

## **Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC)**

### **Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

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**Attended by:** Sara Worth (Chair), Roy Gallop (Vice-Chair), Derek Hughes (Secretary) and Margaret Fay, Ed Hall, Angie Tonge and Richard Clutterbuck (Committee Members).

#### **1. Welcome**

Sara welcomed the meeting attendees, and in particular Angie and Richard who were attending their first Committee Meeting following their election at the last AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Chris Hanmer (Committee Member) and Steve Fay (Treasurer).<sup>1</sup>

#### **3. Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the last FrANC Committee Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were approved by those present.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

The matters arising from the previous meeting may be found in the list of Actions contained in the minutes of that meeting, the current status of which is summarised in Table 1. Most actions have either been closed or superseded by events. Additional comments were provided concerning the following actions:

*Action 13-03-03:* May Gurney have been replaced by Kier Services as the Bristol City Council (BCC) contractor responsible for waste collection but, as before, the proposed riverbank clean-up between Bedminster Bridge – Bath Road Bridge is beyond their capabilities. This activity is now being pursued through the Bristol Parks Forum's *ParkWork* project (see item 9.2 below).

*Action 13-03-12:* Chris Murray has recently updated the FrANC website at Sara's request, but this is not an easy task even for someone with his IT expertise! Chris has offered to meet later in the summer to discuss the option of designing and building a new website, using Wordpress, which would be easier for Committee Members to manage and update. In the meantime, Chris has suggested that the Committee look at other community websites to get ideas about what functionalities they would like to see in a new FrANC website.

*Action 14-01-04:* FrANC were able to borrow additional litter-pickers from BCC for the riverbank clean-up sessions held at the beginning of this year, so assuming these will be available in future there is no urgency to purchase additional litter-pickers at present. We are indebted to Neil Burwell, a BCC local government officer from Cabot Ward, who not only booked the litter-pickers for us but also delivered and collected them.

*Action 14-01-05:* Sara has been unable to get a response from John Sisk & Sons to discuss the funding of FrANC projects under the Considerate Constructors Scheme, despite several attempts, so she has given up on this at present.

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<sup>1</sup> When Steve agreed to take on the role of Treasurer at the last AGM, it was on condition that he does not need to attend Committee Meetings! Instead, Steve will provide a statement of FrANC's finances prior to each meeting.

*Action 14-02-04:* Chris has reported that the weekly car boot sale that used to be held at Ashton Gate Football Ground has been discontinued. Other suggestions for ways of raising funding for FrANC were (i) putting household items not wanted by the FrANC membership for sale on e-Bay and (ii) use of the *Funderfinder* website (see item 10 below). Sara reported that she had recently raised £40 for FrANC from the sale of a surplus bed and bedside cabinets!

*Action 14-02-05:* a guided walk around the Underfall Yard has been arranged with Sarah Murray, who has been appointed as a community engagement officer for the Underfall Yard Trust. The walk will be similar in scope to the one led by Sarah as part of the 2015 Bristol Walk Fest.

*Action 14-02-08:* all copies of the FrANC booklet entitled “*A Celebration of the Avon New Cut*” that were held by the Southville Centre have been retrieved by Liz Payze and passed on to Sara and Derek.

## **5. Status of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Application – celebration event**

Sara and Margaret reported that they had attended a community meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April to discuss the celebration and promotion of LNRs as part of the Bristol 2015 European Green Capital celebrations. The meeting was organised by Richard Ennion, who is the Environmental Improvements Manager, Environment and Leisure for BCC – Neighbourhoods. The meeting was intended to provide a forum for the existing and proposed LNRs, of which there are 14 in total, but in fact representatives from only 5 or 6 LNRs were actually present. The LNRs that were not supported by strong “Friends of” community interest groups (e.g. Troopers Hill and Badock’s Wood) appeared to be in a state of “disrepair”. BCC want to increase the number of LNRs to 17 as one of the Green Capital objectives for 2015, but it is not clear at present where these additional LNRs will be sited.

Richard Ennion has £20,000 of funding available to help LNRs, and how this could best be spent was the main topic of discussion at the meeting. One of the suggested ways forward was for BCC to offer funding support to allow LNR community groups to update and improve their website, which was of particular interest to FrANC.

