

# Worcester Canal Group

## Notes of meeting 9 July 2014 at the Chestnut Inn

### Attendance

Graham Fowler (Chair), Julie-May Adams, George Squires, Ken Moller, Matthew Jenkins, Suzanne Byrne, David Ritchie, PCSO Linda Pawley, PCSO Mark Boys, Adam Scott, Richard Fishbourne.

**Apologies:** Joy Squires, Ivan Smith, Alan Gordon,

1. **Notes of meeting** on 10<sup>th</sup> June accepted as true record.
2. **Matters arising:**
  - a. It was agreed that we should follow up on Paul Slaymaker's approach re. Canal Watch. On crime, it was noted that there had been another attack, a mugging of a teenager after midnight in the Arboretum area. This was thought to be unrelated, not part of a pattern of crime.
  - b. CRT had looked at bushes and whether they should be cleared out, but their ecologists resist clearance except where impeding the towpath. There is a problem with litter accumulation near Dent Close. Some trimming of bushes will be done at next litter pick. (Matt).
  - c. Adam still needs to contact Alan Sumnall re overall review of adoption.
3. Worcester- Birmingham and Droitwich Canals Society (WBDCS). Graham and Adam informed the meeting they were due to meet this body on the following day. The meeting confirmed that we wanted to retain our autonomy, but would take on some kind of associate membership. The 200th anniversary of the canal is to be promoted next year and Julie-May offered to be a link here.
4. Canals and Rivers Trust. Suzanne informed us there was a new volunteer, Paul Leadbetter. She asked if any member spotted damage it should be reported, and Alan told her about more missing railings near the Wickes footbridge at Tallow Hill.
5. Secretary's report. Adam said that if the group was to progress, we needed more active involvement in its development, people who would actually take on tasks, and would make some specific requests for volunteers in an ordered way. He will draft an action list/ strategy outline for consideration. There was a need to do a press update and Julie-May offered to approach the WNews about the next litter pick on 26 July.
6. Projects
  - a. Graham informed the meeting he had with Sara Poly-Lunn, the Worcs Environ Records Officer. She had lots of information on the canal that would be useful in preparing interpretive boards like the ones for the brickworks site that John Cowie had been involved with. There was a proposal to have a guided walk; Graham agreed to initiate this, to be promoted via the website and tweets.
  - b. Work on the Landsdowne Park area with ARA is progressing on clean up of landscaping. 6 September is the ARA fete, and we need to have a presence there between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm. Matt will mailchimp out to members asking for volunteers. Julie-May will initiate a short fun quiz on the canal. Suzanne will find canal material suitable for children. A police vehicle was offered to support.

c. Richard Fishbourne introduced himself – a consultant working with ARA on community engagement, presently surveying local opinion on things that need improving.

- 7. Promotion.** To help fund more activity, the People Postcode Lottery was opening up for bids, might cover murals marketing, development work. Adam to check up on this (anyone else know anything?).

George also referred to the Worcester Arts Council as a source of grants up to £500, if we were members (He is chair of WAC). This could help with bridge murals etc, and agreed we should progress.

- 8. Treasurer's report** Ivan sent apologies but nothing new to report

- 9. Membership** nothing further to report

- 10. AOB** – Noted that Deborah Merrick, our main contact at the City Council, has left to a new job.

- 11. Next meeting – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm.**

Next litter pick 26<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30 Lansdowne Park, (12.00 in The Chestnut). Matt to co-ordinate invite lists.