

---

## Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 29 June 2017, Broadmead Baptist Church 10:30 – 12.30**

Union Street (next to *Tesco Express*), Bristol, BS1 3HY

### MINUTES

---

**Present** **Trustees:** Trustees: Chair: Judith Brown (JB), Treasurer: Stephanie Batterbury (SB), Graham Briscoe (GB), David Elson (DE), Gloria Morris (GM), Gillian Seward (GS), Tony Wilson (TW),  
**Staff:** Minutes: Yolanda Pot - Finance & Administration Manager (YP), Karen Bowers - Forum Project Manager (KB). **Attendance - Members: 39; non-members: 24; Total: 63**

**Apologies** Pat Foster (Trustee), Jenny Smith (Trustee), Mark Foster, Roy Hackett, Val Jenkins, Alan Pratley and Rosa

1. **Chair's Welcome** - housekeeping, apologies and introductions  
JB welcomed everyone and thanked staff and Trustees for all their hard work. She spoke about our current funding situation and about our collaborative work as a member of BEING (Bristol Equalities Interactive Networking Group)

2. **BOPF Reports**

2.1. **Review of BOPF's 2<sup>nd</sup> Year as a Charity & BEING**, Judith Brown, Chair  
See PowerPoint presentation: *BOPF\_AGM\_PRESENTATION\_290617.pptx*

2.2. **BOPF Going Forward**, Karen Bowers, Forum Manager  
See PowerPoint presentation: *BOPF\_AGM\_PRESENTATION\_290617.pptx*

2.3. **Questions**

3. **SPEAKER**

**Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees - *Bristol Older People and the Future***

Marvin values our manifesto. He has been involved with the Race Equality Manifesto. The BCC is only one of many players in shaping the lives of people in Bristol. We face major challenges in Bristol, partly due to change in population, i.e. an increase in younger and older people. As well as a changing/growing population there is a decrease in funding from the Government. I refer to the government austerity policy as a "*disinvestment*" policy. I do not make the decision about how our funding is distributed. I know that our decreased funding has had a direct impact to BOPF as you were not successful with the BIF. However voluntary sector organisation can provide services that other sectors can't, so I would like to reach out to these organisations. A fragmented approach to leadership has not served the people in Bristol. We are in the process of trying to deliver a City Plan which recognises that what one person/organisation receives is the result of the decisions of many.

**Questions**

**Q** Will you be reviewing the following: Council Tax; bikes on pavements and care services?

**A** Council tax does possibly need reviewing. We are going to take visitors tax to the Government. Bikes on pavements are an ongoing issue.

**Q** Fremantle Road residents have problems with fly tipping. Albert gave Marvin some photos of rubbish. **A** We have launched the *Clean Streets campaign*, which includes the issue of dog fouling and getting people to change their behaviour. 2. It costs the council millions to pick up litter. We have also found a company to fine people on the spot and crash vans.

**Q** What are you going to do to try to improve the air quality in Bristol? I know you are working on a congestion charge. In order to reduce the number of cars coming into the city, the number of Park and Ride locations and services should be increased; there are only 4 in Bristol (Cambridge has 9). What are your powers in the transport area now that there is a Metro Mare (West of England Combined Authority Mayor)? What is your relationship with metro mare?

**A** We have competing sovereignties. Yes the air quality is really poor, however I do have my concerns about the congestion charge. Which cars are targeted? Older cars. Who drive older cars? "Poor" people! I would like to see a 50 year plan on what we have to do to create a cleaner city. We are the only city without a mass transit network. We are putting money into looking at whether we can build an underground in the city.

**Q** What are you doing about the closure of public libraries? **A** This falls under *Neighbourhood Services*. We have to find new ways of doing things. For example, how should we assess which libraries to keep open? We are going to meet with *love libraries campaign group*. We need to be innovative and inventive. We have mapped all the assets of the city, so that we can make sure that services are evenly distributed across the city.

**Q** What is the city council doing to make sure the people are safe in high story building?

**A** There is a plan in place. 1 To review the fire status of all tower blocks. None of our tower blocks have the same cladding as the Grenfell tower block. They are fire retardant. We have been talking with Simon Chelton, the Chief Fire Officer and have checked 30 of the 59 tower blocks in Bristol. We are going into schools to talk to children so they understand what we are doing. All of our caretakers now check the cladding for damage.

**Q** What is the council's policy in housing drug addicts in the Stokes Croft area/Ashley ward? There appear to be about 5 or 6 homes with addict. Could that area be made safer? What is your housing policy? **A** There should be a city that is safe for everyone. If there is a hotspot we need to come up with an action plan. Could you contact your councillor? We are going to review our letting process, and we need to look at how to build balanced communities?

**Q** I am a volunteer for Bristol Drugs Project. Volunteer get training sessions. We have one of the worst crack problems outside of London. **A** I used to live in St Pauls and some of my old friends became dealers and/or crack heads. One of them used to be a super hero at school. This is why we prioritise investing in children and mental health and building houses for people. Short term I would be interesting to talk to you about these challenges. There are no easy solutions.

**Q** There are only 2 buses in Frenchay and we can't use the Metro System. **A** We are trying to retro-fit the plans designed in 2013/14. Having a Metro Mayor gives us more powers.

