Canal & River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected

MINUTES

Title Central Shires Partnership Meeting

Date 11th January 2013

Venue Fazeley

Attendees Charlotte Atkins (CA), Harry Arnold (HA), Brian Hull (BH), Will Chapman (WC), Geoff Reynolds (GR), Graham Myatt (GM), Tony Lockley (TL), Beryl McDowall (BM) Phil Prettyman (PP) Keith Gracie (KG) Darren Green (DG), Tony Harvey (TH) Steve Woods, Julie Arnold

Apologies Andy Oughton, Judith Harris, Chris Bailey

ACTION

1 **Notes of Previous Meeting**

No issues were raised on the notes from the meeting.

2 **Declaration of Interest.**

No declarations were made.

3 **Business Plan**

DG presented an overview of the proposed Waterway Business Plan for 2013-14 with a copy of the presentation given to all. A copy will be available on the Extranet. Any questions regarding the plan should be forwarded on to DG.

4 **Staffordshire Partnership Presentation**

Steve Woods and Julie Arnold gave a presentation on the way the C Staffordshire Partnership engages with other partnership groups and Local Authorities. and CA thanked them for giving up their time to present a very informative presentation to the members of CS Partnership.

5 **Enterprise/Operational Report**

TH gave an update on Enterprise projects:

European Union Interreg projects: Chris Bailey has been helpfully involved in processing the Interreg projects in which the Trust is involved. This has included hosting a formal visit to the Churnet Valley Living Landscape Partnership (CVLLP) project which is receiving funding via the Green Blue Futures Project and finalising details on the recently approved Numericanal project which will fund electronic remote working. Chris will provide a fuller briefing on his work at a forthcoming Partnership meeting. (Date to be agreed.)

CVLLP: the £30k Staffordshire Environmental Fund application had unfortunately been unsuccessful. However, the whole project budget has now been re-phased and realigned to enable the signing of the Community Means Business funding agreement and we are optimistic over further applications to be submitted over the next 3 years to fill a £23k gap. The waterway has meanwhile helpfully agreed to underwrite this amount to enable the project to proceed.

Stoke: discussions continue with the city council on a proposed study to consider strategic opportunities on the city waterway network. The city have offered to fund 50% of the £7k cost. The Trent & Mersey Canal Society and local IWA branch are also considering if they may be able to make a contribution. Local MPs Joan Walley and Tristram Hunt have asked to be kept informed of progress.

Slow Boat arts project: this youth-based project has been based in the West Midlands waterway and is part of the Trust's national arts programme. There is plan emerging for the boat to travel through Central Shires and East Midlands waterways in summer 2013 as part of an initiative involving the Asian community a Thai/Japanese artist and linked to an important Bollywood anniversary this year.

Next Strategic Plan workshop: the Partnership was reminded the second part of Workshop 2 will take place on 25 January. As before, this will be facilitated by TH and Heather Clarke.

DG gave a copy of operation report to all and asked that if there are any issues these be referred back to DG.

- Safety - There were no loss time injuries recorded in December
- Notification and Preventative Planned Maintenance work was progressing well
- Stoppage Open Days at Junction Lock, Fradley and Bedford Street Lock , Stoke on Trent were relatively well attended with approximately 150 visitors to each site.
- Final Stoppage open day to take place at Redhill Lock on the River Soar on the 19th January.
- Winter Stoppages – Works due to take place at Stoke Summit Lock 40 and Stoke Bottom Lock, Atherstone Lock 7 and Redhill Lock 59 and Double Rail Lock 31.

6 **Local Appeals**

Due to time constraints it was agreed to discuss this matter at future meeting.

7 **Trustee visit to Central Shires in July**

DG/CA been advised that the Trustees will be visiting the Central Shires area in July for their Board meeting. No date has been made available yet. The visit will have a theme and will visit appropriate locations in the CS patch during the day. This will be followed by a reception in the evening with invited guests from key stakeholder groups and partners. It was suggested maybe to visit the CVLLP. Partnership to discuss venue for site visit. All

CA informed the meeting that, along with other Chairs, she had been invited to the all-party Parliamentary Waterways Group to speak about the CRT Waterways Partnerships on the 29th January. CA to update Partnership after meeting. CA

8 **Future Meetings**

TH will be advise if we are able to hold the next meeting in February at the Etruria Museum. TH

CA asked partnership to come up with other locations (with contact details if necessary) for monthly meetings. Details to LG LG

9 **Any Other Business**

BM asked if Moorings Sub-Group could meet for an hour after the next Workshop Meeting on the 25th January BM/WC/GM/BH

CA – Atherstone Sub-Group to meet after meeting on 11th January.

BM - Asked if there will be a presence of the Partnership at major events during 2013 . In response CA asked for all to flag up any events and bring dates to the next meeting in February to decide where a presence would benefit the waterway. All

DG asked for confirmation which Partnership members would be attending the final Stoppage open day to take place at Redhill Lock on the River Soar on the 19th January. All

10 **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is to take place on Friday 15th February venue to be advised at a later date.