

North East Partnership meeting 28th November 2012

Attendees

Mark Penny Chair (MP), Chris Hawkesworth (CH), Jon Kendall (JK), Eric Bootland (EB), Peter Scott (PS), David Lowe (DL), Trevor Roberts (TR), Hilary Brooke (HB), Mike Osborne (MO)

C&RT: Jon Horsfall (JH), Heather Clarke (HC), Jane Thomson, (JT), Neil Harvey (NH)

Apologies

Dianne Hurst (DH), Ken Taylor (KT), Geraint Coles (GC), Mel Taylor (MT).

Waterway characteristics – their part in our strategy

A follow up to our second workshop was undertaken at our Partnership meeting at Fearn's Wharf on Wednesday 28th November. The purpose was to explore further the characteristics of the 6 key strategic areas we have already defined.

Understanding the opportunities and challenges presented by the differing characteristics of our waterways across the North East is critical. Our priorities need to be guided by addressing those areas in greatest need of attention and with particular attention to engaging communities around them. The theme of Waterways for people, place and prosperity remains.

The partnership explored characteristics of three of our six key strategic character areas

- 1. Tees**
- 2. The rivers Ouse, Ure and the Ripon canal**
- 3. Pocklington and the Yorkshire Derwent**

The workshop identified many themes, some of which are opportunities, for example ;

- The outstanding beauty of many of our rural waterways
- Proximity to internationally renowned heritage cities

And some of which present us with real challenges ;

- Limited land ownership / significant length of river navigations
- Limited / navigationally challenging / sometimes currently unappealing connectivity

At our next meeting in January we will review the characteristics of our waterways in South Yorkshire. Our more detailed work on developing our approach to engaging communities and getting people involved will relate specifically to the characteristics of our waterways and to our C&RT priorities.

What else did we think about ?

We discussed the developing 2013 / 14 business plan. In particular where we can find support for those priorities we don't have an ability to fund on our own.

The partnership will provide support by helping us to connect with organisations where there are mutual benefits in strategic partnerships and by helping us to find and supporting external funding opportunities.

Its six months since we formed our partnership. Our chairperson encouraged a review of what was going positively and also a review of our immediate future priorities.

Positives

- Openness of the group
- Knowledge
- Differences and diversity of approach is a strength
- Relationships building positively
- Supportive

Future priorities

- Partners will work to collectively extend C&RT network of contacts
- Develop understanding existing C&RT strategic priorities
- Raising awareness / advocacy of the work and priorities of C&RT
- Recognition of wider opportunities
- Ensuring developing sub group strategies link and complement particular waterway characteristics
- Developing a clear engagement strategy
- Developing our North East Waterways conference

Our final plea is the same. Understanding how we strike the right balance and approach is high on the Partnerships agenda; we are always open to suggestions. If you have a great idea or wish to consult on anything you have seen or have a particular concern about contact any member of our Partnership.

Ends JH