

THE FRIENDS OF OLD PORTSMOUTH ASSOCIATION, 19 May 2021

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held online via Zoom, Wednesday 19 May 2021

Present

Gail Baird (Chair, Website), Liz Winder (Treasurer), Mary Tollow (Membership), Mike Dobson (Traffic), Anna Koor (Secretary), Graeme Swinburne (Planning), Rob Wood (Lord Mayor & Ward Councillor), Bob Stewart (Spice Island), Ian Holder (Ward Councillor), Chris Attwell (Ward Councillor). Guest speaker: Jenni Jones, Sustrans. Other guests: Deborah Dalzell (PCC Road Safety Officer), David Payne (Deputy Head, PGS), Sharon Morris (Resident)

FOOPA invited Jenni Jones to brief the committee on the School Streets initiative <http://schoolstreets.org.uk> which is being launched in Portsmouth at St Jude's School, St Nicholas Street and Brambles School in Southsea, this September. Jenni works for Sustrans, a charity that finds ways to make it easier for people to walk and cycle. School Streets is designed to address a range of issues — road safety, air and noise pollution, inconsiderate parking and congestion around schools — as well as increasing active travel and physical / mental health benefits that come from children moving more. The launch at St Jude's is in partnership with the Council (enquiries: schoolstreets@portsmouthcc.gov.uk). There will be a 'taster day' at St Jude's on 29 June 2021, with the trial starting on 13 September for 8 weeks. Residents affected by the scheme will be contacted individually in person and by letter. During this period, there will be road closures around the school from 8am-9am and 2.30pm-3.30pm with stewards staffing barriers in case residents or delivery vehicles need access, and support from PCC community wardens and parking control officers will be provided. See St Jude's website for further information, or contact them on 023 9282 4061 or office@st-judes.portsmouth.sch.uk. Mike asked what metrics are being used to measure the success of the scheme. Deborah Dalzell assured the committee that the initiative will be data driven, including monitoring of modal shifts from car use and improvements in air pollution. The Pompey Stomp app will be used to measure the travel modes of pupils. Sharon Morris alerted Jenni and Debra to considerations such as neighbouring residents who receive carer visits during road closure times, and the Clean Air Zone implementation in November 2021 which may increase traffic volumes of vans, taxis and heavy vehicles on Pembroke Road.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ann Wilson (Social Secretary).

2 Declarations of Interest – Gail asked all to confirm their declarations of interest should any matters arise during the course of FOOPA business and all agreed.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting on 21 April 2021 were approved by the Chair, having been circulated to all the Committee via email.

3 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

University of Portsmouth Sports Centre – Gail has invited representatives to the June meeting to brief the committee on the forthcoming opening of the new Museum Road facility.

4 Correspondence and Communications

Phone Boxes in Old Portsmouth – Jane Linford, the Co-op Member Pioneer for Portsmouth will be meeting with Hotwalls Studios to discuss potential guardianship of the Broad Street phone box.

Arts Society Portsea Island – FOOPA received an enquiry from ASPI committee member Philip Hill about exploring the potential for linking up with them and Friends of the Cathedral to organise joint excursions and other areas of co-operation. All agreed this would be a good win-win, and Anna will respond.

Ineos / BAR Building – Residents would like to know what the situation is with the BAR Building and rumours of new occupants following the unsuccessful America's Cup outcome. Anna had followed this up with PCC, along with questions regarding the underutilised BAR carpark. Cllr Rob Wood received a response from John Cooper, CEO of BAR Technologies suggesting a meeting with Anna and Graeme. PCC's parking office manager Denise Bastow confirmed that when social distancing restrictions ease, there will be more people working in the building.

5 Treasurer's Report

Liz has received correspondences from Lloyds stating they are considering her requests regarding copy statements, online banking and updated signatories.

6 Membership Report

No changes to report in terms of membership movements. Bank statements should show a £20 credit on 9 April 2021 as a bulk deposit of 4 annual subscriptions. Mary has the paperwork from Alistair to indicate who these belong to and will update the records.

7 Planning Report

Fontenoy House – Graeme has written to the Planning office to seek further details regarding the grounds for objections and ultimately its refusal.

Royal Naval and Royal Albert Yacht Club – Cllr Rob Wood has been asked by the Chair of the club to meet with FOOPA and discuss their application for conversion of the second floor to residential accommodation. The Chair is understood to be disappointed with the reaction of residents. Graeme highlighted the pertinent issue that PCC Highways, as Consultee, has recommended refusal of the application due to inadequate parking amenities.

A'Beckett Court, St Thomas Street – Graeme is writing to Planning Enforcement at PCC to clarify what is permissible in terms of tall fencing around the front gardens of properties.

8 Social Programme - Ann will be meeting with Liz next Wednesday morning to discuss financial procedures regarding social events. She is liaising with Friends of Portsmouth Cathedral regarding social events will be circulating details of any excursions as and when arrangements are fixed.

9 Environment

Camber Right of Way – The applicants are meeting Stephen Morgan MP on Saturday. He is hoping for an update from PCC by then, regarding the submission of paperwork to the Planning Inspector for a final decision to be made about the Order for a Restricted Byway.

Dog Fouling – Committee members are concerned about the profusion of dog faeces on pavements around Old Portsmouth and asked Councillors if additional signage can be erected.

10 Website – Keep your news and views coming in so that Gail can upload links and updates.

11 Traffic

OPATS – Mike received a response from Steven Flynn, PCC's Principal Traffic & Development Planning Engineer

who is concerned that there may be a reluctance to air the report until funding for the recommendations becomes available. He will share Steven's response with ward councillors, who were disappointed to hear this and will discuss the matter with colleagues. Mike reiterated that this should be treated as an evolving working document — subsequent updates include School Streets, Shipwrights Way completion, Clean Air Zone implementation.

University Sports Centre – FOOPA responded to the Traffic Regulation Order 42/2021 for reduction of on-street pay and display in Museum Road, which has been raised in order to facilitate 3 new access junctions to the Sports Centre. The thrust of the response (see FOOPA website) relates to road safety issues and associated concerns over PGS parent drivers, who will have fewer options for parking. Mike drew attention to a glossy artist impression posted on the Sports Centre construction hoarding, depicting wide cycle lanes and footways on Cambridge Road with very little traffic. It is fictitious and is understood to have since been removed.

E-Scooters — Concerns continue to be voiced from residents regarding illegal E-Scooter use, particularly when used on the pavements and the dangers to pedestrians. Cllr Lynn Stagg (Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation) confirmed to the Portsmouth Cycle Forum AGM that there will be 600 Voi E-Scooters by June, in a city-wide trial until the end of the year.

13 Ward Councillor Reports

The Committee were updated by Rob, Chris and Ian about the new political landscape of the Council, following the recent local elections.

14 Committee Admin — None.

15 AOB – None.

16 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 16 June 2021 at 7pm by Zoom.