## **BREAK**

### **4. Lord Mayor Cllr. Lesley Alexander - BOPF President**

Lesley spoke about what they are doing in her ward/Frenchay area. They use the community room in the sheltered housing to arrange meetings for isolated and lonely people. They have 40 members and meet twice a month and have transport for people who need it.

She is also involved in the charity *Contact the Elderly*, which arranges tea parties once a month. It has also been suggested at looking at the possibility of visiting isolated people in their own homes. She asked: "What ideas do you have?"

#### **IDEAS**

- There are quite a lot of lunch clubs in Bristol. There is one in Hotwells.
- Advertise better.
- Start a men's group. The Xmas period can be lonely for some isolated people. There is the Marmalade Trust.
- I have been involved in a performance in Southville about loneliness. Southville Centre, 7 July, 1pm.
- We have set up IT campaigns in 2 locations in the South of Bristol to help older people with IT.
- Linkage put on lots of classes which made a big difference, even though funding has now been withdrawn.
- I live on the boundary of St George and Speedwell and there are no services there. They have all moved up to Fishponds.
- BAB has arranged with the central library to have a community board.

### **5. Previous AGM meeting**

#### **5.1. Minutes of previous AGM meeting**

The minutes of the AGM meeting held on 19 May 2016 were approved as an accurate record.

#### **5.2. Matters arising from the previous AGM minutes**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

### **6. Treasurer's report & questions - Stephanie Batterbury**

Stephanie explained BOPF's current financial situation: including the income and expenditure (SOFA), the financial position (BS) and our funding situation.

Normally there would be a year's comparison column however there is only a 9 month period comparison column this year as we became a charity in July 2015. The balance sheet shows that BOPF was worth £21,584 at 31 March 2017. The figures are further broken down in the notes to the accounts.

We were not successful in our BCC Bristol Impact Fund application, however we have been given an 95% grant extension to Dec 2017. We have put in one funding application and are looking at submitting further funding applications. We are also looking at working as part of BEING.

**Questions Q** Are your reserves for the protection of your staff? **A** Yes, our designated reserves are to cover wages, redundancies and closure costs.

### **7. Annual Accounts**

#### **7.1. Resolution to approve the BOPF annual accounts**

**Proposer:** Graham Briscoe, **Seconder:** Angela Auset

## 7.2. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Rupert Taylor, our current Independent Examiner, has agreed to be our Independent Examiner for the 2017-18 period on the condition that the 2017 AGM is held about 3 months after the end of the period. **Proposer:** Graham Briscoe, **Seconder:** Angela Auset

## 8. **Election of Trustees - standing for re-election to be a Trustee:**

Judith Brown (Chair); Stephanie Batterbury (Treasurer); Graham Briscoe (Trustee); David Elson (Trustee); Pat Foster (Trustee), Gloria Morris (Trustee); Gillian Seward, (Trustee); Jenny Smith (Trustee) and Tony Wilson (Trustee). Trustees are standing down and need to be re-elected: **Proposer for re-election:** Angela Auset, **Seconder:** Zia Haque

## 9. **OPEN FORUM - Anyone can raise issues of concern**

- Karen Bowers - there is going to be a **Neighbourhoods & Supporting People Bristol City Council six weeks consultation**; closing 5 Sept.
- Angela Auset - BOPF have a major part to play in **Celebrating Age UK Festival**. There is an arts and crafts competition. Please do register your interest.
- Tony Wilson, BOPF Trustee - 2 of the BOPF stalls I enjoy the most are the **Pride Festival stall** and the BRI stall. Pride is on Saturday 7 July at the Millennium Square in the centre. It is on all day and is also for families. No requirement to be gay to go there, just go! If you would like to volunteer please do get in touch.
- **Bristol Walking Alliance** has set up a petition to tackle parking on pavements in Bristol. This is a particular problem for older and disabled people, and parents pushing babies/young children in buggies. The link is here if you would like to sign: [http://epetitions.bristol.gov.uk/epetition\\_core/view/bwapavements](http://epetitions.bristol.gov.uk/epetition_core/view/bwapavements)
- **Orb** is a small start-up to combat social isolation by creating a product for older people that will be like a tablet but much simpler to use, so you don't have to use complicated modern technology. Please get in touch if you would like to give us ideas.
- What is the alternative to **parking on pavements**? Getting the BCC to lower the pavement in front of your house for free so that you can park your car there. The Mayor dealt with this issue, saying there were better alternatives.
- Lord Mayor Cllr. Lesley Alexander - FREE EVENT Wed. 5 July (held quarterly), **Lady Mayoress at home** at the Mansion House in Clifton, 3 pm. You will have the opportunity to look around the house and there is also a museum including the city silver. If you are an individual you can just turn up. If you are a group let us know in advance. <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-and-mayor/lord-mayor-of-bristol>
- It seems to be the council's policy, when building new estates to build narrower roads.

## 10. Close Open Forum Meeting at 12:30 hrs

---

**Next Open Forum Meeting:** Thursday 10 Aug 2017, Broadmead Baptist Church, 10:30-12:30 hrs, Union Street (between *Yorkshire Building Society* & *Tesco Express*), BS1 3HY. Dedicated to the **Neighbourhoods & Supporting People consultations from Bristol City Council** (end date 5 Sept). Council representatives will present, guide and answer questions. Paper copies will be available. FFI: <https://bopf.org.uk/our-meetings/>

Signed (Chair):

Date:

---