

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE ALDCLIFFE ROAD, MEETING held on 3rd November 2014

Present: Dave Brooks, Peter Callingham, Mike & Jane Swan, Gillian Allen, Martin Luke, Geoff Easton, Sheila Bliss, Clare Gould.

1. Apologies: Jim & Nicola Combe.

2. Minutes of last meeting: Several **Matters Arising** were discussed as follows, and the Minutes then approved.

a) Campers on the Triangle: the issue of placing a 'No Camping' notice or logo in the Triangle notice board was discussed further and although campers were unlikely over the winter, it was agreed to place a logo on the end doors of the workshop, with a warning that tents and possessions could be removed, and to include this message in an updated write-up about the Triangle project in the notice board, (despite the likelihood that homeless campers were unlikely to read it). Mike to action this.

b) Meeting with Canal & River Trust Conservation Officer: Dave had met with Ruth Garnett on 10 Oct. who was supportive of our Triangle Project. She would like the blocked-up doorway from the towpath into the former lean-to buildings opened up as an historical feature and retention of the cobbled surface in the Canal Bridge corner (and possibly elsewhere). Dave had indicated our plan to open up a wider blocked-up entrance and subsequently suggested the former doorway could be opened but have a raised bed and/or metal railing to look through. Ms. Garnett said she would ask for the old crack in the retaining wall to be checked and if some financial support could be given to the Project, though Dave thought the best we might get was a waiver of Canal & River Trust application and supervisory fees for working off the towpath to repair and lower the towpath wall.

c) New Tools: Peter reported that the order for a set of garden tools for the Triangle from Lile Tool Shop, paid for out of our Lancashire Green Partnership Award, was delivered to the workshop on 11th Oct. Clare has offered to do a laminated list of the tools (which may need to be marked in some way) to be kept in the building to keep a check on their return.

d) Approach to H2O (the developer of the residential development on the former BWB depot across the canal opposite the Triangle site): At our October meeting Jim Combe offered to make an approach to H2O for a financial contribution, materials or labour towards the Triangle project. This was met with positive interest if we could suggest possible aspects of our proposed works. Jim is away on holiday but Dave had spoken with him and suggested we seek assistance with repairing and lowering of the towpath wall (together with taking up the offer of use of their skips). Dave to arrange a meeting on Jim's return with the H2O project manager but will also chase up a quote for the towpath wall work from a local contractor.

3. Recent publicity: There have been several photographs and articles concerning the Triangle in local publications recently, with the presentation of a £720 cheque from Lancaster University Wind Turbine Community Fund for the cost of detailed proposals plans featuring twice in a recent edition of the Lancaster Guardian; and of a £500 cheque from the United Utilities Community Fund for a solar panel and LED lighting for the workshop building to come. There have also been articles in Lancashire Magazine and 'Waterwitch' -

the publication of the Lancaster Canal Trust. All good examples of, and publicity for, the Triangle project.

4. Submission of detailed plans and prevention measures for tree work, to Planning Department & Tree Officer: Georgina Peacock has provided further drawings showing detailed specifications of raised beds and pergolas, and of the low retaining wall to the proposed wild flower area, which need to be submitted with the revised detailed proposals plan.

Dave will try to write up the tree protection measures required for the proposed tree work (two removals and one coppicing) to submit at the same time. Once approved we will be able to instruct Andy Lee to carry out this work within the winter period. (Peter will try to get an alternative quote for the stump grinding which is likely to be required for the large willow removal).

Volunteer sessions: Good progress was made towards clearing out the workshop on 18 October though some further sorting out is required. Another small tree stump against the Aldcliffe Road wall was removed and a second split into pieces, plus further tidying of the site. Dave will try to arrange another session for a dry Sat/Sunday for further sorting out in the workshop, including assessing the condition / value of keeping the narrow work bench; applying Danish oil to the noticeboard if dry enough, checking on the tree and shrub growth at the point of the Triangle, and considering how and where to construct a leaf / compost 'bin' using some of the saved metal security sheeting.

Date of next meeting: Monday 1st December 2014 at 7.30 pm upstairs in the Robert Gillow (opposite the entrance to the Royal King's Arms hotel). All welcome.