely to be before late 2022-23, which is disappointing. Emily is planning to suggest to the school at Full Governing Body meeting on the 9th Dec that a Governor and a resident might stand in the road wearing Hi-Viz and politely ask people to not go down Bedford Street. This might be best done in the Spring. Emily would welcome volunteers to come and join in from 08.30-09.00 and 15.00-15.30.

5 Secure Bike Parking:

Given the recent increase of bike thefts, this might be something that people are keen to progress. There is a trial in Jericho and Emily is keeping in touch to see how it progresses. If anyone is interested, please complete the below consultation and say that they're interested in the roll out.

https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxford_northjericho_cycleparking2021

6 Car-sharing trial.

This is working well and has been extended. There has been considerable interest in Oxford and elsewhere for setting up other 'closed loops' using the same system, including Donnington, and Robin Hood).

7 Common land status of the Rec

Thelma reported that there was uncertainty about the exact status of the Rec as common land. Cllr Dick Wolf was looking into this. If it is not registered as common land, this would need to be pursued to safeguard its future. There had been past attempts to use it for other purposes.

8 Consultation on cycle network on Iffley Road:

It was noted that this consultation was now over. The main impact might be the displacement of residents parking on Iffley Road might lead to an overspill to IF. IFRA had encouraged individuals to respond to the consultation but not taken a position as there was no consensus.

9 Friends of Meadow Lane Rec (IFRA Parks)

Ruth reported that there had been a good response to the consultation. When the consultation was closed, the responses would be analysed. The data could be made available on the website.

It was noted that, if there was support for a basketball net and a table tennis area, this would be best placed by the skate park and would need a concrete base. This might affect the location of the clumps of trees.

There was concern that increased shady areas might encourage drug dealing which was already a problem along the trees by Jackdaw Lane. It was noted that the University Sports Ground could do more to prevent this and that we should look at the vegetation to see how it might prevent this.

10 Waterways subgroup

Ben and Samantha reported that Oxford City Council was giving priority to swimming at Port Meadow and not Longbridges. The group had received a £2,500 grant which was being used to improve the area and a working party would be held on 28 November to make the water safer, including dredging, magnets and fishing lines. The group was looking for volunteers and hoped to work with Falcon members on this.

On 10 March the Oxford Civic Society was holding a lecture on the history of Longbridges.

11 Planning

Thelma reported that the application for a B&B on Iffley Road, backing on to Stratford Street had been refused on the grounds it would impact the neighbours. Another application for the Gladiators Club had been made, with accommodation for students above and a club on the ground floor. Otherwise, nothing in particular had come up which was good news.

12 IFRA Air Quality sub group

Kay reported that the group had been monitoring the particulates since August and had noticed an increase in the levels of particulates. Our readings for PM 2.5 are now rising above the WHO recommendations of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. (highest 14, 14, 19). PM 10 readings are also rising but highest has only reached 22 so far. If particular bad areas were identified, fixed monitors might be used to identify the nature and cause of the problem.

Further information can be found on

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jun/17/uk-refuses-to-commit-to-reduction-of-legal-air-pollution-levels>

13 Councillors' grants

Chris Jarvis reported that the councillors had a fund of £10,000 to spend on local projects, including infrastructure and community projects. Applications need to be in by the end of November. IFRA had several ideas including secure bike parking, benches and sports in the Rec, bike rack for the Rec, speed bump for Meadow Lane. There would be a public meeting to decide how councillors might spend the funds.

14 Financial report

Ben reported that IFRA held £700 from the community Nature Fund, £2500 grant for the lottery for Long Bridges and £3,100 for Meadow Lane Rec. ODS had still not billed IFRA for the bins and benches that had been paid for by crowdfunding. When this was taken, a remainder of £800 might be available for running costs (website, newsletters, leaflets, room hire etc). A written report would be given to the next meeting.

15 Speed along Meadow Lane

It was reported that there was a significant increase in 2 wheeled motor traffic down Meadow Lane (mopeds – especially Deliveroo, motorbikes). Motor vehicles pose an additional risk is to kids and others emerging from, Chester Alley {from corner of Argyle/Chester onto Meadow Lane} and their back gates onto the Lane. The possibility of installed a speed bump between Eyot Place and the Play Park was discussed. It was important to agree measures with SSMJ Governors before acting,

16 AOB

Jon raised the possibility of having a hardship fund for emergency help for homeless people at the start of the meeting The fund would be held by IFRA and that individual residents could contribute to. Samantha opposed this as she did not think it an IFRA issue and referrals to existing services should be made. There was not time to discuss this further.

The next meeting is on Monday 10 January and it was agreed that this should be in person, unless the situation changed. If possible it would be a hybrid and others might be able to join via zoom, The Gladiators Club and Restore were suggested as possible venues.

Dates of meetings 2022, Mondays, 7pm

10 January
14 March (AGM)
9 May
11 July
12 September
14 November
