

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE ALDCLIFFE ROAD, MEETING held on 19th October 2015

Present: Dave Brookes, Peter Callingham, Mike Swan, Jane Swan, Gillian Allen, Martin Luke, Geoff Easton, Jim Combe, Frances Tordoff.

1. Apologies: Nicola Combe.

2. Minutes of last meeting: minutes of 27th July 2015 meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

3. Recent developments: a) **Replacement of workshop single window pane:** following the removal of a poly-carbonate window by person(s) unknown a new pane has been fitted and the frame repaired. It is not known whether the building was entered but there was no sign of anything being taken. It was suggested that a dummy camera could be fitted to deter any future break-in.

b) **Installation of large bench (made by chain-saw carver Rolande):** this was achieved by volunteers on 6th Sept. 2015, the bench being secured by a metal rod through each 'leg' sunk into the ground and concreted in place.

c) **Camper in tent on Triangle site over the last week:** identified as a homeless person and referred to the City Council's Homeless Officer for suitable alternative accommodation. Not entirely clear yet whether situation fully resolved.

4. Works required over the coming months:

a) Dave has tried to contact the stone-waller who lowered the towpath wall leaving the final pointing unfinished but without success. We need to find another person to complete the job, using lime mortar pointing as required by the C&R.T. conservation officer, although this work is more likely to be done during next spring.

b) a step down into the Triangle from the new towpath opening needs to be made due to the difference in levels. This will be looked at in the next volunteer session and a decision made whether this can be done by volunteers.

c) We need to progress the re-instatement of iron railings into four gaps in the towpath wall. The two existing sets which were removed for the lowering of the wall would need minor adjustment and new fixings, while two more gaps require sets to match - either reclaimed or newly made. Dave will look into sourcing these and getting costings.

d) We have a large pile of walling stone and a pile of woodchip surplus to our requirements (other than keeping enough stone for a small retaining wall). We need to decide whether the surplus stone can be given away or sold in bulk; while some of the woodchip can be used to fill holes on the site with any left-over being offered to other community projects who can take it away.

e) a condition of our planning approval is to install a 'no-dig' barrier over parts of the site that have shown evidence of contamination (hydrocarbons), in order to remove the risk of any edibles being planted in these areas and taking up contaminants. In practice we would only allow edibles to be grown in raised beds in which roots would not penetrate the ground soil below. There has been some confusion as to whether this requirement has been changed or not - Dave to clarify.

5. Raised beds for growing edible crops such as bush and cane fruits, strawberries, herbs and some vegetables have long been included in our plans, including the planting of a range of dwarf fruit trees. Dave has argued that these should satisfy the replacement tree planting planning condition on the Triangle, there being a number of maturing trees on the site, limited space for more, and with others in the local vicinity.

As to the number and size of raised beds, to be constructed from 'railway sleepers', we propose to phase them according to demand, siting them at the far end of the Triangle where they should be open to maximum light. It was agreed that part of the next volunteer session would aim to mark out their location and consider the type of base on which they should stand, after which we would need to investigate suppliers and costings, to be included in an Awards for All funding bid including the metal railings, path surfacing, etc.

6. Other matters: It was agreed to monitor the effect of boring bees on the owl sculpture and to seek advice if necessary, and to trim back the long new growths of willow stems from the remaining trunk of the tree.

7. Date of next meeting: Monday 7th December 2015 at 7.30pm, 61 Regent Street. All welcome.