



Minutes of the IFRA meeting held on Monday 12 September 2022 at Greyfriars

Present: Sue Hale (Chair), Simon Fisher, Barbara Ashcroft, Denise Cullington, Thelma Martin, Christine Hogg, Luke Bolton, Peter Sidgewick, Douglas Ilden, Emily Kerr (on phone).

Cllr Damian Haywood, Cllr Chris Jarvis, Ruth Ashcroft (FoAE),

Apologies – Ben Pinches, Jon Rees, Janet Hall, Samantha Robertson

1 Membership

- Jon Rees had resigned as Co-Chair due to pressure of work, however he was willing to stay on as a committee member. Sue Hale agreed to become Chair and, with the rest of the committee, expressed her fulsome thanks to the enormous contribution that Jon had made to the community and IFRA.
- Susan Bedford and Douglas Ilden were welcomed to the meeting. Douglas said that he was very happy to work with IFRA but did not feel he had time at the moment to take on a formal role. He is an architect and involved in City planning and his offer was accepted with thanks.

2 Future IFRA meetings

It was agreed that IFRA would all meetings in future to be hybrid (in person and zoom) but until that was possible, meetings would alternate Zoom and in person to ensure as many people as possible could attend.

3 **Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July were** approved as a correct record.

4 Matters arising

The tree outside Ladbrokes –

While this battle was lost, Simon proposed a meeting with ODS to get a better understanding of how ODS worked to avoid future misunderstandings. Chris Jarvis agreed to contact Nigel Chapman to invite him to the next zoom meeting (14 November)

Playground

Chris reported that the bridge was on the list for repair but awaited delivery of the appropriate wood and there might be a considerable delay. He agreed to follow up the filling up the puddles by the entrances and damage to the seesaw.

School traffic

Emily and Damian reported that funding decisions to expand the “School Streets” programme to Iffley Fields were still awaited but that the earlier schemes had been made permanent and CCTV would be installed.

Neighbourhood Watch

Thelma reported that there had been no take up for setting up Street Neighbourhood Watch schemes, though crime, especially drug dealing and car theft (including a catalytic converter and wallet with cards and cash) were a problem. Damian emphasised the importance of reporting any incidents to the Police. While this may not result in immediate action, it helped in making future operational decisions about policing. Problems about drug dealing around the entrance to the Gym had been reported and it appears that a CCTV camera had been installed by the Gate.

IFCAR

Emily reported that the car sharing scheme had been going for a year without any problems. Co wheels were putting 5 more cars in St Mary’s which would mean that more cars would be available. There was particular interest in Electric Vehicles though these required charging points.

Covered Market: Denise raised concerns about changes being made to the covered market and the lack of consultation. Chris agreed to liaise with Denise to arrange a meeting with Imogen Thomas and IFRA (and any other interested groups) to discuss this.

Interest groups: Sue reported there had been a good response and she would be putting those interested in touch with each other and it would be up to members of each particular group to decide how to proceed.

4 Table Tennis on the Rec

Peter reported that about £2250 had been raised for this, but installing the concrete base required by ODS would cost over £5,000. He agreed to set up a crowdfunding page with Jon Rees to try and raise the remainder required. Christine offered to look at the possible sources of funding from the Table Tennis Association.

5 Closure of Meadow Lane Car Park

Concern was expressed about the impact of the City Council decision to pass over use of the public car park to the Falcon and that a public asset had been lost. ODS was producing a report on the options for the City Council. This closure was causing problems with parking in Meadow Lane but, as the residents had recently rejected a CPZ, there was no immediate plans to introduce a CPZ.

It was noted that another result was commuter cars parking on the picnic area by Donnington Bridge. Until recently access had been restricted by a barrier but this had been abandoned. Apparently, this land belongs to the County Council and Damian agreed to look into this.

6 Waterways subgroup

Longbridges: We have received promises from Michael Woods, the Oxford Waterways Coordinator, for a picnic bench and a metal ladder for getting in and out of the water. These will be gratefully received, when they arrive, and should replace the items that the Waterways Subgroup purchased and subsequently donated to ODS.

7 Friends of Meadow Lane Rec (IFRA Parks)

Denise and Ruth reported that planting with bulbs and tree clumps would be going ahead in the autumn. It was agreed there is a case for 2 clumps of trees as long as it did not impede informal sports. Denise agreed to produce a diagram outlining the placement of trees and on which the proposed site for the Table Tennis table could be added.

There are plans to extend the Guerrilla Garden along Meadow Lane. Susan also proposed a garden on the area at the bottom of Fairacres Road, which was welcomed.

8 Planning

Thelma reported James Phythian-Adams, lawyer, had agreed to advise the group on planning issues, as required. She also reported that, because of the difficulties of agreement between rural and urban areas, the County Council had abandoned their strategic plans for 2050. The implications of this were not clear, but Damian agreed to update IFRA when he had more information.

9 Financial reports

Christine reported that IFRA had little money that was not ringfenced for Waterways, Meadow Lane and the table tennis. However, producing 2 copies of the newsletter, domain name and hosting of the website and occasional leaflets meant that IFRA needed to raise about £600 a year to cover these costs. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

10 Reports from Street Connectors

Deterioration in bus services: Damian pointed out the bus companies were private and the problems in scheduling was down to a loss in funding and recruitment issues.

Cold calling – IFRA had in the past applied to become a no calling zone but had been refused on the grounds that there had not been enough complaints to indicate a problem. Information packs had been delivered to all residents about 3 years ago and were available from Thelma or Christine. This included the number to call with a complaint.

Information to new residents: Christine agreed to draft a 'A Welcome to Iffley Fields' leaflet for people moving in to the area.

11 Any other business

Zebra crossing: Damian reported that he was trying to get a raised surface for the Zebra crossing by Daubney Street following some incidents.

The Hardcore pile on the Rec. Ruth explained that this was to go on the paths in the Kidneys and she would follow this up.

The meeting ended at 9.30

The next meeting is Monday 14 November at 8 PM by Zoom