

Summary of Minutes of FoBRA Meeting 9th Sept 14

Julian Deverell: This was the 4th and last of FoBRA's programme to meet the main Parliamentary candidates before the General Election. Julian has lived in Bath since 1987 and runs an e-commerce company. He joined UKIP a year ago: his first sally into politics. He emphasised the freedom which UKIP gives its members and candidates to think (and vote!) for themselves. If elected our MP he would find innovative ways to tackle our traffic (eg modern IT methods to encourage bus use); promote a café culture in the evenings; and address the high house prices. During questions he was asked about: tackling problems on a joint basis; reducing the UK deficit; air quality; banning city centre traffic; and adopting some of the laws from the EU (which UKIP hates so much).

Transport: We have responded to consultations on the Council's draft Transport Strategy; and on the works about to start on London Road. We also discussed the dreadful state of some roads in Bath – their surfaces, marked lines, drainage and signage.

Bath Governance: We have responded to the Council's consultation on improving Bath's Governance, with a small majority in favour of the "Voice for Bath" Committee. We have also been watching the parallel attempt by a group of citizens to petition for a referendum on an Executive Mayor for B&NES.

Flood Risk: Henrietta Park is much concerned about flooding upstream of Pulteney Bridge, the risk to 1800 houses being considerable. We discussed the lack of (a) measures to control this and (b) evacuation plans.

Planning Report: This covered student housing blocks, Beechen Cliff, Rugby at the Rec, restoration of Queen Square, the Pinesgate site, and a Ministry consultation on planning changes.

Next Meeting: This will be on Tuesday 4th Nov 14 at Widcombe Junior School and will include addresses and questions by the leader of the Lib Dem Group in Council; and by the Curo Chief Executive.