



Iffley Fields Residents Association

Agenda for IFRA meeting to be held on Monday 11 May 2026 8PM on Zoom

Topic: IFRA Meeting

Time: May 11, 2026 07:55 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82870753112?pwd=dSb27gpFKxDbTYK0Y1TSLvPbsbY1wb.1>

Meeting ID: 828 7075 3112

Passcode: 043969

1. Appoint a note taker
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the meeting
 - 12 January
 - AGM 9 March
4. Matters arising
 - Meadow Lane Carpark update (Emily, Brad)
 - Trees on the Recreation Ground (Emily)
 - Astons Eyot swings
5. Longbridges – proposal for drainage work (Adam)
6. Reports from groups:
 - Play ground Iffleyfields NaturEscape (Tom/Usha)
 - The Kidneys (Margaret/Ruth)
 - Planning (Thelma)
 - Gardens (Susan)
7. Financial Report (Sam)
8. AOB/ Reports from Street Connectors

Dates of future meetings

13 July (Falcon), 14 September (Zoom), 9 November (Falcon)

Stephen Dawson, Oxford Preservation Trust will attend the meeting on 17 July to discuss their plans for the riverside land they own (Scout Field, footpath and the island)

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 January 2026 on Zoom

Present: Sue Hale (Chair), Janet Hall, Susan Bedford, Christine Hogg, Barbara Ashcroft, Simon Fisher, Luke Bolton, Margaret Thompson, Thelma Martin, Darren Clahane, Peter Sidgewick, Danielle Battigelli, Jon Rees
Cllr Brad Baines, Cllr Emily Kerr, Mark (OARC)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November were accepted as a correct record

2. Matters arising

Meadow Lane Carpark – Emily reported that the decision had been made to turn it into a public carpark. The time scale and details had yet to be decided. It was likely that there would be a half hour or hour free time which would enable school drop offs. She had strongly supported its return to public use.

Recreation Ground

Picnic tables – Sue reported on a site visit with Chris Bell (Green Spaces) and Sophie Hearn (ODS) to decide on the location of the two tables. The agreed locations were in the far corner of the Jackdaw Lane and by the Skate park, avoiding overhanging trees. They should be in place by the end of February.

Trees: The replacement of 2 damaged trees was discussed and the officers agreed to look into replacing them.

The concrete blocks: that had been dumped on the way to Astons Eyot on the edge of the Recreation Ground were discussed. These were nothing to do with the Council and might have been left there by the Scrap Metal Yard. Officers agreed to follow this up.

Cycle racks had now been installed on the Recreation Ground.

Field between the Bridge and the Ferry path

Mark from OARC reported that they were still actively looking for a new site. Meanwhile the City Council was looking at ways of reducing parking for non-boat users so that eventually the field could come back into public recreational use and a path cleared from the field to the Ferry Path, keeping pedestrians off Meadow Lane.

Scout Field

Christine noted that OPT who own the field and were clear that there had to be community access to the field and the river and there was no legal basis for prohibiting the public. It was agreed to invite OPT to the May meeting to discuss how public access might be safely managed and the path behind the allotments maintained

3 AGM

It was agreed to have a report back on the results of the heat loss survey and invite someone from Low Carbon East Oxford. There had been great interest in this and Sam was thanked for all his work in setting up the surveys.

4 Kidneys

Margaret reported that the bank had been seeded with grass, but it was not yet coming through. She felt that extending the river access towards Donnington Bridge would not give much benefit because of the trees in the path.

Christine reported that she had discussed logs for seating with Chris Bell and Sophie Hearn who had said this was straightforward, involving the cost of transport and planing the top and putting in the stakes. Two logs would be the same price as one, three logs might cost more. It was agreed that Christine would discuss locations for four benches with Margaret and Ruth Ashcroft (FoEA) and ask ODS for a quote.

5 Playground

Sue reported that she had shown Chris Bell and Sophie the enormous improvements that Tom and Usha had made with volunteers to clear up the space at the back. They were thanked for their efforts.

6 Planning-

There was a planning application for the Salters Boat Yard by Donnington Bridge (25/03219/VAR and 24/00740/FUL) for change of use from boat repair workshop to mixed use, including small workshops. The hours of operation would be increased. Jon reported that Falcon was working on developing up a new footpath there.

There was also an application for housing behind the school near Cavell Road. Though there were concerns about the density, IFRA had not commented.

7 Astons Eyot

Thelma reported on the current work of the Friends of Aston's Eyot.

