

be to late; could be taken up & re-laid; Council would consider safety rather than conservation; drainage channels are dangerous & would need to be replaced, fitting character of walk, replacement of paving is unaffordable & would require a capital bid; currently it is not a priority but will rise in list as it deteriorates; Council might look at maintaining like for like & raising drainage channels by restoring stone edging; possible short term solution might be modification of normal scheme, using resin-bound aggregate surface (as for footways & paths) to lighten colour as a compromise

- railings installed in 1835 to create perimeter route, currently in seriously bad state & could have to be removed; Grade 11 listed & part of freehold of church but maintenance is responsibility of District Council; CS obtained quote from specialists in 2004 -£200,000 for restoration of railings, plinth & gates; minimal amount of work undertaken by Cathedral camps; need to pressurise DDDC; Cllr Lewer to take up with Estates Dept

-lighting –issues re Health & Safety (H&S) regulations regarding access where there are spiked railings below; letter to engineer requesting update on current position

-enhancement opportunities –managing trade waste; 'Red Square' needs further work

-ownership & responsibility for areas of Church walk needs clarification

-churchyards–difficult issue -discussions on maintenance of churchyards taking place between diocese & Councils

- appearance of Church walk & unsightly wheelie bins –need to encourage property owners to take care of their area; legal issues of bins blocking highway; Cllr Lewer to discuss wheelie with DDDC; Andy Pollock to approach businesses to explain aims of group; meeting with them to be set up at next meeting

-access-people not encouraged to come into Church Walk as lychgates are locked; access is public right of way but not adopted highway; request information about lychgate from owner of Ken's ,CS & church joint signatories

-sympathetic use of area/ re-animating area-explore opportunities of development of buildings over-looking Church Walk/churchyard to give views of area eg. eating areas, encouraging people to walk through a pleasant space & to become more aware of the church, use of Town hall yard area

-include shop owners to join future discussions which could present opportunities for them, working in spirit of partnership; maximizing potential & visual impact of area could lead to increased trading & improved commercial potential

-interpretation-no boards around Church walk explaining area; Tania Shaw to discuss possibility of scheme for Church walk with Tourism Officer

Next meeting: Thursday January 17th. 2.00pm Club Room Town Hall

Appendix

Church Walk Group

'The jewel in Wirksworth's crown'

Aims

- to establish whether development of Church Walk is necessary
- if so, to produce a strategy for the development of Church Walk, including short, medium & long term objectives, to maximise the potential of the area and to make it attractive and accessible to the local community & visitors to the Town

Objectives

- to establish the specific areas for improvement/development
- to prepare an action plan to include-
 - timescale & timeline with outcomes
 - establishing priorities*
 - encouraging a creative approach
 - pursuing grants & funding
 - seeking expert advice & opinion
 - developing partnerships with stakeholders
 - consulting and involve the local community

*Priorities could/should include:

- landscape (particularly the area behind the shops)
- accessibility (creating a ' magnet' via the gates by Ken's & other entrances)