

## **Worcester Canal Group**

### **Notes of meeting 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014**

#### Attendance

Deborah Merrick (Worcester City Council), Lewis Bishop, Amanda Bishop, Graham Fowler, Suzanne Byrne (CRT), Ken Moller, Alan Gordon, Paul Brohan, Nathaniel Pitt, David Ritchie, Rod Howell, Suzanne Caine, Matthew Jenkins, John Cowie, Adam Scott, Ivan Smith.

1. **Apologies and Intros** Joy Squires, Zoe Fisher, Julie May Adams, Laurence Green. In absence of Joy, Graham took the chair. New members were welcomed.
2. Notes of meeting on 13 November accepted as true record. Noted that we were still looking for volunteers for the management committee.
3. The **website** was now up and running, thanks to Matt for this work. ARA to be added as a link. The information would make it clear we were seeking new members as "friends", not just volunteers. New members can join via the website
4. **Links/partnerships** – the Group needs to get as many links as possible.
  - a. CRT – noted that a successful open day had been held at Tardebigge recently, looking at lock works, next year could be in Diglis. Reed growths were raised, esp in Blockhouse area, Suzanne confirmed that CRT had been clearing excessive growth and navigation was not impeded but wildlife issues needed to be taken into account.
  - b. Worcs Wildlife Trust. Adam to write to them to see if they had any involvement in the canal or specific work done on wildlife surveys.
  - c. Landsdowne Allotment Assoc. Paul to make contact.
  - d. Anglers. Graham had met Colin Pettifer of the Worcs and District Utd Anglers for a useful discussion including bailiff's rights, annual dredging for obstructive rubbish and pollution.
  - e. Transition Worcester had agreed to promote the group in a monthly newsletter. Adam to do.
  - f. Businesses. Ivan is approaching local businesses for contact and possible sponsorship.
  - g. U3A. To be approached for potential membership (Adam)
  - h. WRGS. Ivan establishing contact.
5. **Projects**
  - a. Litterpicking taking place last Saturday in each month – next one on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. Matt sending out invites, also posters on site. Noted need for barge for February for rubbish in water.
  - b. Lansdowne landscaping. Rod gave update and explained plans for wildlife garden and canal-side apple tree planting. Ivan proposed a small workgroup to steer it of himself, Rod, Debbie, Paul and Matt, scheduled for Weds 29th Jan to report back on progress at next meeting. Project to be backed up by as many volunteers as possible to carry out the works. ARA will be the fundholder.

- c. Barkers Wharf. John Cowie described how he (and the City planners) had been involved in negotiation in the St Modwen scheme for new housing with a canal-side landscaped area including interpretative panels. Thanks to John for his efforts.
  - d. Other developments. The Group is interested in what else is proposed along the canal and Adam has asked the City Planning Office to consult WCG on all canal-side developments. Volunteers are asked for with an interest in planning and development to assist in reviewing proposals.
  - e. Public Art. Some proposals are emerging for public art – esp a project for the Worcs/Droitwich ring. Members are interested in participating in this.
  - f. Bicentennial 1815. Early warning and thoughts needed of how to celebrate.
  - g. Cycling. David Ritchie passed on a useful note from the Inland Waterways Assoc about towpath cycling. This is a topic worth a project in its own right – raise at next meeting.  
[https://www.waterways.org.uk/news\\_campaigns/press\\_releases/press\\_release\\_iwa\\_issues\\_new\\_advice\\_on\\_towpath\\_cycling](https://www.waterways.org.uk/news_campaigns/press_releases/press_release_iwa_issues_new_advice_on_towpath_cycling)
6. **Promotion** A simple leaflet to be prepared, based on website, to promote the group. Ivan, Nat and Matt to collaborate on this.  
High-vis jackets had been purchased by Ivan and will have logo added.  
The City Council will help promote the group (Deorah Merrick)
7. **Treasurer's report** £225 already in bank account from a few selective donations, esp the collection from Elizabeth Parker's funeral. £750 to come from the WCC Divisional Funds (Cllr MJ). Ivan said an initial target was £2500 (£1250 for projects, £750 for promotion, £500 for website development). He is approaching a few local companies. Suggestions of other local organisations were made, plus carboot sales and raffle. There is no membership fee, but voluntary contributions of say £10 will be sought.
8. **Membership** Discussion on potential numbers – an ambitious 2000 signed up members/friends! The website will be the main means of getting members signed up, and Adam and Matt were working on the mechanics of this. It would be good if a membership sub committee could be set up.
9. **AOB** – none
10. **Next meeting – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00 in The Cavalier**  
(not perfect for everyone but need to change days of meeting to not meet all the time on same day)