

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE ALDCLIFFE ROAD, MEETING held on 1st December 2014

Present: Dave Brookes, Peter Callingham, Mike Swan, Gillian Allen, Martin Luke, Claire Gould.

1. Apologies: Jane Swan.

2. Minutes of last meeting: minutes of 3rd November 2014 meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

3. Recent Developments: a) **Strengthening of Basin Bridge access road wall:** H2O (the housing developer of the C&RT site opposite the Triangle) has requested access to the wall from within the Triangle site to pin the wall to piles, which are to be inserted into the side of the access road, using dowels drilled through the wall from a cherry picker into the piles. Dave had attended a site meeting where this was agreed and felt that this would be to our advantage in stabilising this very high wall. (The build contractor has already cleared most of the ivy off the wall by reaching over with a grab from the access road).

b) **Stumps on the buttress wall:** one large and possibly other smaller tree stumps still need to be removed, while a decision on whether to let the ivy stumps re-grow or not will need to be made.

c) **Cost of stump grinding:** Peter has tried to obtain a quote for this which may be lower than that expected from the firm which will fell two trees on the Triangle, after tree root protection measures have been agreed by the City Council. He will try again to obtain this from his contact.

d) **Volunteer session 25th November:** a small number of volunteers took ivy off the towpath wall where it had partially collapsed, removed some small stumps and found another larger one close to the wall, examined the planting at the point of the Triangle which may need trimming next year, and investigated the ground where a new access into the Triangle is to be made but found only soil, indicating that hardcore will be required to ramp up a new path to the level of the towpath.

4. New tools: Claire has provided a laminated checklist of our new set of tools to be kept in the workshop, to ensure their return from use. It was agreed that these tools should be marked in some way for identification. Mike offered to have a go at this.

5. Funding: a) **the United Utilities grant** of £500 towards a solar panel and LED lights for the workshop is in hand but needs chasing up. Dave to contact installer.

(Martin asked if we could also have heating utilising the existing chimney. This would have to be in the form of a wood burner which would probably require an approved flue liner. Martin agreed to look into this and the cost of a second-hand wood burner. He also offered to try to replace 2 or 3 missing pieces of stonework in the towpath wall).

b) **the University wind turbine community fund** is accepting bids for a second round of grants by 24th December. Alternative items were considered including bollards to prevent parking at the Triangle entrance, water butts and new gates; with bollards being agreed as required first. Dave to complete application form as before with full cost required, though any grant might need to be topped up from our unallocated funds.

6. Submission of detailed plans: Dave recently submitted our further amended detailed plan to the City Council planning department for their agreement, including details of the tree protection measures for the felling of two trees, (which should also cover access with a cherry-picker by the H2O housing developer for the pinning of the end retaining wall to piles on their access road. Unfortunately the planning officer who dealt with our initial application has left and Dave has been asked to complete Discharge of Conditions paperwork which will then be allocated for a decision.

Dave has also arranged for the 'bat lady' to visit the Triangle again to check any bat roosting in the large willow, which could delay its felling. He will contact the local RSPB officer for the supply of bird and bat boxes; and with volunteer Jim Combe is to have a meeting with the H2O site manager on 17th December to discuss what assistance they might make to work on the Triangle, with Dave hoping for the lowering and repair of the towpath boundary wall up to the access onto the canal.

7. Date of next meeting: Monday 2nd February 2015 at 7.30 pm upstairs in the Robert Gillow (opposite the entrance to the Royal King's Arms hotel). All welcome.

N.B. It was felt unnecessary to have a meeting in early January but Dave will aim to have another volunteer session this month and / or in January weather permitting.