

FoBRA Committee and AGM 1st May 14 - Summary:

Rec Tribunal Judgement: In summarising, Nigel Websper said the Tribunal has ruled that the Trust's land swap is not permissible and Bath Rugby can occupy only that part of the Rec where it is at present. The Trust wants to appeal against this.

Stag/hen Party Houses: Patrick Rotheram listed 23 properties in central Bath advertised as "Party Houses", with beds for more than 10 people (7 in one street alone). These are lucrative but often noisy, leaving rubbish outside, but complying with few regulations, such as for fire, change of use or paying business rates. Several other members have the same problems.

Transport Strategy: The Council's Transport Strategy was launched at the Bath City Conference on 30th Apr, Patrick Rotheram said, and would be open for consultation soon. At the moment it is rather "generic" but later features include a traffic management plan for fewer vehicles in the centre, an eastern P&R, and an A36/46 link.

Chairman's Report: In his last report, after 6 years, Henry Brown covered: his meeting with the Council Leader (flood defences, transport, public realm, housing and public drunkenness), the Rec, and Sydney Gardens upgrade. During the meeting, this led to wide debates on Sydney Gardens, Dorchester Street busgate and the Council's new alcohol licensing policy.

Planning Report: This covered: Core Strategy, the Foxhill plan and Planning Guidance. During the meeting, Robin Kerr expanded on these, and added items on office block proposals for Pinesgate, Quays Waterside consultation, and Public Lavatory reductions in the parks.

Next meetings: 10th July and 9th Sept.

AGM: During the subsequent AGM, Henry Brown and Nigel Websper stood down after 6 years as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, to be replaced by Robin Kerr and Nick Tobin, both of whom set out their manifestos. Kind words were said about Henry's service as Chairman. However, no replacement for Robin as Secretary has yet been found (though Nick will take on Chairmanship of the Planning Sub-Committee, and Van DuBose will be available for special assignments). The accounts were examined and approved. Wine and nibbles were then served.