

## MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE ALDCLIFFE ROAD, MEETING held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015

**Present:** Dave Brookes, Peter Callingham, Mike Swan, Jane Swan, Gillian Allen, Jim & Nicola Combe.

**1. Apologies:** Martin Luke, Geoff Easton.

**2. Minutes of last meeting:** minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 meeting were approved and there were no matters arising. (No meeting was held in January 2015 due to there being little to report).

**3. Recent developments:** a) a volunteer session was held on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. '15 for further clearing out of the workshop building (in part to give more space for the installation of a solar panel, battery and LED lights), with bags of rubble and unwanted spoil on the site being taken to a nearby skip.

b) the H2O housing developer and contractor across the canal are now proposing taking down part of their access road retaining wall (the east boundary of the Triangle) where there is a crack and re-building it. It is not clear when they might do this and the pinning of the whole wall to piles in the access road from within the Triangle. (Jim reported that foundation work on the terrace of houses has been delayed due to the cold weather but should start again by the end of February).

**4. Funding:** a) **University wind turbine community fund:** the grant of £720 for the cost of detailed landscape architect's plans has now been spent together with £45 from our own funds to pay Georgina Peacock's bill.

Dave has submitted a second round application for the cost of additional bollards to prevent parking at the point of the Triangle where there is pedestrian access onto the canal towpath, which would improve safety while facilitating our having unhindered access into the site when required. The outcome of our application may not be known until March.

b) **Meeting with H2O housing developer:** Dave and Jim Combe met with the Site Manager in late December '14 to discuss what contribution they might be able to make towards the Triangle project (which will improve the outlook of the housing development), in monetary and / or practical assistance. An offer of £2,000 towards our costs was made together with asking the contractor what practical help they could make. As yet we have had no further response but Jim said he would pursue the matter in his discussions with the developer.

c) **Other funding sources:** we could make a second application to **Lancaster Green Spaces**, for bird and bat boxes, either ready made or for the materials to make them, possibly as a craft workshop; and to **Lancashire Green Partnerships** for monies towards chainsaw carving of two tree stumps and a bench by a local carver (see below). Larger applications will need to be made to **Awards for All** for work to the towpath wall and buttress, raised beds, path materials and other items, and to **Lancashire Environmental Fund** for match funding, (partly depending on what work the house-building contractor might do for the Triangle project).

**5. Finances:** As reported above the University wind turbine grant will almost cover the cost of the detailed plans required by the City Planning Dept. for final approval of our scheme, though there has been an additional cost of £97 for discharge of conditions

application! The United Utilities grant of £500 will go towards the cost of circa £650 for solar panel installation plus battery and LED lights (the work to be started very shortly), while the cost of felling of two trees and wood chipping (£350) will be met out of our own fund-raising.

**6. Planning: discharge of conditions** attached to our initial Change of Use application have been very largely met following our recent Discharge application, only requiring further details of replacement tree species and planting numbers, and adherence to Tree Protection measures when tree work or other works are in progress. Dave has instructed Andy Lee to carry out the tree work required in the coming weeks **once** we have received approval of the Discharge conditions, using Triangle funds.

Dave has tried to contact the City Council's **Conservation Officer** to arrange a site visit without any success so far, (following the C&RT's Heritage Officers' decision to leave any advice to the Council's Officer) but will try again.

**7. Quotes:** Dave had the idea of retaining the trunks of the two trees to be felled and having them carved in some way and arranged a site visit with a chainsaw carver, Rolande from Holme. She suggested carving a kingfisher on the rowan trunk as a link with the canal, and making a high back chair of the goat willow which may not carve well, plus a bench seat, all for a few hundred pounds, with other large logs being left for play activity. The meeting was in favour of this and of accepting an additional bench seat made by Nicola Combe's father.

**8. Workshop building:** boarding of the workshop ceiling, possibly including insulation, had been considered in the past but after some discussion it was not felt to be a priority at this stage, though might be done with basic boarding at sometime in the future if funds available. As recorded above installation of a solar panel, battery and LED lights is due to take place very shortly.

**9. Events:** the Fairfield Association fun day is now a biennial event (alternating with Carr House Farm Garden Open Day) and we can use the 4<sup>th</sup> July for a Triangle fund raising family event, with games, refreshments and live music, plus information updates on the progress of the project (probably in the workshop building in case of wet weather), with other suggestions welcome.

**10. Volunteer sessions:** should continue monthly with work to be done including breaking up of concrete where not needed, removing or killing off of remaining tree stumps, reducing plant growth at the point of the Triangle, installing additional bollards at the access onto the canal towpath once funds available for their purchase, examining the workshop benching and deciding to repair or remove, possibly white-washing the interior walls, plus keeping the site tidy into Spring and Summer.

**11. Any other business:** in Martin's absence Gillian reported that installing a small wood-burning stove in the workshop fireplace should be feasible and that there was no legal requirement for a flue lining provided the chimney had no leaks. Information had been downloaded from the internet for others to see, although the feeling of the meeting was that heating of the building was not necessary at present but could be considered again should funds become available.

**12. Date of next meeting:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30 pm upstairs in the Robert Gillow (opposite the entrance to the Royal King's Arms hotel). All welcome.