Sara and Margaret found the meeting useful in learning about how other LNRs fund their activities, which are similar to those undertaken by FrANC (organising litter-picking, running guided walks, designing interpretation boards, etc.). No LNR group has a regular source of income. It was noted that although Friends of Troopers Hill have 400 people on their mailing list (we use e-mail, with about 150 contacts), only 5 or 6 regularly turn up at their monthly meetings.

The notes issued by Richard Ennion following the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April are reproduced in Appendix A. The current expectation is that some sort of LNR celebration / promotional event will take place during October 2015, though exactly what this will be is still to be determined.

## **6. Operational Matters**

### **6.1 Butterfly Junction protection during MetroBus construction**

Derek reported that he, Margaret and Ben Barker had met with representatives from BCC and Balfour Beatty at Butterfly Junction on 6<sup>th</sup> February. Balfour Beatty is the contractor who has been appointed by BCC to design and build the MetroBus route from Ashton Vale Park and Ride to Cumberland Road (see item 9.3 below).

The purpose of the meeting was to follow up a recommendation made in the Inspector's Report that was published following the BRT2 Public Inquiry in 2012, and in particular Item 11 of Appendix H of the report - *Matters Recommended for consideration by Bristol City Council and North Somerset Council* - which states that:

*"In consultation with the Friends of the Avon New Cut, the design of the scheme at Butterfly Junction be reviewed to ensure, in addition to protection during construction, the permanent protection of this area during operation of the scheme".*

The area of Butterfly Junction that has historically been maintained by FrANC currently lies between the Harbour Railway platform and the Create Centre car park. During the meeting we were assured by the Balfour Beatty representative, Gareth Harris, that this area would be protected by segregating it from the MetroBus construction site by the use of boards when the Harbour Railway platform is removed. Balfour Beatty currently do not intend using part of the Create Centre car park as a construction compound, so it is not planned to erect protective boards along the fence between the Butterfly Junction habitat and the adjacent car park. FrANC will be informed if this situation changes. The Butterfly Junction site should therefore remain accessible to FrANC for carrying out future "meadow management" activities (e.g. bramble-culling) whilst the MetroBus route is under construction.

We were told that Balfour Beatty are primarily engaged in carrying out their own surveys of the proposed MetroBus route at present, and that construction of the route itself is planned to start in June of this year.

Derek noted that, after the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February, considerable vegetation clearance and tree-felling had occurred along the part of the MetroBus route between Cumberland Road and Ashton Avenue Bridge (and beyond). BCC's intention to do this was not discussed with FrANC during the meeting, and so an e-mail advising the FrANC membership of the outcome meeting, containing much of the above information, had been circulated on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

## **6.2 Summer Newsletter 2015**

Sara said that she planned to publish a Summer Newsletter at the beginning of June, and would be co-opting some Committee Members to help her do this. The Newsletter will include our "programme of events" for the remainder of this year.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

A summary of the FrANC accounts, which currently "look healthy", was provided by Steve. There has been some income from sales of the FrANC book entitled "A Celebration of the Avon New Cut", plus a donation of £21 from Roy from the sale of 7 copies of his book "Any Muddy Bottom" (£3 donated to FrANC for each copy ordered through Roy). The biggest outgoings are the costs of Insurance, Website Hosting and providing refreshments after each Clean-up (approximately £197, £56 and £200, respectively). We need to raise about £500 each year in order to cover these costs.

The current nett balance is £2605 in credit, but this includes a combined grant of £2000 received from two Neighbourhood Partnerships to cover the cost of a new Interpretation Board (see item 9.1 below). The current usable balance is therefore effectively only around £600.

