

**Transition Larkhall
Minutes of AGM held 1/2/2018**

1. Apologies: Joanna Wright (Website manager), Paul Raithby (Committee member), Alex MacKichan-Burke (Assistant Treasurer, APCG), Annie Beardsley (APCG), Kathy Cook (APCG), Helen Kendall (APCG), Jane Shaw, Phil de Souza, Carol Bowery, Phil Smith, Joanna Cacas

Attended by: Bryn Jones (Chair), Ros Hough (Treasurer), Lin Patterson (Councillor), Rob Appleyard (Councillor), Shehana Gomez (APCG), Kristina Mowat, Anthony Waterhouse, Teresa Waterhouse, Brett Vandrie, Tay Vandrie, Jonathan Ford, John Ingham, Mairaid King, Freya Steele, Susan Trail, Carol England

2. Minutes of last TL AGM held in 2017 were approved (can be viewed on TL website).

3. Alice Park Community Garden (APCG) Report was written by Kathy Cook and read by Ros Hough:

The year began with a successful campaign to retain the circular greeting bed at the park as a community growing space and in collaboration with Vegmead growers. We now have a willow edged garden with perennial planting known as "Minimead - an edible ornamental bed". Many thanks to our local councillors support with this project.

We remain members of FCFCG (Federation of city Farms & Community Gardens), we have been offered support from Avon Wildlife Trust and enjoyed growing Shitake mushrooms with the National Scheme "Grow Wild"

The Garden team enjoyed another year participating in the Larkhall Festival and raising funds with delicious goodies.

There was an enjoyable day moving and sharing a reliable source of organic manure – gardeners gold.

The Garden hosted forest school activities for the Snapdragons Nursery children and the project was pleased to lend support to the NCS (National Citizens Service) providing a location for their fundraising day.

The Oak Barn also hosted a number of parties raising almost enough on it's own to cover the annual insurance.

A grant of £2000 was won from the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme for training sessions, these will be delivered with support from BAGs – esp. TB & BOG

As reported at the last AGM, the members of the existing APCG Committee (who have served for the last 7 years) have decided that 2017 will be their last growing season, and they have been looking to hand over the running of APCG to a person or group as a viable project (with money in the bank) to continue the garden's valued work in the community. Thus the existing APCG Committee will ultimately disband later this year.

Efforts are still being made to find another local group willing to take on running the Community Garden and Oak Shelter and possible leads are being followed up. However, although negotiations continue, there are no firm offers/takers to date.

In the event that the APCG Committee are unsuccessful in formally finding a successor by Sept/Oct 2018, the Transition Larkhall Committee have kindly agreed to take on the ultimate responsibility of winding up the Community Garden finances and handing the land back to the Trustees of Alice Park.

All involved hope that a way forward can be found that will avoid this being necessary.

Lin Patterson added that "Men's Sheds" were interested to have the garden as a location.

At this AGM The 3 people present who have volunteered at APCG expressed their interest in assisting APCG to continue (Shehana Gomez, Brett Vandrie, Tay Vandrie)

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts were presented by Ros Hough.

Accounts can be viewed on the TL website:

The main financial activity for Transition Larkhall (TL) in 2017 was the School Run Project which had a grant from The University of Bath, administered by the South West Foundation. This research has now been completed and the grant accounted for. We are grateful to the University's Public Engagement Unit for providing this funding.

Donations at TL meetings in 2017 amounted to £66, plus £63.14 through online donations via Localgiving, a total of **129.14 for TL general purposes**. In addition, £55 for pollution monitors was collected, and £40 for the Artificial Glaciers charity.

Expenditure was £75.40 for room hire and meeting expenses, plus £40 for printing questionnaires and publicity information related to the Bridge Project (Safe Route to Alice Park).

There was no outlay for the website as two years had been paid for in advance. The next payment required for this will be in the Autumn of 2018, when a decision will have to be made about continuing with the website – as well as the cost, it needs someone to administer it. Currently Joanna Wright, who set it up the website, continues to manage it, and she has kindly indicated that she will do this for a further year. If you feel you could offer help with running the website, Joanna would appreciate that.

Current TL funds amount to £225.47 in Bath Building Society and £603.91 in the Co-op Community Directplus Account.

Thank s to Alex for all her support and assistance with the spreadsheet and all of the accounts over the year. Thank you to Anthony Waterhouse, who has kindly checked the finished accounts for us.

