

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE MEETING held on 2nd March 2015

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

1. Apologies: Jane Swan, Sheila Bliss.

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

3. Recent developments: a) **solar panel installation** has been completed with a photo-voltaic panel fitted to the roof of the workshop building which is charging a battery which powers LED lighting. This has been paid for by the recent United Utilities community benefit award and could be added to in future.

b) **discharge of conditions application** (to initial outline planning approval) was approved by the City Council on 27th Feb. 2015 and concerned replacement tree planting and tree work protection measures (though the latter may not now be required as heavy plant is unlikely to be used on the Triangle site – see below).

c) **access road wall reinforcement measures** planned by the housing developer over the canal now seem unlikely to be implemented as the County Highways department has said there is no need to widen the road, leaving uncertainty as to the condition / maintenance of the Triangle's high end retaining wall.

4. Funding: a) **Lancaster University Wind Turbine Community Fund** has awarded the Triangle project a second grant of £1080 for additional bollards which will prevent parking at the access area onto the canal / entrance to the Triangle, improving pedestrian and road safety. The new bollards will match the existing, with 3 of the 4 being removable to allow vehicle access into the Triangle when required; and hope to be successfully installed by our volunteers.

b) **towpath boundary wall repair and lowering:** Dave reported that CPUK have priced this work (just under £4,000) and passed the costing to H2O for agreement on it's joint funding, with the work to be undertaken by CPUK's subcontractors. Site meeting required with Dave to ensure work done to our specifications – including lowering height of wall and re-using coping stones, re-building broken and leaning parts of wall, opening eastern filled-in gap to provide second entrance plus other original opening(s) which will require new matching iron railings. Dave to chase-up Andy Lee on tree work so not to delay wall works.

c) **costing of other parts of Triangle project** required for new funding bids. These include: 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) in towpath wall; plus any other requirements. All to be implemented by volunteers!

5. Finances: the cost of tree work (£350) to be done by Andy Lee this month will be met out of Triangle funds. Monies will be needed for carving of two tree stumps and for materials to make bird and bat boxes, though Nicola said her father would be very happy to do this and Dave can pass on drawings for these.

6. Triangle Fun Day: to be held on Sunday 4th July 2015 (now Fairfield Association event biennial) with refreshments, BBQ, music, games, bookstall, progress of project update info. and other possible ideas. Jim suggested approaching Chas Jacobs to run a picture painting activity (possibly canal themed) and offered to speak to him.

7. Volunteer sessions: the weather through February has been poor and so no volunteer session was arranged. Hopefully March / April will be better so that at least one can be held to install new bollards, but also breaking up of concrete where not needed, more cleaning out of workshop and assessing condition of workbench, plus further tidying of Triangle site.

8. Date of next meeting: it was felt that our next meeting could be held later than 4 weeks time as we were largely up to date with what will be happening in the coming weeks. Dave will arrange a volunteer session in due course, email any news updates and set a date for the next meeting probably after the Easter break.