## 8. Events Planning 2015

- **“Basins and Bridges of the Avon New Cut” Walk on 12<sup>th</sup> May**, which will aim to cross as many bridges as possible between Cumberland Basin and Bathurst Basin. The walk will be led by Roy, starting at 7pm, and will be FrANC’s contribution to this year’s Bristol Walk Fest. Roy will provide 20 copies of a pictorial hand-out for distribution amongst those taking part.
- **A walk in and around the Underfall Yard on 16<sup>th</sup> June**. This walk has been arranged with, and will be led by, Sarah Murray of the Underfall Yard Trust. The Trust has been recently awarded £3.8 million to refurbish buildings over the next three years, including the cost of setting up a new Visitor Centre.
- **“Big Butterfly Count” at Butterfly Junction from 17<sup>th</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> August**. This nationwide event is run by a charity called *Butterfly Conservation*. Derek will send out details of the 2015 survey to the FrANC membership in early July, in order to encourage as many people as possible to take part. It is intended to set up a more formal FrANC survey this year, using templates from the *Butterfly Conservation* website, and to issue butterfly identification charts to participants. Margaret offered to investigate what butterfly identification sources are available.
- **Boat Trip up the New Cut to Netham Weir** to be held on a Saturday or Sunday some time in September or October. Roy has been in contact with the Bristol Ferryboat Company and it is understood that whatever boat is available will be able to accommodate 40 passengers. The cost will be around £450 for a four-hour trip (which will include part of the Avon Gorge), and a ticket price of £15 per person was suggested (which should yield a small profit for FrANC). Expert commentary during the trip will be provided by Roy, who suggested also inviting along Mark Steeds, Peter Andressen and Ed Drewett to provide additional historical, geological and wildlife commentary. Roy would also like to allocate 12 tickets to U3A initially, with any unsold tickets being subsequently returned to FrANC. Roy will confirm the date of the trip as soon as possible, which will depend on the most suitable tide times. Derek will coordinate the sale and distribution of tickets to FrANC members.
- **Other FrANC Events** – the following possibilities for future events were also discussed:
  - Sara suggested that in future we should aim to organise 6 meetings per year which, as well as 4 Committee Meetings, would include the AGM and one “open” meeting with the FrANC membership. The AGM and the “open” meeting would both be followed by either an indoor or outdoor event.
  - It was reported that John Penny is in the process of digitising the film archives held in the Bristol Records Office. Richard was asked to contact John to find out (i) if any digitised film clips are available of the New Cut and (ii) if so, would John be willing to present these to the FrANC membership (either following an AGM or an “open” meeting).
  - Roy has started writing a record of his early life when growing up in the Chew Valley area (currently 102 pages long), which could form the basis of a new book.

## 9. Other activities involving FrANC

**9.1 New Interpretation Board (Green Capital funding):** as noted in item 7, we were successful in obtaining a total of £2000 of Green Capital funding from the Greater Bedminster and Cabot, Clifton & Clifton East Neighbourhood Partnerships to cover the cost of designing and installing a new Interpretation Board on the New Cut. This new board will be sited on the Chocolate Path close to the Underfall Yard sluices, which will be the subject of the informative material on the board. Derek reported that he had issued a request for FrANC volunteers to help in the design of the board, but so far only Stephen Mason and Richard Clutterbuck had offered their support which, in Stephen's case, is primarily the provision of any photographs from his personal archives that may be suitable. It was agreed that Derek would go ahead and provide an initial draft of the layout of the new board, with assistance from Richard and Stephen as required. It is intended that, as well as describing the link between the sluices on the New Cut and the Underfall Yard, the new board will also mention the birds that inhabit this part of the riverbank. Sara was keen that, if possible, the birds selected should be species that do not feature on any of the other Interpretation Boards. Margaret noted that house martins have been seen near Riverside Garden Centre and are believed to nest in the buildings in the Underfall Yard and among the flats at Poole's Wharf. Grey Wagtails have also been seen in this area.

**9.2 Bristol Parks Forum:** Sara and Derek attended their first Bristol Parks Forum (BPF) meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April, which was held at Windmill Hill City Farm. Both found the meeting to be very informative, and it also provided an opportunity to meet with representatives from other "Friends of" groups who could be useful contacts in future. The following two BPF projects were of particular interest:

- **ParkWork Project:** this is a 15-month pilot scheme which involves getting people who have not worked for a period of time, for whatever reason, back into employment by offering them on-the-job training in the maintenance and management of the Bristol's green spaces. Each work placement will last for 8 weeks, and each participant will receive a certificate upon its completion. The work to be carried out will be additional to the scheduled maintenance work undertaken by Bristol Parks. Sara spoke with the ParkWork coordinator, Joe McKenna, at the meeting and had suggested the clearance of the York Road riverbank as a possible future ParkWork project. This would ideally involve the removal of litter and rubbish from the riverbank and riverbed, and the cutting back of overgrown vegetation. An on-site inspection of the riverbank has been arranged with Joe for 15<sup>th</sup> May, during which the practicality of achieving this will be assessed. If this task is considered to be within ParkWork's capabilities then Sara will approach Eric Dougall, the Estate Services Officer, for funding.
- **Bristol ParkHive Project:** this is a collaborative project between the University of the West of England (UWE) and BPF, with the support of other local partners. The project includes (i) the creation of a **Digital Photographic Archive**, to celebrate Bristol's parks and green spaces during the city's year as European Green Capital year, and (ii) the creation of a **ParkHive App**, which can be downloaded onto mobile phones and tablets and used to help find the nearest park or green space. Derek has circulated details of the photographic archive to the FrANC membership, and the Avon New Cut should be included as one of the green spaces that can be

accessed via this new App – though the information available on the New Cut via the App is limited and needs to be expanded.

