

IFRA

Minutes of IFRA meeting on 9 May 2022 by Zoom

Present : Sue Hale (chair), Benedict Pinches, Thelma Martin, Samantha Robertson, Barbara Ashcroft, Luke Bolton, Susan Bedford, Simon Fisher, Kay Millar, Jon Rees, Denise Cullington, Janet Hall, Emily Kerr, Chris Jarvis.

Apologies : Peter Sidgewick, Damian Haywood , Christine Hogg,
Sue introduced herself as new co-chair of Ifra and was warmly welcomed.

1) The tree on the corner of Howard Street.

Lucy Pegg, councillor there, has been offered a meeting with the council which has been postponed, so we hope for more later.

2) Playground improvements

Luke said he has noticed graffiti and feels the whole place needs some TLC. However at the moment flooding is not a problem.

Chris Jarvis said there is a plan to resurface parts and he will find out more. Graffiti is in undesignated areas of the skatepark too. Another problem is the gates, that keep dogs out and children in, aren't closing properly. Luke mentioned the rickety bridge being broken. There was discussion about how often the council refurbishes and how quickly it repairs playgrounds, and whether we should pay instead as a community, and if so not paying ODS exorbitant fees!

3) Status of the recreation ground.

Seems to be Council land, as is the ferry path.

The car park by the Falcon club has lost some space which will be used for access to their new building.

Making car parking space for the recreation ground to allow more families to enjoy it was suggested.

4) Internet and infrastructure

Luke has been investigating the reasons for our exceptionally poor connection. It should have been upgraded 10 years ago but Openreach gave up after disagreement with crucial householder.

During the next 5 years everyone should be getting new generation fibre optic cable to individual houses. Ted Coleman of Warwick Street has written to the chief executive asking for this to be speeded up for us, and it may happen by June next year.

5) Air quality

Luke shared his screen to show us graphs of particulate matter, PM2.5, rates over time here and in East Avenue for comparison.

Generally pollution is higher when there is little wind and lower when it's windy. It tends to rise in the evening and stay high during the night. It is dangerously high here, and our city has a similar pattern to others around the world, such as Mumbai.

Luke said it's difficult to judge the contribution of fires, though he does know that one open fire causes as much air pollution as 10 log burners.

This subject was suggested for the next newsletter to raise awareness.

6) Open gardens

Sue told us that the date for this is Sunday 26th June from 2.00 to [5.00pm](#).

9 gardens will be open including Greyfriars, and there will be tours of the allotments.

There will also be a plant stall at the bottom of Bedford Street run by some children.

Laurie will do posters and we will deliver leaflets nearer the time.

We have offers of cakes and one garden for teas in Fairacres Road, but it would be good to have another. This event is a great fundraiser for Ifra and two chosen charities, so the group would welcome more helpers.

A sale of gardening books is also proposed.

7) The Jubilee Street Party.

Samantha and her team of 10 residents propose Saturday 4th June for this local celebration and this was agreed at this meeting.

Emily, our new city councillor, will arrange for Chester and Argyle Streets to be closed to traffic between 12.00 and 5.00. pm (Cost £16)

Luke mentioned a bouncy castle and we were encouraged to think of ways to entertain children given freedom to play in our streets.

Street connectors will be able to send more specific messages nearer the time.

8) Waterways group

Ben told us the current Art Week display instigated by Eleanor at Oxford City Rowing Club has been well attended. The bridge graffiti artist is showing there and Eleanor has a book for sale.

Ben said we are still waiting for the promised metal bench and ladder from the Council Waterways Officer. The 3 benches that were procured by the Waterways Group, but deemed unsuitable by the Council, have been donated to local community causes. The Waterways Group hope to have a musical gathering at Longbridges sometime in the summer.

9) Friends of Meadow Lane

Denise told us that two benches will soon be fixed in place by Roger beside the railings. She is inviting others to take over parts of the ground alongside the lane. More plants, including birch trees and banana soon.

Dick Wolff has money now for a ODS bench which could go on the recreation ground by the football pitch in due course.

10) Planning

The Badger Group have established there is a sett in the grounds of the Arts and Crafts house on Iffley Road so they can't get planning permission. A sett can be moved but it's very expensive. On Aston's Eyot more badgers will soon be vaccinated against TB.

11) School streets

Emily reported that this scheme is looking very positive and has parents agreement. It's complex to put in action and will take some time now.

12) Financial report

Ben told us Ifra bank account has £5,061.72 of which

Waterways Group has £813.03

Meadow Lane has £3,032.26

leaving a unaccounted balance of £1,216.43

13) Social and clubs

Sue invited discussion of her ideas for this which we welcomed. There is space available in the pub once a week possibly.

Local history, books, board games, walking, theatre and chess groups were all suggested. Sue will invite proposals on line.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 11th July, and hopefully in person. Thelma said she would find out if the Greyfriars Hall is available.