

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE MEETING - Monday 3rd March 2014

Present: Dave Brookes, Peter Callingham, Mike Swan, Gillian Allen, Martin Luke.

1. Apologies: Jane Swan, Kathy Barton, Sheila Bliss, Matt Homewood.

2. Minutes of last Meeting: minutes of 3rd February 2014 meeting were approved with no matters arising.

3. Recent Developments: fresh drug needle and very minor damage to two trees noted at yesterday's volunteer session.

4. Noticeboard: following a drawing of the proposed noticeboard being sent to the planning department, approval has now been given for its installation near the entrance to the Triangle and canal. The A1 size board and its legs will be made of oak (this being cheaper than 'plastic wood' effect) by a local joiner and largely paid for by a grant from Lancaster Green Spaces. The meeting agreed that FOTT funds should help meet the cost of a routed out header name-piece and that we should investigate ground conditions to see if installation of the board by volunteers would be feasible. (A subsequent trial dig below the surface setts broke through mortar, chippings and sandy soil with larger stones to a sufficient depth).

5. Workshop: a. **Clear out:** yesterday's volunteer session cleaned-up and moved old bricks, old slates and spare steel security sheeting out of the workshop into the corner buildings; sacks of rubble and old wood were removed creating more space and enabling the floor to be better swept.

b. **internal works:** discussion included de-nailing and cleaning rafters and possibly boarding ceiling (this to be measured up and costed); painting inside of double doors white to improve light (Mike willing to do this); and similarly white-washing of walls. The long narrow benching needs to be examined (legs and top surface) to see if worth repairing and keeping or not.

c. **outside rendering:** Dave to chase up workman or find another to do rendering required around single door. (He will also check with electricity company that electric is properly disconnected and seek to dispose of old metal security door).

6. Site works: a. **planning requirements / detailed design / quotes:** as previously minuted our planning application for Change of Use of the Triangle site was approved but with a condition that a detailed proposals plan should be submitted and agreed before any works could commence. Dave submitted a bid to United Utilities community fund for £700+ on 17-2-14 for the cost of a detailed plan drawn up by a professional landscape designer, the outcome of which is still awaited. The plan will need to show our proposals with detailed specifications which in turn will assist with costings, obtaining quotes and applying for sizeable funding grants.

7. Bread oven: no research available to the meeting so item deferred until future information presented.

8. Finances: FOTT funds available still about £800 (from own fund raising and small residual of grant) allowing us to top up cost of noticeboard with header name-piece and make contribution expected in grant bid for tools - see below.

9. Fundraising: see 6 above for Dave's **United Utilities** bid for cost of detailed proposals plan.

Peter to make application to **Green Partnerships** through Lancashire C.C. for tools and equipment including: wheelbarrow, 2 forks and spades, 2 handforks and trowels, shovel, pruning saw, loppers, secateurs and yardbrush. Awards typically £500 with 20% contribution on top from applicant.

An application to Lancaster University's **Wind Turbine Community Benefit Fund** was discussed for a small solar panel and LED lighting or some form of heating for the workshop building. The former was preferred but with the existing chimney (and open fireplace) to be checked that not blocked and suitable for a liner and stove in future. However from the local press article it was not clear whether grants for 'south Lancaster' included areas of the City or just its parishes. (Subsequent check on the website gave areas of Lancaster District south and east of the Lune as eligible though with priority given to parishes).

10. Events: a late Spring event on the Triangle (probably Sat. 17 May) with BBQ and other refreshments, music, games and possible treasure hunt in the local area (i.e. question sheet for adults and children with a prize), and with the workshop building open for inspection / use. Dave to check on Duncan's availability, Gillian and Martin to draw up treasure hunt, FA to be approached for loan of marquee, tables and chairs, etc. A second event to be considered for late summer could include a children's (themed?) art competition or activity, together with display boards showing the detailed plans for the Triangle and on-going progress, and seeking local responses.

11. Volunteer sessions: Dave to arrange another session shortly to continue with outstanding tasks as we move towards Spring.

12. Any other business: none was raised and no correspondence had been received.

13. Date of next Meeting: Monday 7th April 2014 at 7.30 pm, upstairs in the Robert Gillow pub. All welcome.