

Chair's Report

**First up thanks to all who supported various TL activities during 2016 !**

**These included** ✍

**Alice Park Community Garden** – about which Kathy Cook will report more later –which has become an important centre for sustainable and learning activities, as well as a great community asset for the Park.

**Cycle paths and safe routes**

We continued to press for safe cycling routes out of Larkhall and have been advising BaNES on the most appropriate cycle access to London Rd and then on to Grosvenor and K&A canal.

We organised the public meeting to air views on the resurfacing of the canal towpath. At which considerable concern was expressed about the visual impact and facilitation of dangerous cycling this would entail. Subject to safeguards TL supported the upgrading of the towpath mainly because it involved the improvement of the muddy and uneven surface of the path from the railway bridge to the towpath. On balance this seems to have created a major improvement not just for cycling but also for pedestrians and wheelchair and pushchair access.

We continue to press BaNES for signage on that path to alert cyclists, and also for a crossing over London Rd to Grosvenor Bridge Rd. The junction with Lambridge Street is a particular concern and in December we held an open meeting to learn how the Batheaston river cycle bridge was promoted and eventually built. As an obvious solution to the Lambridge Street junction as far as Alice Park is concerned would be a footbridge over the Lam Brook. Watch this space.

**Also . . .** TL members contributed to the Clean Air campaign *led by Fiona Williams* which collected over 1,000 signatures and for which we organised a public meeting here at the NOH.

**Renewables**

Regrettably TL has been less active on the promotion of local alternative energy. However, we supported the solar project at St Saviour's Infants school which was eventually successful in securing funding for a rooftop panels there.

We have also publicised the Bath and West Community Energy enterprise which has gone from strength to strength and we now have a water turbine installed at Bathampton Mill. BWCE hopes to add energy supply for local needs in the near future. Again – watch this space.

**Publicity and Communications**

All these efforts have been immensely helped by the successful running of the TL website which has become a major resource. Thanks and congratulations to Joanna Wright who worked immensely hard to build and develop the site from scratch.

**Traffic congestion vs alternative transport provision**

Together with TL's stalwart treasurer and 'progress chaser' Ros Hough, Joanna was also successful in securing a grant of £811.50 from the **Community Matters** fund through the University of Bath and the Southwest Foundation. This is a hugely important project because it is generating original data on the volumes and sources of traffic through Larkhall. The eventual aim of this information gathering is to propose and encourage different transport modes for parents transporting children to and from schools in Bath as a whole –more from Joanna later on this.

Although it NOW seems to have council backing the proposed Park and Ride at Bathampton Meadows remains hugely controversial and TL is opposed to it because the alleged benefits do not outweigh the financial and environment costs and will make almost no contribution to reducing the pollution and related impacts which we in Larkhall have to put up with.

**Finally . . .**

Thanks again to all of you for your support and special thanks to committee members Joanna, Ros, and Paul as well as both of our local councillors – Rob Appleyard and Lin Patterson - who have given us immense help throughout the year.

Bryn Jones

Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2017