**9.3 MetroBus update:** Derek reported that he had attended a BCC Walking and Cycling Schemes Workshop on 30<sup>th</sup> April, which had included an update on MetroBus by Alastair Cox, BCC Strategic City Transport Manager. The attendees were mostly representatives from the cycling community, who were mainly interested in learning further cycling-related details about the AVTM (Ashton Vale to Temple Meads) MetroBus route. Mr. Cox was either unwilling or unable to provide this information, as he maintained that the route between Ashton Vale Park & Ride and Cumberland Road was essentially unchanged in design from that presented at the BRT2 Public Inquiry in 2012. It was agreed, however, to organise a Route Walk for workshop participants, but no date was set at the meeting (the walk was eventually arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> May, but unfortunately Derek was unable to attend). Other interesting items that were divulged during the meeting were:

- the MetroBus project is now in the “Design and Build” stage, during which contractors are appointed to produce detailed designs of the infrastructure required. These are based on the preliminary designs prepared for BCC that were presented during (and after) the Public Inquiry, and will be approved by BCC before construction begins.
- the contractor responsible for building the AVTM MetroBus route between Ashton Vale Park & Ride and Cumberland Road is Balfour Beatty, but they are not responsible for work on Ashton Avenue Bridge. Separate contractors, who have not been appointed yet, will be responsible for the refurbishment of this listed structure, and for the design and installation of the new bridge at Bathurst Basin.
- any works along Cumberland Road itself are the responsibility of BCC, so local residents will be contacted by the Council when work is due to start. BCC are also responsible for the part of the AVTM MetroBus route that circumnavigates the City Centre.
- BCC have appointed three Communication Officers for MetroBus, one of whom is Rob Ash. The identities of the other two officers have not been made widely available, as apparently BCC are concerned that they could be targeted by local protest groups!

**9.4 “Towards Hydrocitizenship” / Water City Bristol Project:** several FrANC members, including Sara, Derek and Richard, attended a “Bristol Loves Tides” event at *The Lockside* on 22<sup>nd</sup> March to celebrate the high tide, which was enlivened by an appearance by two “Mud Men”. Notification of this event was provided by Helen Adshead, who is now part of the Water City Bristol project. Helen’s new role is to “*work with communities in Bedminster around WATER, and how communities connect with and through water*”.

**9.5 Status of book entitled “The Upper Cut”:** Roy reported that the publication of this book was in limbo at present, following the recent passing of the author, Ken Griffiths, after a period of ill-health. Roy said that he had been invited to the CLASS (Continued Learning at South Street) 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in June, and would discuss with them whether Fiducia Press can raise the money necessary to get the book published. The book is primarily aimed at upper juniors/first year seniors who attend schools in the Redcliffe area.

## 10. Any Other Business

- **Fund-raising:** following on from discussions earlier in the meeting, Sara requested that all Committee members should access the *Funderfinder* website and try to identify potential sources of funding for future FrANC activities.<sup>2</sup>
- **Future Committee Meetings and “keeping in touch”:** Sara asked all Committee Members to provide her with their mobile phone numbers. This would enable her to check their availability for future meetings and events by texting, rather than via e-mail which is more time-consuming. Regarding future Committee Meetings, it was agreed that Monday evenings were the most convenient for the majority of the Committee. Provisional dates for Committee Meetings for the remainder of this year were therefore set for 6<sup>th</sup> June, and 7<sup>th</sup> September, with the AGM to be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November.
- **Limited Clean-up along route of walk on 12<sup>th</sup> May:** Sara asked for volunteers to help remove litter from the proposed route of the “Bridges and Basins of the Avon New Cut” walk, to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

## 11. Date of next meeting

- As indicated above, the next Committee Meeting was scheduled for **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July** at 88 Cumberland Road. Committee Members were asked to arrive at 7:15pm in time for a 7:30pm start.
- Note that Table 1 includes any new actions raised at this meeting.

