

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE ALDCLIFFE ROAD, meeting of 1st August 2016

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

Apologies: Sheila Bliss, Phil Mitchell.

Minutes of previous meeting held on 4th July 2016 were approved and there were no matters arising other than discussed below.

Recent developments: As requested Dave had asked the County Highways department if they would provide a line written SLOW sign or 20mph roundel on the fairly blind approaches to the crossing point for the canal towpath and Triangle. This was turned down on the grounds of not being a priority for limited funding and refused again when queried whether we could pay for it as unnecessary as there is no record of any accidents.

A rope swing tied to a Triangle tree has recently appeared which raises questions as to safety and possible damage to the tree. [Dave subsequently consulted Fairfield Association trustees and got a clear steer that it needed be taken down as it would not be covered by insurance. Mike removed the swing the following day. The resident whose son erected the swing was told in advance and did not object.]

Dave has spoken to the Council's dog wardens re damage to trees though no action has been taken as yet, either as to the Triangle or a dog which should be kept on a lead in Dallas Road gardens.

At yesterday's Volunteer Session more concrete was broken up in preparation for raised beds, plants left over from the Spring Fair were removed, more weed taken off the end buttress and more general tidying.

Bags of Help (Tesco): Dave has bought a small generator for Triangle use such as running drills etc. and has ordered two 350 litre water butts which could be linked to a 12 volt pump running off the workshop solar panel and is about to order sleepers for the initial raised beds once approved by Tesco / Bags of Help. Compost bins are also on the funding list and it was decided that square timber type was preferable to the plastic 'dalek' type.

Dave has contacted a contractor from Garstang who is willing to help with the construction of the raised beds when available and is still trying to contact a waller to complete the pointing of the lowered towpath wall with hydraulic lime mortar. As a fallback option Dave will look into the possibility of buying a ready mixed lime mortar and trying to do it ourselves. The construction of a shallow path through the Triangle should be able to be done by volunteers, possibly with assistance of same contractor at a later date.

Dave is also seeking advice on the installation of the boat play feature from Council officers who inspect playground equipment before taking further action.

Planning for the Dukes Light Up Lancaster event seems to be ongoing with staff/artists observed surveying the Triangle and in contact with residents at Aldcliffe Yard. We have been asked if our boat will float but this has not been tested and is probably not a practical option. Further information is awaited as to extent of our involvement.

Other matters: the Triangle noticeboard is in need of some repair where moisture has penetrated into it. Options were discussed and it was resolved to replace the plywood backboard and ensure the new one is better protected from the weather. Martin to work on this.

Martin is also investigating making metal 'shoes' for the uprights of the pergola which are showing some rotting and has suggested using the taller rear uprights to replace those in need at the front though this is yet to be decided.

Nicola has arranged to meet a supplier to obtain a quote for two additional sets of railings which are required for two further openings in the towpath wall, if possible matching our two existing sets, or failing that new.

Date of next meeting: Monday 5th September 2016 at 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed.

Next volunteer session: to be held on Sunday 21st August 2 – 4pm.