

WORCESTER CANAL GROUP

MINUTES 11 September 2019 at THE PAUL PRY

Present: Jackie, Joy, David, Matt, Graham. Apologies: Helen, Geri, Margaret, Peter.

1. **Matters Arising** - Thanks to Peter Moorhouse for all that he did for the group.
2. **Treasurers Report** -£268 in the account. Agreed renewal of subscription to WBDCS
3. **Wildlife work-**
 - a. Joy and Graham reported back on their meeting with the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust at Lower Smite Farm. This was very positive. There will need to be a discussion with the Trustees of WWT. We are still awaiting this. In the meantime, the way in which we might progress is emerging. The existence of the network we have established through the Canal Corridor Project is important. The engagement of volunteers from our group, St Pauls, Duckworth Trust and the Canal and River Trust as well as the paid workers from CRT and the City Council is something really positive to work with. Community Engagement and sustainability are important themes and the work we have done fits in well with this.
 - b. In the near future we can expect good news from the CRT in terms of using dredged material to create new wildlife habitat between the Commandery and the Marina. Also, the CRT are intending to tackle the Japanese knotweed problem opposite Lansdowne park.
 - c. The City Council have organised a tree planting event in Cripplegate park. The trees used are about one foot tall. There are some left over which we might use. Graham to let Helen know.
4. **Noticeboards-** David explained that when he took on the role of maintaining the noticeboards there were 7. This has dwindled as the CRT regional boundaries have changed. Now there are 4, one of which cannot be unlocked. David has always dealt with Tony Bramham of BDWC at Tardebigge. He is ill. At the same time the CRT have adopted more of a corporate identity to the appearance of the canal side as outlined by Tim the last time he attended this meeting and there has been talk of CRT taking over responsibility for the noticeboards. David has heard nothing since August. Agreed that he would email Tim Booker of CRT and David Wheeler of BDWCS.
5. **Benches** – Matt said that he is considering using money from the County Council Divisional Fund to put in a bench on the stretch of canal between Gregorys Bank and Bilford road. Agreed that this would be a good idea.
6. **Website-** Discussion of how to make the most of the website. Agreed that everything should go through Matt. For example, as part of the work at Bramble wood Helen has done a lot of work on a website. Details of the Canal; group are on that website but details of the Bramble wood project are not on the Canal Group website. Graham to ask Helen to forward the link to Matt. Similarly, we have done several wildlife surveys and have taken lots of photos along the way but most of these have not found their way to the website. At a meeting earlier this year Ian and Mel explained a project they have set up along Offas dyke. The idea is to establish fixed reference points and then take photos of things of interest from there at different times of year and put them on the website so that people walking the Offas dyke path can use this for reference whatever their interests are - geology, history, wildlife and so on. We could do the same sort of thing along the canal. Matt explained that in his 'day

job' he is already engaged in setting up a virtual tour and to use this as a model for the sort of thing we have in mind would not be too difficult. Agreed to start this as a new project.

7. **Next Meeting** Wednesday November 13, 7.15 at the Paul Pry.