

Worcester Canal Group

Notes of meeting 10 June 2014 at the Chestnut Inn

Attendance

Joy Squires, Doug Rosewarne, Graham Fowler, Julie-May Adams, Ken Moller, Matthew Jenkins, Suzanne Byrne, Lucy Bowles (both CRT) David Ritchie, Zoe Whitelaw, Adam Scott.

Apologies and Intros Ivan Smith, Mike Doyle, Alan Gordon, Alan Sumnall

1. **Notes of meeting** on 5th may accepted as true record.
2. **Matters arising:** It was noted that St Pauls hostel volunteers are doing some painting and other work in the Lock 4 area.
3. **Crime Prevention.** Welcome to Mark Broughton, Alex Denny and Paul Slaymaker from West Mercia Police Neighbourhood Policing, working in the Cathedral and Arboretum areas. First, they reassured the meeting that the recent daytime sex attack appeared to be an isolated incident and followed no pattern. Issues of anti-social behaviour in the Park St/Tallow Hill/Dent Close area did cause concern: street drinking, drug dealing and consumption. Wickes bridge was pointed out as a hot-spot, as was some areas of shrubbery. Increased uniformed patrols, on a daily basis, confiscations, warrants and evictions from WCH property were being used, with some success. The street drinking ban applies. A new CSO has started in cathedral ward, bringing team back up to strength. Key recommendations were:
 - Encourage local residents and users to report in any concerns by dialling 101. This to be included in future leaflets.
 - Promote as much use of the canal and towpath as possible, and homes overlooking.
 - Benches along the canal could be good if in right place.
 - Lighting would be beneficial, esp. under bridges where there may be opportunities for electrical supply from the highway.
 - Consider CCTV cameras (including dummy ones)
 - Get vegetation along towpath cut back in areas like Dent Close/Park St. (letter to be sent from WCG to CRT and WCH)
 - Include cycling safety advice in future leaflets (speed, use of bells)

Joy thanked the police for attending, they will be added to the circulation list and included in future meeting agendas and invites.

4. **Waterways Forum.** Graham and Julie-May gave an update on a recent meeting and referred to recent contacts, incl. Jack Hegarty from Wychavon who chairs the regional group of the CRT. Interesting discussions with the Worcester, Birmingham and Droitwich Canal Society (WBDCS). We should establish strong links here,

attending each other's meetings. The 22th anniversary of the canal is to be promoted next year. It was agreed that Adam would contact the chair of WBDCS.

5. **Canals and Rivers Trust.** Lucy introduced herself and her role as national adoptions officer, and we discussed progress. It was agreed that we should have a review meeting with Alan Sumnall, 12 months into our adoption, preferably along the canal, with some photographic record. The aim should be to produce a short annual report, including future recommendations, that can be shared with members and stake-holders. The pro-forma previously used by Alan would be useful. AS to contact him.

The benches were discussed, Julie May referred to some low cost recycled plastic benches that were available. CRT admitted that memorial benches were high cost and not what we wanted. Consensus was that a robust timber bench, using recycled lock timber, could be preferable and this would be provided by CRT, and possibly installed using volunteer labour. Matt to lead on this with the project group, liaising with Lucy and colleagues.

6. **Promotion.** Ideas for distributing the leaflet as previously discussed were being followed: Deborah to put in at the parks notice boards, Commandery. Matt, the Countryside Centre, Perdiswell Sports and St Stephens Church. Graham F, the Hive and other local groups. Adam, Worc Community Centres, Diglis area businesses, Sustrans. Joy, the Guildhall and councillors pigeon holes. Juile-Ma had done Blooms, Perdiswell and Smite Farm. Also door to door drop to households, to be co-ordinated at a later date. Any other organisations (walking groups, U3A etc), pass out but let AS know where they have gone. Plenty of leaflets still available!

Logos for WCG to be developed. Ideas to be considered at future meeting (Nat not there at June meeting).

Arts project for Worcester/Droitwich Ring to be launched 25th June – more details awaited.

A marketing sub-group would be good – any volunteers?

7. **Treasurer's report** Ivan sent apologies but nothing new to report
8. **Membership** nothing further to report
9. **AOB** – Meeting of Diglis Playing Fields referred to, contacts sought.
10. **Next meeting – Wednesday 9th July at 7.00 in The Chestnut**

Next litter pick 28th June at 10.30 Lansdowne Park, (12.00 in The Chestnut). Matt to co-ordinate invite lists