

March 2012

Dear Resident,

Further to our recent letter about the derelict land between Aldcliffe Rd and the canal towpath, we held a very useful meeting with local residents at the end of February, and have revised our proposals in light of the feedback received.

Rather than remove the towpath wall completely, we now plan to lower it, reusing the existing copings, and take it down fully in some locations to provide access points off the towpath. This would maintain the wall as an attractive feature whilst providing the desired open views over the site, making it feel more like a public space.

Residents were keen not to demolish the central building if it can be brought back into use, and we have therefore asked the City Council if one of their building surveyors could provide a condition report on both of the buildings. Ideas for future use of the central building included a workshop/studio for a craftsperson/artist or an icecream/butty shop.

It is also proposed to adapt the existing roofless timber structure for use as an arbor with suitable vine planting, and improve the green areas as public/community amenity space, including planting eg bulbs, fruit bushes, fruit trees.

We have started talking to City Council Property Services and British Waterways and hope to have a meeting with both in April to establish an agreement in principle. The works will also require planning permission for change of use, and input from the Conservation Officer and Tree Officer.

Whilst we will seek to do as much work as possible using volunteers, it is inevitable that some money will be necessary, and we will therefore establish a 'Friends of' type organisation to apply for grant funding etc.

If you would like to get involved and be added to the email list to be informed about future meetings and volunteer sessions then please send a brief request message to aldcliffertriangle@emaildodo.com.

Yours Sincerely,

Cllr Dave Brookes, Dukes Ward, 07817 966949, dbrookes@lancaster.gov.uk
Cllr Jon Barry, Castle Ward, 844113, jbarry@lancaster.gov.uk