

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE ALDCLIFFE ROAD, MEETING held on 20th April 2015

Present: Dave Brooks, Peter Callingham, Mike Swan, Jane Swan, Gillian Allen, Martin Luke, Geoff Easton, Sheila Bliss, Uschi Maden, Jim Combe.

Apologies: Nicola Combe.

Minutes of last meeting: minutes of 2nd March 2015 meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

Recent developments: The two trees earmarked for removal as approved by the City Council (the fire damaged Rowan and the large ageing Goat willow) have been felled by an arboricultural contractor, though their trunks left standing for carving by a local chainsaw carver, and large limbs retained for play features. The wide spreading Hazel has been coppiced by volunteers and should re-shoot in the next year. The effect has been to make the site more open and give space to the remaining Sycamore, Oak and Beech against the towpath wall.

Three of the four new bollards (to prevent parking and improve safety at the entrance to the Triangle and the canal towpath), have been installed over two recent volunteer sessions leaving one more to be done. Three of these are locked but removable to allow vehicle access into the Triangle when required.

At the two volunteer sessions all the ivy on the end retaining wall has been removed and most of the felled tree wood not retained cleared away leaving the site tidy and ready for lowering and repair of the towpath wall, to be commenced shortly by the contractor of the housing build across the canal, with an equal financial contribution from the developers making up £4,000 worth of work in kind to the Triangle project.

Finances: Andy Lee, the arboricultural contractor is in the process of being paid for the tree felling work and wood chipping; whilst the chainsaw carver due on site this week will be submitting an invoice in due course.

Funding of further needs: will need to be met through funding applications principally to the Lottery Awards for All scheme and the Lancashire Environment Fund for match funding, for the costs of geo-grid to prevent digging where soil contamination previously found; path construction material for wheelchair friendly path through site; wooden sleepers for raised beds plus soil, trellising and water butts; gates for the two entrances and metal railings for gap(s) without in the towpath wall; plus any other significant cost requirements. (All needing to be costed first and if successful implemented mostly by volunteers!). Smaller grant bids may be able to be made for the cost of plants, etc. to the likes of Lancashire Green Spaces at the appropriate time, alongside our own fund raising.

Summer Fair: to be held on Sunday 4th July 2015 as fund raising fun day and information / progress update event, with BBQ, cakes and drinks, children's games, bookstall, live music and bunting! Will need to borrow large FA tent and gazebo(s), plus tables and chairs, and display boards. Workshop will need to be cleaned out and if possible given a fresh coat of whitewash, plus stain to pergola and paint to fascia board. (Later boarding of workshop roof space dependent on funds raised).

Volunteer sessions: to be held to install fourth bollard at entrance and prepare for Summer Fair as above, including more tidying of site, strimming of grass, etc. Dave to arrange dates.

Correspondence etc: Mike had received a letter from the Lancaster Canal Boat Club asking if it was ok for them to include a piece in their magazine on the Triangle project. Mike to agree to this.

Dave reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Friends of Miss Whalley's Field - a piece of land to the rear of Borrowdale Road which had been gifted to the City Council along with some funds, for use by local children. Dave had given an account of the Triangle project and its progress so far, which could be of help to the local residents involved with this piece of land.

Date of next meeting: Monday 1st June 2015 at 7.30pm in the Triangle workshop, when the focus will be on arrangements for the Saturday 4th July Triangle fun day event. All welcome to attend.