

## **Worcester Canal Group**

### **Notes of meeting 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

#### Attendance

Joy Squires (Chair) Mike Doyle, Julie-May Adams, Suzanne Byrne (CRT), David Ritchie, Graham Fowler, Rod Howell, Laurence Green, Matthew Jenkins, Zoe Fisher, Amelia Steele, Scott Steele, George Squires, Lewis Bishop, Amanda Bishop, (CRT), John Cowie, Adam Scott, Ivan Smith.

1. **Apologies and Intros** Paul Brohan, Nathaniel Pitt, Deborah Merrick (Worcester City Council), Alan Gordon. New members (Mike, Amelia and Scott) were welcomed.
2. Notes of meeting on 21 January accepted as true record. Noted that we were still working on contacts with U3A, Transition Worcester and WRGS for the management committee. Joy explained about the interpretive signs on the Barkers Wharf scheme, which was to be done by Autumn. Suzanne said CRT would be taking action to cut back reed beds, after the nesting season. She was also looking for volunteers to be trained as deck hands for the barge. Julie-May and Graham volunteered.
3. The **website** was now up and running, and would be used to generate a handout for printing. Matt confirms that a supporter/friend would be able to register on-line. He will consider how donations could be made on-line. The mailchimp tool has been used to generate emails to contacts.  
The leaflet was discussed and needs to be signed off with any contributions by 10<sup>th</sup> March. Changes to text and more pictures were discussed – send to Matt/Ivan/Adam asap.
4. **Links/partnerships**
  - a. Joy had been invited to the AGM of the Worcs Waterways Forum.
  - b. Allotments, progress to be reported at next meeting
  - c. Worcester University and College – possible links to be considered and discussed at the next meeting.
  - d. St Pauls Hostel – possible source of volunteers - Alan Sumnell at CRT has contacts
5. **Projects**

- a. Lansdowne landscaping. The event on 15<sup>th</sup> February had had to be postponed at short notice as the ownership of land on Wolverton Street was still unresolved, as is insurance/liability between the Council and CRT. Frustration was expressed over the delays and waste of volunteer effort and the project for espalier trees along the railings is waiting for approval. Laurence Green offered to help with future maintenance. The wildflower planting should be OK.
- b. Planning – no planning applications yet received for consultation.
- c. General discussion about canal-side trees.
- d. David Ritchie raised issues about cycling, which was felt to be a positive use but some cyclists needed to be more considerate. Advice will be added to website and leaflet. Warning signs could be improved, and some additional speed controls. Other cycling partners were discussed

- 6. **Promotion** A simple leaflet to be prepared, based on website, to promote the group. (see above).

High-vis jackets which had been purchased by Ivan have had logo added.

City Life magazine will be used to support the group, with a publication date in June/July.

An annual photographic competition was suggested, and Amelia offered to give this some thought. A stall or other presence at the annual Worcester show was also mentioned.

- 7. **Treasurer's report** £975.06 already in bank account , less £63 accruals. It was agreed that a small float (£100) for petty cash would be kept by the Treasurer. Membership donations were discussed and these would be best sought to support specific projects.
- 8. **Membership** Mike Doyle offered to help with membership issues – Adam and him to meet
- 9. **AOB** – it was agreed to postpone the 2014 AGM from March until we were a bit more formed. Laurence Green offered to help with legal issues.
- 10. Joy thanked everyone for attendance and closed the meeting at 8.25
- 11. **Next meeting – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7.00 in The Cavalier**