**Derek Hughes**  
**Secretary, Friends of the Avon New Cut**

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<sup>2</sup> Following the meeting, Ed has found that the *Funderfinder* website is apparently no longer operational! Ed has since provided contact details for Simon Purkiss, who may be able to help us locate funding sources.

Action No.	Description	Actioned by	Status
13-03-03	Contact Eric Dougall to confirm when May Gurney Bedminster Bridge – Bath Road Bridge riverbank clean-up will occur, and co-ordinate any possible involvement by FrANC. Also discuss removal of buddleia from Harbour Railway stone walls.	Sara	<i>Superseded</i>
13-03-12	Contact Chris Murray to arrange FrANC Website maintenance tutorial	Sara	<i>Superseded</i>
14-01-04	Contact Eric Dougall to find out if surplus Estate Services funding is available to cover the purchase of additional litter pickers	Sara	<i>Superseded</i>
14-01-05	Organise meeting with Noel McDonnell to discuss FrANC proposals for projects funded by Considerate Constructors Scheme	Sara	<i>Abandoned!</i>
14-02-01	Draft/send letter to Mark Wright/Charlie Bolton asking them to look into delays in granting of LNR status for Avon New Cut	Chris	<i>Completed</i>
14-02-02	Contact Neil Piper re. MetroBus route construction timescales in vicinity of Butterfly Junction, FrANC involvement/consultation in protecting site and provision of site access for FrANC maintenance activities while construction of MetroBus route in progress	Derek	<i>Completed</i>
14-02-03	Write and publish Autumn 2014 FrANC Newsletter	Sara, Derek	<i>Completed</i>
14-02-04	Fundraising – do recce. of locations of local car boot sales, before Christmas 2014	Chris	<i>In Progress</i>
14-02-05	Contact Alf Perry (Manager of Underfall Yard) to see if themed walk around boatyard possible as FrANC event in 2015	Roy	<i>Superseded</i>
14-02-06	Investigate/formulate walking route for Circular Walk around Bristol Bridges – another possible FrANC walking event for 2015	Roy	<i>Completed</i>
14-02-07	Complete/submit application form for Bristol 2015 European Green Capital Neighbourhood Partnership funding (by 30 <sup>th</sup> September)	Sara / Chris	<i>Completed</i>
14-02-08	Contact Southville Centre and retrieve any copies of FrANC booklets held by them	Liz	<i>Completed</i>
14-02-09	Contact Chris Murray to update FrANC Website with details of AGM and dates for Riverbank Clean-ups in 2015	Sara	<i>Completed</i>
15-01-01	Write and publish Summer 2015 FrANC Newsletter	Sara + others	<i>New Action</i>
15-01-02	Investigate what butterfly identification sources are available for use during the <i>Big Butterfly Count</i>	Margaret	<i>New Action</i>
15-01-03	Co-ordinate the sale and distribution of Boat Trip tickets to FrANC members	Derek	<i>New Action</i>
15-01-04	Contact John Penny (Bristol Records Office) to find out (i) if any digitised film clips are available of the New Cut and (ii) if so, would John be willing to present these to the FrANC membership (either following an AGM or an “open” meeting)	Richard	<i>New Action</i>
15-01-05	Design new Interpretation Board for installation near Underfall Yard sluices on Chocolate Path (Green Capital project)	Derek, Richard	<i>New Action</i>
15-01-06	In collaboration with Joe McKenna, assess feasibility of using ParkWork to undertake clearance of rubbish and vegetation along York Road riverbank, and if practicable explore funding opportunities with Eric Dougall (Estate Services Manager)	Sara	<i>New Action</i>

