

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE ALDCLIFFE ROAD, MEETING held on 1st September 2014

Present: Dave Brookes, Peter Callingham, Mike Swan, Gillian Allen, Sheila Bliss.

Apologies: Jane Swan, Martin Luke, Kathy Barton, Will Maden.

Minutes of last meeting: minutes of 7th July 2014 meeting were approved and there were no matters arising. (There was no August meeting held due to many people being away during the month).

Recent developments: the demolition of the two lean-to corner buildings has been successfully completed by volunteers over two Saturdays in August followed by two half-days to complete cleaning of bricks and loading two skips with broken bricks and rubble. The cleaned bricks and roof slates have been taken away and together should fetch us up to £1,000, half of which will cover the cost of skips, scaffolding boards, an Acro-prop and security fencing hire. Most of the surplus old timber has been taken by a Scotforth man (to be asked for a donation to FOTT?); metal roof sheeting, an RSJ and odd metal has been taken away for no charge; while the security mesh steel sheets have been kept for re-use (for compost bins and water butts enclosure?).

The result is additional 'floorspace' on the Triangle and a view of the Canal Basin bridge abutment within the site, with more of it to be seen in future when the towpath wall is lowered, (for which we need to get quotes and then apply to Lottery Awards for All and Lancashire Environmental Fund for cost of this and raised beds materials). Dave to contact both the Council and Canal and River Trust's Conservation Officers to discuss what work, if any, they would wish to be carried out on the newly exposed stonework.

Many thanks to Matt for writing the necessary Statement of Works and Health and Safety requirements, and for supervising the demolition work throughout. Equally to all the many volunteers who repeatedly turned out to carry out all the tasks required, to Duncan for BBQs and to others who also provided refreshments to keep the workers going. A magnificent effort!!! recorded in photos added to our website.

Final design drawings: required for submission to the City planning dept. for detailed approval as per a condition of the Change of Use of the Triangle site. Final drawings still awaited from Georgina Peacock but should be available shortly for confirmation at our next monthly meeting.

Finances: to date we have a balance of about £900 with approx. £500 to pay for hire of skips and equipment for the demolition of the lean-to buildings but this will be more than covered by the sale of old bricks and slates to give a new balance of around £1,400 towards future costs. These include £350 plus for tree work - two fellings and a coppicing which we need doing over the late autumn / winter period - Dave to remind contractor with large logs retained for play space; and for bollards to prevent car parking at entrance - £1,100 plus.

However we have now obtained a **Lancashire Green Partnership Award** of £450 for the purchase of a full set of good quality garden tools and two metal wheelbarrows; and are hopeful for a **United Utilities Community Fund** grant of up to £1,000 for a solar panel and LED lights plus timber and plaster boarding for the underside of the workshop roof.

Future events: some discussion was had as to a themed autumn event on the Triangle site but none of the ideas suggested seemed very practical and with darker nights and unpredictable weather it was felt best to wait until next Spring or Summer for our next event, depending on work in progress.

Other matters: Treatment of pergola timber and noticeboard: it was agreed that the pergola should be de-nailed and cleaned before applying a clear or coloured preservative, and paint to the fascia, with a colour in keeping with the workshop window frames. The noticeboard to be treated with a suitable wood oil.

Volunteer session: to be arranged for later in September with tasks to include: raking up of last of hardcore for use in future path construction, sawing up of remaining timber for volunteer use / disposal, clearing the workshop of unwanted material / rubbish, and general tidying of the site.

Date of next meeting: Monday 6th October 2014 at 7.30 p.m. upstairs in the Robert Gillow, (opposite the entrance to the Royal King's Arms hotel). All welcome.