

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE MEETING held on Monday 2nd December 2013

Present: Dave Brookes, Peter Callingham, Jane Swan, Mike Swan, Gillian Allen, Martin Luke, Claire Gould, Geoff Easton.

1. Apologies: Matt Homewood.

2. Minutes of last Meeting & Matters arising: minutes of the 4th November 2013 meeting were approved. Dave is still waiting to hear from the solicitors as to when our lease has been registered with the Land Registry.

3. Recent developments / Workshop repair: the new single door to the workshop building has been eased to open and close smoothly. Martin and Gillian have plugged the gap in the brickwork to the side of the door but some pointing and the rendering still to do. Further clearing out of the workshop has left it cleaner inside (though more work still required). Investigation of pipework near the old toilet revealed another defunct gully. Still not clear where former toilet drains to, but looks like gully pipework can be safely dug out.

4. Notice board: despite its positioning being shown on the outline proposals plan for the Triangle, submitted with the Change of Use planning application, the conditions of the planning permission require detailed agreement of development on the site before work can take place (hence the need for a much more detailed proposals plan). However given that we already have funding from Lancaster Green Spaces for a notice board it was agreed that Peter would approach the Planning Dept. to ask if agreement could be given if satisfactory details of the structure, its materials and positioning were submitted. (Peter to update LGS on this).

Dave suggested doing the same for removal by us of the multi-stemmed sycamore growing on the buttress of the end retaining wall to avoid further root damage in case tree work advised for Triangle not done by start of nesting season.

5. Finances and Funding applications: a. Triangle funds still stand at around £800 but more than the £350 earmarked for tree work will be needed for the additional Arboriculture Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan required by the planning conditions.

b. As a detailed overall proposals plan is now required (probably by Georgina Peacock) Dave will apply to the **United Utilities Community Fund** for £500 towards the cost of this rather than for a solar panel. Application to be submitted by 17 Feb. 2014.

c. Initial list of tools required for our volunteer work on the Triangle to be completed for **Green Partnerships** application (up to £500) in the new year.

d. Peter has looked through Lottery **Awards for All** application form and advice notes for funding (up to £10,000) for demolition of the two unsafe corner buildings and work to the towpath wall (reducing its height, re-building where leaning, filling in fallen gap and making new entrance into site) by contractors. However we need to have detailed planning agreement for this work in place **before** submitting a funding bid three months before any of the work is to start.

6. Community bread oven: deferred from last meeting. A number of volunteers suggested this for the Triangle for community use or at events on the site. Many queries

were raised including siting, supervision of use, size and type, fuel source, materials and cost. It was clear that we did not have sufficient knowledge but Claire offered to research the subject and report back to a future meeting.

7. Future events: as previously, deferred until early 2014 to consider possible spring and summer events on the Triangle, hopefully with the workshop/community building more usable and avoiding potential works on the site (tree work, demolition of corner buildings, and work to the towpath wall).

8. Volunteer sessions; Dave to arrange for Sunday 8 December and another in Jan. 2014.

9. Any other business: Claire offered a wooden bench seat for the Triangle which Dave offered to house over the winter months. Will M. has some excess reconstituted wood decking boards which he would like to donate to the Triangle which could be used in making outdoor seating. (These were moved to the workshop building on 8/12/13).

10. Date of next meeting: Dave suggested there was no need for a 6 Jan. meeting so the next would be on **3 Feb. 2014** upstairs in the Robert Gillow. All welcome.