Alice Park Community Garden finances are covered in their own Financial Report, which has been prepared by Alex MacKichan-Burke (below):

Alice Park Community Garden: Annual accounts summary 2017-2018

Balance at start of 2017 - £2640.92

2017 Income - £2,319.65

2017 Expenditure - £688.39

Balance at start of 2018 - £4272.18

2017 Breakdown:

Income

£130 Barn Hire

£74.65 Larkhall Festival

£125 Garden takings and donations

£2,000 Tesco's Bags for Life Grant

Expenditure

£300 Sign painting

£100 Compost

£201.60 Insurance

£86.79 Garden sundries

Notes:

£2000 of the balance is to be used for the Tesco's Bags for Life scheme

If the garden is taken over by another group then they will need to consider annual costs for the website and insurance. The APCG website is hosted by GoDaddy; hosting was paid for in advance

and will last until March 2020. The domain name is registered with 1&1, and is renewed yearly in January. The Committee has renewed the domain name from Jan 2018-2019 (yearly cost approx. £20). It will be up to the new group whether or not they want to continue with the website, however the insurance will need to be paid for annually.

5. Chair's report on 2017 activities given by Bryn Jones:

TL Activities in 2017

During 2017 your committee has been very busy on projects to encourage more walking and cycling and discourage car use. Through the website we have also communicated various campaigns and projects concerning energy use and activities such as recycling.

- During the General Election we linked up with Transition Bath to put environmental questions to the main parliamentary candidates.
- Your committee supported the Bathampton Meadows Alliance campaign against the proposed Park and Ride on the meadows.
- Mainly through the efforts of Jo Wright, and her family, plans for a youngsters' skate park, within Alice Park, was finally approved by the Alice Park Trust committee. TL backed this project because it would help improve young people's outdoor life and reduce car travel out of Larkhall to transport them to sites on the other side of town.
- We have also had continuous representation on BANES's Active Travel and Accessibility Forum. Although changes to the councillor with that portfolio, plus the new member's subsequent illness, reduced its meetings to only four during 2017. However the Forum has provided a channel to help maintain the status of the London Road cycle path approaching Cleveland Place; which at one point seemed threatened with removal or severe restrictions.
- Submissions were also made to BANES consultation on the scope of a Clean Air Zone for which the Government invited BANES to make proposals. Through this process we were able to publicise the results of TL's traffic study (School Run Research Project, see below) conducted under the auspices of the University of Bath and funded by South West Foundation's *Community Matters* programme.

Thanks to Jo Wright and Ros Hough's huge efforts this has been one of our two main projects this year. The other was investigations into possible pedestrian routes to Alice Park over the Lambrook.

The Traffic Survey – School Run Research Project

With the help of a magnificent team of volunteer helpers we counted several weeks of traffic diverting or 'rat-running' through Larkhall, principally from Gloucester Road via Deadmill Lane. These data showed definitively that peak-time traffic levels are associated with parental transport of children to schools on the west side of Bath. Details of the results can be found via the TL website or:

<http://transitionlarkhall.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Pngs.pdf>

- The main finding that peak hour traffic volumes correlate with school-bound traffic has been acclaimed as a significant contribution to tackling traffic congestion and pollution in NE Bath.
- TL has publicised the findings and significance at presentations to councillors and officers and also in public events – such as BANES's' local consultations on an Air Quality Action Plan – and a very well-attended meeting on 'Traffic & Pollution Problems' with contributions from Bath's new MP, Wera Hobhouse at the New Oriel Hall.

The findings also fed into the policies of kindred organisations: Transition Bath and Cycle Bath.
See:

<http://transitionbath.org/understanding-baths-transport/>

<http://transitionbath.org/transition-baths-thoughts-current-bnes-transport-policy/>

Pedestrian route to Alice Park across the Lambrook

We continued preparing the case for a safe route to Gloucester Road and Alice Park from Larkhall Square. The current main approach via Lambridge Street, is unsatisfactory and potentially dangerous, especially for children and those with mobility problems. The road is one-way, lacks pavement on one side and exits London Road where HGVs and speeding traffic hurtle past. An abortive proposal was made in 2015 to McCarthy Stone, developers of the retirement homes project opposite the Park. But they declined, citing concerns for wildlife and future residents' security.

In 2017 we identified different routes to a bridge across the Lam, outside the development, nearer to the London Road on Gloucester Road. This was worked up into:

- an architect's design sketch
- a structural engineer's outline specification
- a submission to the BANES cabinet member for travel at the Active Travel and Accessibility.
- a site visit by Kelvin Packer BANES's Group Manager for Highways and Traffic.