**Table 1      FrANC Committee Action List**



## APPENDIX A

### Meeting to discuss the celebration and promotion of Local Nature Reserves during 2015

14<sup>th</sup> April 2015

#### Question 1: What programmes are already in place to promote and celebrate LNRs during 2015?

Avon Valley Woodlands (South Gloucestershire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group recently rejuvenated – good opportunity to involve them with activities/promotion</li> <li>South Glos Council Discover Festival, held in autumn</li> </ul>
Avon New Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 existing interpretation panels, grant recently received for a sixth</li> <li>Good links to Walking for Health groups</li> <li>Existing FrANC website (but needs updating and is not easy to use)</li> <li>Running a walk for the Bristol Walking Festival in May</li> <li>Find it difficult to attract families to the site – could the celebration help with this?</li> <li>The group runs 3 litter picks a year and 3 to 4 guided walks a year (for a £2 donation)</li> <li>The group will be organising a history/wildlife boat trip this year (date tbc)</li> <li>The group carries out meadow management work at Butterfly Junction</li> <li>The group are trying to make links with local school</li> <li>Existing wildlife and history 'Treasure Hunt' trails are available to download from the FrANC website</li> </ul>
Badock's Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 existing interpretation panels</li> <li>Running a Green Hidden Treasures (sculpture) programme this year, funded by Green Capital 2015</li> <li>Good links with Badock's Wood Primary School and local Forest School</li> <li>Needs better links with secondary schools and local youth centre etc</li> </ul>
Eastwood Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing Friends of Eastwood Farm website</li> <li>New site leaflet (Wild City)</li> <li>3 new interpretation panels (Wild City)</li> <li>Group is putting together a management plan (with help from Becky and based on a survey/recommendations by Rupert Higgins)</li> <li>Running a programme of Wednesday workdays throughout the summer this year</li> <li>Concern about the closure of the depot: loss of surveillance by on site team and loss of facilities for hosting school groups</li> </ul>
Lawrence Weston Moor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 year anniversary of LNR designation in 2015</li> </ul>
Narrowways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On site signage needs replacing (old and damaged)</li> <li>Group would like new interpretation panels</li> <li>Existing Narrowways booklet (small fee to purchase)</li> <li>Programme of guided walks and workdays each year</li> <li>Existing website hosted by Narrowways Trust</li> </ul>
Stockwood Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 year anniversary of LNR designation in 2015</li> </ul>
Troopers Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 year anniversary of LNR designation in 2015</li> <li>Existing Friends of Troopers Hill website, Twitter, Facebook</li> <li>7 sites/interpretation panels around reserve where posters can be displayed</li> <li>Education packs for primary schools available to download from website</li> <li>Annual programme of events and workdays</li> <li>Good links with primary schools and Forest School practitioners</li> <li>Need better links with secondary schools</li> </ul>

## **APPENDIX A (Concluded)**

### **Question 2: What further ideas do we have to promote and celebrate LNRs during 2015?**

- Troopers Hill needs a geology panel
- Link to Walking for Health groups to run LNR celebrations walks
- Designate a specific route (easy access if possible) on each site for Health Walks
- Investment in LNR/Friends' websites
- Provide website training for LNR groups
- Share information on grants etc among LNR network
- Hold an information exchange event – groups visiting each other's LNR
- Create site leaflets for LNRs that don't currently have one or where existing one is very old
- Promote LNRs as a resource for Forest Schools
- Make sites more accessible for Forest Schools
- Parkwork group is available free to groups for practical work on their sites
- Offer training for LNR groups in health and safety for leading walks and workdays
- Possible link to Parkhive photography project
- Bristol Post promotion campaign
- Create a leaflet/map/brief text that shows all the LNRs in Bristol – for download
- Create green routes/public transport routes to travel to/between LNRs
- BNHC currently have plans to run events on 7 LNRs as part of their outreach programme but happy to do more
- Improve/update LNR information on BCC website

### **Suggested Way Forward**

The following is a suggested way forward – based on the range of ideas discussed and the expectation that there will be a LNR celebration / promotional programme taking place during October 2015:

1. BCC to offer funding support to allow LNR community groups to update and improve their web site (suggested approach is a fixed budget with invitation to bid for funds);
2. A programme of walking events to take place across all Local Nature Reserves during September and through October (outlining the LNR network and unique value of individual sites);
3. An event to take place giving LNR community reps an opportunity to come together and share ideas / best practice (e.g. a social event at Beeses Tea Gardens at Eastwood Farm was suggested), and
4. That a citywide map (paper and virtual) be created to promote the network of Local Nature Reserves, to include a green travel plan, with clear links to individual LNR web sites.

To take these ideas forward - can I invite volunteers to sit on a working group?

**Feedback sought – by 7<sup>th</sup> May please to Richard Ennion [richard.ennion@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:richard.ennion@bristol.gov.uk)**