

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE ALDCLIFFE ROAD, MEETING held on 4th April 2016

Present: Peter Callingham, Mike Swan, Jane Swan, Gillian Allen, Geoff Easton, Frances Tordoff, Jim Combe, Clare Gould.

1. Apologies: Dave Brookes, Sheila Bliss, Martin Luke.

2, Minutes of last meeting: the minutes of 7th March 2016 meeting were approved and there were no matters arising, other than discussed below.

3. Recent developments: a) Gillian confirmed that the University of Cumbria was willing to donate the **Drama department's boat to the Triangle project** as a play feature relating to the adjacent canal. She would need to agree a date for it to be moved to the Triangle with Jim offering to provide a van for its transport. The boat would need some sanding and varnishing before fixing it securely on site, though it was uncertain as yet how soon this might be.

b) Our excess pile of stone from the lowering of the towpath wall has been advertised but so far has not attracted any takers. Much discussion ensued as to our sorting and keeping some of the stone, possibly for creating a herb spiral feature or a low retaining wall, or possible use as drainage in the planned raised beds. Differing views were expressed but it was agreed to go ahead with sorting of the pile at the next volunteer session and deciding what might be useful to keep.

c) At the **previous volunteer session** a step down from the towpath into the Triangle at the new opening, was constructed with two large flat stones which would now benefit from some cement to secure them in place. In addition ground along the inside of the towpath wall was levelled by removal of rubble; while wood treatment to the pergola remains on-going.

d) Tree protection: with wire or plastic mesh having been put around the base of several trees and more recently a warning sign posted on site, the dog scratching damage to bark has now ceased.

e) Recently rubbish and beer cans have been left scattered on the Triangle which have needed to be collected up and disposed of by volunteers living near-by . It is thought to have been caused by young people using the site. The idea of seeking an Alcohol Control Order was raised and discussed but could also restrict occasional Triangle events offering alcohol in future. It was agreed the situation should be monitored and recorded in the meantime.

4. GroundworkUK / Tesco Bags of Help: we have been notified that we came second in the public vote between three projects in the local area and will receive a grant of £10,000 in the coming weeks.

The next sentence was corrected at the meeting of 9 May 2016. It should read: "Our initial bid of £8,000 was to pay for raised beds, soil and plants and a path through the Triangle. The £2,000 extra will be used for other items to be discussed at the next meeting." Previously it had read: "Our initial bid of £8,000 was to pay for raised beds, soil and plants but the additional £2,000 will enable us to construct a path through the Triangle together with a short, low retaining wall where ground level rises towards the new entrance and canal towpath."

5. Triangle Spring Fair: to be held on Saturday 21st May 2016, 12 noon to 4pm and open to all. Mike ran through the various activities and who would be manning them: **BBQ** Duncan and Liz, **Drinks and**

cake stall Jane and Mike plus helpers (Sheila, Ruth, Lucy, Wendy?), **Triangle Project update and information** in the workshop building, together with **book and DVD sale**, Will to set up **children's games**, a **raffle** with a range of prizes (donations welcome), **live music** and possibly a plant stall. Jim offered to approach the Water Witch and Jane and Mike Quays fish and chips for raffle prizes.

6. Spring Fair promotion: poster/s to be displayed on Triangle and in volunteer's windows; Martin / Gillian to be asked to provide bunting and to produce small flyers for posting in local streets. Cumbria University print department have offered help with printing.

Mike would like to take photos to use of the Triangle May Fair but would need permission from adults and their children for this.

7. Date of next meeting: to be held on **Sunday 8th May 2016** at 7.30pm at 61 Regent Street. All welcome.

Next volunteer session to be held on **Sunday 17th April, 2 to 4pm**. All help welcomed.