

Minutes of Friends of the Triangle, Aldcliffe Road - Meeting held on Monday 2nd June 2014

Present: Dave Brookes, Peter Callingham, Mike Swan, Jane Swan, Gillian Allen, Sheila Bliss, Matt Homewood, and later Maz from Regent St.

Apologies: Martin Luke.

Minutes of last meeting: minutes of 7th April 2014 meeting were approved and there were no matters arising. (N.B. There was no monthly meeting held in May, only an un-minuted meeting to allocate tasks for the May 17th event on the Triangle site).

Recent Developments: the Notice Board funded by Lancaster Green Spaces and made by Paul Martyn (local joiner) was installed on the Triangle site by volunteers on 5th May, in time for advertising the Triangle event. An A4 draft proposals plan has been left on display but more information needs to be added on the 'Friends of' group, our more detailed proposals, contact details, and a warning that used needles have been found on the site. Jane and Mike to draft this and circulate for comment.

The Triangle Treasure Trail and BBQ event was very successful with a high number of visitors enjoying hot food, cakes and drinks, live music, viewing information and plans in the workshop building and the challenge of the Treasure Trail! all in glorious sunshine. Thanks to all who manned the event which raised £345 for Triangle funds. See photos on the website. (This despite excrement being deposited on the workshop doors the day before, some unpleasant words while delivering flyers and note left on volunteer's car).

Workshop building: Dave has enquired about reconnecting the electric supply but a quarterly charge of at least £15 plus usage would be incurred and it was agreed not to proceed with this at the present time. A small solar panel and LED lighting system is still intended, and plasterboarding the underside of the roof needs to be costed. Long narrow bench to be repaired or taken out / replaced?

Rendering and pointing completion - Peter has a contact who could do this using the left over materials for approx. £150. This was agreed with Peter to arrange access to the building.

Site works: a local resident with previous experience of demolition has suggested that he and volunteers could demolish the two corner buildings safely and with limited expense (security fencing and skip hire) over two or three days. An agreed statement of how this would be done and of health and safety provisions would be required, together with notification of relevant bodies. A site meeting with Dave B and others needs to be arranged to discuss in more detail.

Planning permission: Change of Use of site previously approved but detailed proposals needing to be agreed by the City planning dept. The meeting discussed the revised plan prepared by Georgina Peacock which was accepted subject to a number of amendments including: removal of the sandpit, relocation of the seating by the entrance to the Triangle, reducing and modifying the layout of raised beds (which could be used as extra seating), keeping an events / BBQ space in a slightly different position, leaving room for a potential bread/pizza oven. Parking of vehicles by the notice board will need to be prevented (and would be supported by the County Council). Incorporating a small boat, play feature, possible if a suitable one available.

A tree protection statement also needs to be submitted, detailing measures to prevent damage to trees and roots (of those to be retained), when works are taking place on site. Need to clarify who to write this up.

Finances: currently approx. £1,070 (including monies raised by the May event). Finishing off pointing and rendering work to be paid out of this. More monies required to purchase bollards needed to prevent parking by notice board.

Fundraising: applications made to United Utilities and University wind turbine funds for cost of detailed design but still no decisions received. Peter still to submit application to Green Partnership Awards for tools etc in the coming weeks.

Events: no need as yet to consider possible future event later in the year.

Volunteer sessions: Dave to arrange in coming weeks: a few tree stumps still to be tackled, chipping render off boundary wall where toilet stood, access to corner buildings for discussion of possible demolition by volunteers (removal and replacement of steel security sheeting needs at least four strong bodies), and other tidying of site.

Correspondence: none received.

Any other business: Gillian may be acquiring 9 or 11 steel legged, wooden stacking chairs which could be used in the workshop, though may not be wise to leave in unheated building in cold periods. To report back.

Date of next Meeting: Monday 7th July 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Triangle workshop building, Aldcliffe Road (unless notified otherwise). All welcome.