SA/DK meeting with B&NES, 8th December, Bath

B&NES: Cllr Tim Ball, Ashley Ayres (Director for Children Services), Ann Robins (Supporting People/Planning & Partnership Manager), Sarah Johnston (Senior Planning Policy Officer), Rebecca Jones (Principle Solicitor), Cordelia Johnney (Equalities & Diversity Manager).

In no particular order, the topics covered were:

- Ashley explained that the council was drawing up its traveller and gypsy policy (leading to the assignment of places as temporary and permanent places) and in doing so they accepted that they also needed to include those from this demographic that lived on the canal. Ashley recounted that the council had installed a temporary classroom at Bathampton Primary School a couple of years ago because with the added intake of boaters' children they needed more room – this temporary measure has now been made permanent.
- We gave background detail on move to Third Sector. We were unsure whether our equalities obligations as a public body were also being transferred – Sally has subsequently contacted Greta for input.
- We gave background detail on Mooring Strategy and, more generally, on the rules that govern boating.
- We explained the emerging Waterway Partnership and what capacity it would operate in.
- We explained where our powers ended and B&NES took over – i.e. we could monitor boat movements but did not have the power to monitor whether the boat was being used as a permanent residence.
- We explained that we needed the council to be explicit in stating that some marina development could be approved – we believed that there would be interest from private developers.
- We gave a summary of boating statistics over the course of 2011.
- Tim explained that there was going some sort of flood alleviation work commencing in the next couple of years and there might be the potential for combining marina development with this.
- Ann and Cordelia undertook to draft a Memorandum of Understanding that would describe both BW and B&NES responsibilities and how we can work together.