Shire Lake Ditch (the cut between the Cherwell and the Thames) was for many years polluted by sewage and it has been very difficult to rid it of contaminants. It was hoped to improve this by removing the build-up of silt to increase the flow and to resite some trees to get light onto the cut.

Tree work

Some ivy would be removed as it was weakening the trees and a further deer proof enclosure was being added to protect younger trees.

Swings: While the Friends didn't want to prevent people enjoying themselves, there are concerns about the long-term impact of the swings on the health of the chestnut tree as well as safety. The swings, particularly when used by adults, can stress the trees and also compact the ground around it affecting the tree's long-term health. They would be putting up a notice saying this was at the users risk. The trees would be regularly monitored.

8 Street connectors

Simon asked how effective the Street Connectors were and how widely the IFRA committee meetings were advertised, and were we making it clear that the IFRA committee meetings were open to anyone. It was agreed that the Street Connectors worked well with their role in welcoming new people to the street and helping them join their Street's WhatsApp, and or making sure they knew all the information from either a paper copy of IFRA Information sheet or looked it up on the IFRA Website so helping newcomers develop a sense of community. IFRA Committee Meetings are advertised on all the IFRA street WhatsApp, Facebook and an email list as well as the Biannual IFRA newsletter in September and March.

Iffley Fields Residents Association

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Iffley Fields Residents Association held on Monday 9 March 2026 at the Falcon Boat Club.

Present

Sue Hale (in the Chair), Christine Hogg, , Susan Bedford, Janet Hall, Thelma Martin, Sam Alston, Virginia Hodgson, Rosemay Southworth, Danielle Battigelli, Brad Baines, Diana Porteus, Margaret Thompson, James Rogers, Polly Woolstone, Jo Burch, Andy Bastalle, Peta Sandison, Susan Alexander, David Cooper, Jeremy Arden, Rebecca Abrahams, Katrina Davis, Rob Salguero- Gomet,

Apologies: Jane Fisher, Barbara Ashcroft, Jean and Lawrence Burrell, Emily Kerr, Sylvia Eades

Part 1 Thermal imaging and heat loss in Iffley Fields

At the first half of the meeting Sam Alston reported on the survey he had done with Peta and John in November, 45 houses were photographed and the images shared in the meeting. They showed very wide variation in insulation and the photos identified spots of heat loss that might be addressed,

Paul Gaida from Proguard Exteriors (<https://www.proguardexteriors.co.uk>) outlined ways that heat loss can be reduced in older houses, such as exterior and interior cladding and external spray to waterproof the exterior. There were limitations on what could be achieved in some older houses, without changing the exterior look. If anyone wanted to follow up with him, if they mention IFRA they will receive a 10% discount.

Low Carbon East Oxford had loaned IFRA the thermal camera, but unfortunately were unable to attend. Low Carbon East Oxford (<https://www.lowcarbonhub.org/>) are a small community group running initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint of East Oxford. They are able to advise on more low cost options such as draught proofing. Looking at the photos, most lost heat mainly through the doors and windows.

Part 2 IFRA AGM

Sue reported the sad news about the death of Simon Fisher. He had been a long standing member of IFRA and made an enormous contribution to Iffley Fields, Details of the funeral would be shared on the Street WhatsApp groups.

1 Minutes of the AGM 10 March 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

2 Chairs report

Sue reported on the past year and how much she appreciated the strength and support of the community, with so many people involved in projects, as members of the community, as street connectors or committee members.

The Kidneys: Sue thanked Margaret Thompson for her hard work and perseverance in getting the path resurfaced and, with volunteers, opening up and maintaining the riverside path. The new logs should be delivered and installed for the Spring. Thanks to everyone's generosity and Brad Baines, IFRA has funds to pay for them.

Planning: Thelma was thanked for her work on monitoring planning applications. She had sent in further comments about the overdevelopment of 270 Iffley Road which was being converted from a single house into an HMO with 17 rooms and had encouraged the Oxford Civic Society to also object. She had also submitted comments on the Oxford City Plan, including concerns about the housing development on the Horse Field in Iffley.

Cllr Brad Baines reported on concerns about the closure of Donnington Bridge which already had a weight limit and the 46 bus no longer came over it. He was pressing for the reinstatement of the service with smaller buses. The work needed on the bridge included the replacement of tensioning cables. It was estimated that this might cost around £4 million and take 2 years. He had set up a petition at Change.org and urged people to sign it. <https://c.org/kK9GvnHF7P>

Field by Donnington Bridge: It was hoped this could be returned to community use rather than a car park and boat yard. IFRA would follow this up this year.

