

## MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE ALDCLIFFE ROAD, MEETING held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014

**Present:** Dave Brookes, Peter Callingham, Mike Swan, Jane Swan, Gillian Allen, Geoff Easton, Sheila Bliss, Wendy Longworth.

**1. Apologies:** Martin Luke.

**2. Minutes of last meeting:** minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

**3. Recent developments:** the outstanding pointing and rendering to the sides of the single door has now been completed to a good standard by a contact of Peter's. It was reported that two pieces of stonework, one to either side of the access onto the canal towpath, have recently been removed and need replacing, along with some missing stone in the canal side of the towpath wall. Peter to speak to his contact about this.

A very small fire near the workshop double doors has charred one side of the base of a support post of the pergola. We will need to keep a watch for any recurrence of this.

**4. Funding:** a) **Lancaster University Wind Turbine Community Fund** has awarded us a grant of £720 for the cost of detailed design plans needed to submit to the Council's Planning Department for their agreement, as per a condition of our Change of Use Planning Approval, (and useful for working up costings for the major works proposed). Dave awaiting details of how grant will be made and has been asked for advice on terms and conditions to be attached! We should also ask if they have a specific logo to display when we acknowledge their funding.

b) **United Utilities Community Fund** rejected our application, also for the cost of detailed plans, due to it being seen as a salary payment to the landscape designer. However we can apply again by 18<sup>th</sup> Aug. Dave suggesting for a small solar panel and LED lights, and possibly workshop ceiling plasterboard. He will check with City Council if panel would be covered as part of their insurance on the workshop.

c) **Green Partnership Awards:** Peter completing application for a set of new tools for Triangle use, showed his list and costings coming to £451 which was agreed for submission in the next week.

**5. Detailed design plan:** final version waiting to be done by Georgina Peacock who very busy at present (partly with F.A. needs) but will get to without causing any significant delay to us.

**6. Demolition of lean-to corner buildings:** At the last volunteer session the security sheeting was removed for Matt Dower, who has experience of such work, and others to assess how this might safely be done by volunteers using hand tools and working from within the Triangle site. (Starting by removing the roof slates and rafters, knocking the brickwork into the first building, removing it and knocking the steel joist down. Next removing the metal sheet roofing on the second building and dropping the old wooden loft structure, then knocking its steel joist and further brickwork down, finally ensuring that the stonework on the towpath wall is secure). Matt agreed to write a statement and risk assessment of this process and of Health and Safety requirements, to be shown to the City Council as landlord and Planning Dept.

Dave to chase up Matt on this who has priced the brickwork, while a roofer might take the slates. Security fencing, skip/s and hard hats will be required. Council officers are allowing w/e demolition.

**7. Chairs and a boat?** Gillian reported that we might still be able to acquire up to 11 wooden chairs but is awaiting a response on this. She is also aware that the University of Cumbria drama department may need to dispose of a long, heavy wooden boat which could make an appropriate feature / play structure on part of the Triangle. She will keep her ear to the ground on this possibility.

**8. Visit to Greaves forage garden:** a small group of Triangle volunteers recently found their way to this small project and spoke to two of its volunteers who do most of the work there. The site is only small with very limited facilities but has fruit trees, fruit bushes, a vine and an area for herbs. They would appreciate more interest and assistance.

Dave suggested a visit to the Scotch quarry growing project where raised beds have been built for community use, growing dwarf fruit trees, fruit bushes and other edibles. He will circulate a date in the near future for those interested. He also mentioned having seen the Eco hub at Lancaster Uni. which has an area for keeping chickens, growing vegetables and a pizza oven (bought not built), all looked after by students.

**9. Other news:** two local artists recently asked to look in the workshop building as a possibility for a pop-up gallery but were non-committal, though suggested that the rear wall would need to be flat (not slightly curved) and suitable for hanging pictures, i.e. could take nails or strong pins.

**10. Date of next meeting:** as the holiday period is approaching it was agreed not to have an August meeting unless necessary but to wait until September. Dave to arrange volunteer sessions if we are to go ahead with demolition ourselves, which could be over a two or three day weekend.

The next meeting will therefore be held at **7.30 p.m. on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014**, on the Triangle site / in the workshop building depending on weather. All welcome but bring a chair if you can.