

**Attendance:** Graham Fowler (Chair), David Ritchie, Peter Moorhouse, Jane Moorhouse, Ken Moller, George Squires, PC Alex Denny, PC Paul Slaymaker, PCSO Mark Boys, Matthew Jenkins, Ivan Smith, Michael Doyle, David Wheeler (WBDCS), Gerry Lowman, Peter Middleton, Paul Manley, Phil Douce (Worcester Civic Society), Adam Scott (minutes).

**Apologies** Joy Squires (Chair), Alan Gordon, Dan Daye, Dennis Pike, Jackie Hollis, Suzanne Byrne (CRT), Julie-May Adams

### 1. Introduction and Matters arising from 11 November meeting:

Welcome to Phil Douce from Worcester Civic Society. No progress yet on the steel obstruction sticking up from the gravel towpath opposite Perdiswell, awaiting CRT action.

- a. Confirmed WCG is a member of Worcester Arts.
- b. Representations made re planning at Cavalier, to be considered on 18 December

**2. 2015 Festival plans.** The Festival subgroup has been set up, with Joy Squires as chair, David Wheeler as vice-chair, Julie-May as secretary. WBDCS underwriting and setting up festival, bringing a good deal of experience and expertise. Lansdowne Park being progressed as venue, a good local flavour in terms of music, businesses and community involvement. Volunteers will be needed. A visit of key people to the site planned on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, after which capacity of the site will determine what goes on. A business plan will be set up to assess budgets, and possible base for funding applications.

**3. Notice Boards.** Grant application from CRT for £700 had been agreed. It was agreed that a sub-group would be set up to agree detailed sites and progress, in order to meet tight deadline. This to be Jane Woodhouse, Suzanne Byrne, Matt and David Ritchie. Ivan suggested that if a board was provided by the Arboretum, it could be double sided to therefore include ARA material.

**Benches** Graham still has to contact Mark Mills, despite trying, so we can agree specification and get service checked out. He will copy David W into emails. Our current thought is recycled oak, using St Pauls as carpenters. Adam will contact Warwick Neale about sourcing the material.

**4. Arts.** The painting of hoardings has been going well, great work by Peter, Gerry, Peter, Paul and Graham and anyone else lending a hand. Quality and speed of work are commendable. All for £25! Noted some cyclist a bit thoughtless. Plan to extend to Westbury Gardens underpass. Some discussion about other arts issues: Worcs ring project; need for a new WCT logo and how it could be designed; and Ivan will help Peter W contact Dan Pitt.

**5. Policing.** Issues raised included recent observations of drug – taking, which police were aware of and regular patrols were effective. Boatwatch scheme to be developed in 2015, which would be canal side equivalent of neighbourhood watch signs with contact numbers to be displayed in community notice boards and other locations. Adam to pass Alan Gordon's contact details onto Alex Denny re liaison arrangements.

6. **Civic Society.** Phil Douce from Worcester Civic Society introduced himself and the work of the group, looking forward to a close working relationship. In particular they are undertaking surveys of listed buildings in the City with volunteer effort and are looking for further support. A reminder was given about the historic bridges along the canal.
7. **Volunteering projects.** Good progress on litter picking. Low water levels show that supermarket trolleys have become a problem again, and there is a need to get the CRT volunteer work boat down. Matt to liaise with CRT, aiming for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February/Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March.
8. **CRT** We hope for a closer relationship that gets the adoption process working well. Need to discuss actual responsibilities, with possibility of tangible support and advice. Our rights and responsibilities need to be clearer. Ivan and Graham will aim to meet the regional engineer and David will support as necessary.
9. **Media and communications.** Recent press releases referred to, more work needed on Festival and other aspects. Leaflets currently being delivered by Adam and Ivan, in appropriate locations. Possible WCG logo as been drawn up by Peter Moorhouse, to be passed to Matt to see if it works online and in letter head. Idea for 2016 calendar mooted again -proviso that each months photo being taken in that actual month!
10. **AOB** Concern expressed over poor quality of landscaping maintenance, e.g. ruts in verges, reeds and bushes being cut but waste not removed. Result of renegotiated national contracts. Complaints with photographic evidence to be collected and submitted to CRT. David Wheeler explained about the conference in Birmingham on 21<sup>st</sup> March: "Next Generation". Details to be circulated.
11. **Next Meeting** 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in Guildhall.