

Oaklands/Glebelands Steering Group – site visit 24th June 2014

In attendance:

Cllr Ted Clarke, Shropshire Council and Parish Council
Rawden Parslow, Library Area Manager, Shropshire Council
Jane Kenyon, Asset Management Officer, Shropshire Council
Steve Shields, Arboriculturist, Shropshire Council
David Fairclough, Community Action, Shropshire Council
Andy Mason, Lichfield Diocese
Michael Watney, Lichfield Diocese
Tim Lomax, Christ Church Vicar
Emma Kay, Bayston Hill Parish clerk
Fiona Craig, Manager York House
Joanne Hughes, note taker, Shropshire Council

Further to the last steering group meeting, a site visit was arranged to look at the layout of the whole site for development again and in particular to get informal advice from a tree expert.

Tim, Jack, Andy and Ted appraised the group of some further ideas in the location of the library and hub to the left of the church and also to change the access entrance to York House from right hand car park to left hand new car park and allow the existing car park to be developed and possibly build a new vicarage there. This would avoid confusion in having two car parks. JK to investigate with colleagues whether two car parks were required or whether we could just have the one main one and new York House access.

The span of the tree root systems would determine the size and accessibility of a new car park, so a tree survey encouraged as soon as possible before further plans developed. An arboriculture impact assessment would also determine what constraints may apply. JK to progress.

The group viewed the consecrated ground which needs to be retained. If the screening hedge were removed, the ground behind which is currently overgrown garden space belonging to York House, could be made into a community garden incorporating a memorial area. In giving up sole occupancy of the garden which is not currently utilised, York House would gain maintenance and improved access plus integration with the wider community. There is a small orchard on the boundary which York House takes the produce from and this could be retained and improved.

The group moved on to the Glebelands and viewed the strip of vegetation backing onto Eric Lock Road West properties. JK has received the ecological survey for this area which mentions a potential habitat for reptiles so a further, detailed survey is required. The area is formed of mostly scrub trees and nettles. A landscaping scheme may help to address residents' concerns with a careful selection of screening trees.

The group looked at a mature sycamore tree on the Scout and Guide car park which should be retained in SS opinion and this will probably be borne out by the tree survey results. The same applies to a mature sycamore in the school forecourt.

RP was asked to estimate the size of a new library and whether the sale of the

existing library site would cover the cost of a new build.