Official responses to the proposals have been positive and we aim to pursue submission of detailed proposals and funding options during 2018.

As part of the planning for the proposals we conducted a survey of over 250 local people, including users of Alice Park. Stand-out results were that:

- 96% (245 people) would use a safer route over the brook.
- 98% (251) would like a safer bridge/path from the Square to the Park.

Through Jo's direct lobbying of the leader of BANES cabinet we were also able to get the periodic flooding on the way to the Park - at the junction of Lambridge Street and London Road – remedied: a small but helpful stop gap measure!

Closing thanks of Chair's Report

Finally, many thanks to all members and supporters who have contributed to TL's work on the above causes during 2017. The committee would particularly like to thank Councillors Rob Appleyard and Lin Patterson who have given invaluable help with projects such as the Lambridge bridge project and the Alice Park Skate Park.

Immense thanks also to all the volunteers who braved pernicious weather and, occasionally, hostile public attitudes to the traffic and safe route surveys.

The Alice Park Garden group has also made a real impact on their side of the Transition programme and as they now plan a well-deserved retirement from Garden activity we thank them for all of their hard work over the past ten (?) years.

I would also like personally to thank Jo, whose driving force made most of TL's 2017 projects possible and Ros, whose calm and efficient administration and back-up support has been indispensable. Paul Raithby has also managed to combine running a demanding business with loyal and heartening support through most committee meetings and deliberations. Thanks Paul.

Finally, finally: your committee cannot keep up all of this work indefinitely. There is a real risk that our other commitments and life-courses will force one or more of us to resign during the

coming year. TL would then probably have to close down. We can mitigate this prospect if just a couple of people would join the committee, take up some of the load and maybe consider, eventually, replacing the present post-holders. Initial commitments would only be a few hours a month.

The future of Larkhall's Transition is in your hands!

6. Election of Transition Larkhall Committee

The existing committee was re-elected Bryn Jones (Chair) Ros Hough (Treasurer) Joanna Wright (Website Manager) Paul Raithby (Member).

Two new members came forward and were elected to the Committee: Kristina Mowat and Carol Bowery (in her absence).

Teresa Waterhouse offered to learn how to do the mailings/membership from TL Gmail account. Our two local councillors Lin and Rob continue to be invited to attend the Committee Meetings.

7. Open Meeting in March 3rd. Joanna Wright reported on this forthcoming meeting organised by Transition Larkhall:

To be held at the New Oriel Hall on the 3rd March 2018 from 9.30am to 2pm

“Thinking differently about travel in and around Bath”

We want your ideas about transport in Bath

Wera Hobhouse MP and other political and campaign groups will be present to join the discussion about the future of travel in and around Bath and to hear what all constituents have to say. A professional facilitator will lead the discussion, focused on the idea of “Thinking differently about travel in and around Bath”, instead of thinking up solutions, let's go back to first principals, who is moving around and why are they moving that way, how do you travel, and how would you like to travel, around Bath? Help create a transport vision for Bath.

The event is free and open to all members of the public. Booking is essential as numbers of places are limited. Please RSVP if you would like to attend. Please send your details to Joanna Wright at jojowright@postmaster.co.uk or to transitionlarkhall@gmail.com

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY YOUNG AND OLD WELCOME

Call to cake makers – your help is required! If you would be willing to make a cake for refreshments at the event please contact Joanna Wright jojowright@postmaster.co.uk or Ros Hough ros.hough2003@hotmail.co.uk

For anyone who wants to come to the Meeting March 3rd You need to sign up to book a place by emailing Joanna Wright at jojowright@postmaster.co.uk

8. Boundary Changes to Lambridge Ward for BANES Council Elections

Cllr Patterson showed maps of proposed boundary changes. <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/9913>

The current consultation ends on February 19th so all comments should be sent to the Boundary Commission < reviews@lgbce.org.uk > before this date. The re-arranged boundaries splits our community - despite the fact that proposed changes are supposed to reflect community identity - by taking Bailbrook, St Saviour's Church and Fairfield Park out of Larkhall. The remaining ward area, re-named 'Larkhall', would have only one councillor. The meeting agreed that the range of activities and interests in Larkhall was too much to be handled by a single councillor.

<p>There is a meeting on Friday February 9th at Larkhall United Reform Church, Worcester Buildings for anyone concerned about the proposed ward boundary changes.</p>