The Picnic tables had now been installed and were being well used. Sue was thanked for raising the funds for this and everyone who contributed to the crowdfunder. Family and friends of Sam Robertson raised the money for one of the picnic tables and there will be a commemorative plaque attached to it.

The Playground: Sue reported that she had lived in the area for 62 years and never seen it in such good shape, thanks to Usha and Tom and all the volunteers. With support from the council and local volunteers, the Meadow Lane playground is being transformed into the **Iffley Fields NaturEscape**. Recent progress, delivered through community mornings and volunteer sessions with GoodGym, includes:

- Near-complete removal of the old fencing behind the sandpit
- Establishment of new flower beds and initial planting
- Construction of a den using logs and branches sourced from the recreation ground
- Installation of the foundations for a log circle, with beech saplings planted to form a surrounding hedge

We are currently awaiting delivery from Shotover of additional logs for balancing features and log stumps for the log circle. We are also awaiting council approval to proceed to the next phase of the project, which includes introducing larger habitat features such as a child-safe wildlife pond. (For further information or to get more involved, please contact Usha & Tom at:

iffleyfields.naturescape@gmail.com)

The back area by the fence had been opened up and logs would be donated by the Council from Shotover, using the same transport as the logs for the Kidneys.

Open Gardens and the guerilla gardens along Meadow Lane: Susan Bedford was thanked for all her work in organising Open Gardens and maintaining the Gardens. She and Barbara Ashcroft would appreciate help in maintaining the beds, donations of plants were always welcome and also funds to buy long lasting shrubs.

Local interest groups and social activities: Thanks to the local residents who organised the street party, the quizzes and the advent calendar and the carol singing. She had been approached by a long-term resident who felt there were not opportunities to meet other residents. She proposed setting up a monthly lunch club for people over 60 at the Chester on the first Monday of each month, More details would follow.

She also suggested that, with so many people working from home, there might be interest in a similar monthly lunch for sole workers. If you are interested, she asked them to contact her sue_hale@btinternet.com. Any other ideas would also be welcome.

3 Constitution

Christine reported that IFRA had been refused its second application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Some of our activities are not charitable (e.g. social and community

events) and so we do not meet the strict legal requirements. To meet their strict criteria, we would need to unduly change the way we operate.

However, the Charity Commission suggested that IFRA might be eligible for gift aid without being a registered charity and we will apply for this. IFRA had reverted to the previous Constitution and it was agreed that the Constitution should be amended to include the Objectives that were included in the draft CIO Constitution, which had been agreed at a special general meeting, namely:

- 1 to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment, i.e. the river and the Kidneys and Astons Eyot nature reserves
- 2 to preserve and promote the public amenities in Iffley Fields that benefit residents of East Oxford, namely safe access to the river, the Children's Playground and the Meadow Lane Recreation Ground by raising funds for improvements to community assets as listed above in association with the local authorities,
- 3 The promotion of civic responsibility and building community capacity by:
 - Bringing people together to work towards improving public assets and amenities
 - the promotion of volunteering in the nature reserves, the Playground, the river bank and Longbridges Pool and local charities working with marginalised groups in East Oxford

4 Treasurers report

Sam thanked everyone for their donations to IFRA which had enabled us to build up our reserves and fund projects such as the logs for the Kidneys. The annual financial statement would be available after the end of the financial year in April. It was agreed in future to hold the AGM, historically always held in March, in May so that the annual accounts could be presented at the AGM.

It was agreed to open a new bank account that is designed to meet the needs of small community groups. The current bank account was not suitable for a community group and this caused many difficulties. However, we would keep this account open to receive existing standing orders. Experience of other organisations is that many people do not transfer their standing orders if an account is closed.

5 Elections

The following were elected, uncontested

Chair: Sue Hale nominated by Polly Woolstone and seconded by Thelma Martin

Vice Chair: Janet Hall nominated by Sam Alston and seconded by Rosemay Southworth

Secretary - Christine Hogg, nominated by Polly and seconded by Janet

Treasurer Sam Alston, nominated by Janet, seconded by Polly

Committee member: Barbara Ashcroft was re-elected for a further term, nominated by Susan Bedford and seconded by Christine Hogg.

Sue reported that in the last year IFRA had lost 3 active and long standing committee members – Sam Robertson, Ben Pinches and Simon Fisher. IFRA would welcome anyone to join us. Christine reported that she did not wish to cease her involvement with IFRA but would appreciate it if anyone was interested in taking over some or all of the role of Secretary.

6 AOB

Street WhatsApp – it was noted that these were really useful but still some residents seemed unaware of them, In Eyot Place a leaflet had been distributed to encourage people to join that had been successful.

The meeting finished at 21.22