



## The Friends of Chain Bridge Forge

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### Eco Blacksmith

#### Background

Chain Bridge Forge opened as a working museum in September 2012. The site is owned by SHDC and The Friends of Chain Bridge Forge (CBF) hold the lease with a further 15 years to come. Note: CBF own the contents. The building is a late 1700's example of a Blacksmith Forge and is cluttered with artefacts of its trade. The Forge also uses fossil fuels to heat the metal which we anticipate will be banned or severely restricted in the coming years. We have conducted research and have found that induction heating of the metal will provide an eco friendly alternative. However induction heaters will not easily fit into the existing Forge.

The Forge has also become more successful attracting more work and the interest of TV programmes like "Bargain Hunt". Obviously this publicity is good for the town.

#### Proposed Project

So we would like to create a new single storey workshop on the Council owned land to the south of the Forge. The workshop would be of a temporary nature allowing removal if required. It will also claim eco credentials using solar panels and also incorporate the induction heaters etc. The building will also be clad in ship lap boarding to replicate the Black Granary which once stood 75m further down the road.

The initial enquiry before applying for full planning permission is to enquire if 3/4 trees could be removed. The trees are the first ones as you proceed south from the Forge. The strip of land is a neglected asset and has had little maintenance in the last 10 years. This means the trees from at least a cosmetic point of view are in poor shape. The conifer at the end of the row which can be seen in the attached photo dating 1960's



ish and are now severely impeding large sided lorries using the road.

Of note the tree closest to the Forge is a relatively recent addition and is growing at significant rate, potentially impacting on the fabric of the Forge and the river wall behind it. Note: In some cases the tree trunks are about 1m from the wall.

Therefore we request your advice on a way forward so that we can approach planning department to discuss structural concerns. We would also be prepared to reinstate any lost trees.

#### Impact of failure to find a solution.

If a ban was to be imposed on the burning of fossil fuels then the Forge would have to close or move to another location where an eco friendly solution can be implemented.

We would be very happy to attend a site meeting as required.

Regards

Geoff Taylor

Chair of The Friends of Chain Bridge Forge

Agents

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