

# Friends of Victoria Square Newsletter



## Message from your Committee

As you are aware, we have already received an initial grant from Heritage Lottery which funded a range of baseline surveys. To enable us to implement the survey recommendations and the landscaping proposals resulting from the community consultation last year, we have very recently submitted a further application for funds. The fund we applied for was called, 'Local Places for Nature', a joint Heritage Lottery and Welsh Government initiative. At the time of looking for further funding this was the only appropriate source available, as many of the other sources had been closed to allow for Covid-19 emergency funding. This particular fund was available for certain elements of our project only. All works funded have to be completed by the end of May 2021. We should have notification by November whether we have been successful with this recent application. If we are successful in our bid it will provide funding for a significant amount of work. Copy of the Grant Submission attached, gives comprehensive details of all the work involved.

The work we were able to include in the application were; Tree works identified as necessary in the tree survey, aeration drainage to deal with frequent waterlogging, and much of the horticultural proposals. It will mean however, that there will still be a few elements of the project requiring funding which include; horticultural works that we felt could not be completed within the



timeframe, renovation and re-surfacing of paths and the driveway, and installation of additional seating. We are currently making enquiries to fund these other elements and will keep you informed of progress.



### NOTICE BOARDS

Notice Boards are now in place on the Square as another method of being able to keep you all updated on events and progress of the project. Attached is an artistic impression plan of the Square, which we feel will be easier for people to view than the Architect's detailed drawing. The impression is very much a work in progress draft, is not completely accurate, and will need to be amended to represent the horticultural work that will be undertaken if our recent bid for funds is successful. When and if we are successful, we will be able to commission a more accurate impression, which will replace the Architect's plan on the Notice Boards



Draft of Artistic Impression

### EVENTS

Under normal circumstances we would have been looking at what events we could hold for the remainder of the year, and beyond. Given the current circumstances however, we will have to wait to see how long Covid-19 restrictions remain as they are, or perhaps change.

## **GARDENING GROUP**

We are proposing to establish a Gardening Group to undertake planting for the Square. Our aim is to celebrate, conserve and enhance Victoria Square as a place of freedom, reflection and enjoyment for all and we are keen that the horticultural work we undertake benefits both the wildlife and the community. The intention is for the project to work in phases to implement changes that came out of last year's community consultation.

Phase 1 aims to set up a community garden and to develop an hibernacula (an underground chamber that amphibians and reptiles use throughout the winter to protect themselves from the cold), a bog garden (which offers a range of moisture conditions and the rich diversity of plants that grow there can provide resources to a huge variety of wildlife), a stumpery (which will use stumps and trunks from trees that will be removed professionally, because of overcrowding, and again provides a wonderful habitat for insects, lichen, ferns and mosses) and growing areas of wild and cultivated flowers essential for pollinators such as butterflies, moths, bees, hoverflies (one out of every three mouthfuls of our food depends on pollinators – see [www.buglife.org.uk](http://www.buglife.org.uk))

As part of this phase, an event will be organised, following the successful Bramble Scramble which took place in January, when 20 volunteers tackled a huge bramble that was threatening to choke a beautiful Yew tree. Future events will be mindful of council and government guidance with regards to COVID, and advertised on the two green boards that were recently erected in the Square.

An initial information meeting took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, via Zoom meeting. Due to limited attendance, a follow up meeting will be organised later in October, probably in the Square itself to make it more accessible to all. – details to follow.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We are pleased to say that we have been steadily increasing membership and, if this is your first Newsletter, welcome to the group and hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will all be able to meet at either a general meeting or event. In the meantime, if you know of anybody who may want to become a member, please ask them to use the 'JOIN US' facility on our website: [www.friendsofvictoriasquare.org](http://www.friendsofvictoriasquare.org) . Remember you don't have to be a resident of Victoria Square to join us, just have an interest in what's happening.