



MINUTES

Title	West Midlands Waterways Partnership meeting	
Date	07 November 2013	
Venue	Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge	
Attendees	Peter Mathews CMG	(PM)
	Dean Davies	(DD)
	David Caunt MBE	(DC)
	Jim Matthias	(JM)
	Len Cresswell	(LC)
	Graham Fisher MBE	(GF)
	Vaughan Welch	(VW)
	Ivor Caplan	(IC)
	John Harris	(JH)
	Ben Seal	(BS)
	Neil Wyatt	(NW)
Apologies	Karen Creavin, Tony Harvey, Nick Crombie, Jason Leach, Steve Burt	

1. Welcome and Apologies

- PM welcomed everyone and thanked Ian Dury and The Ruskin Centre for hosting the meeting. Apologies were acknowledged.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting

- The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and agreed.

3. Declaration of Interest

- No new Declarations

4. Chairman's Report

- PM and JH attended a very positive meeting with Paul Uppal, MP for Wolverhampton South West.

5. Group Reportage

- **LC** – Attended a user group meeting of the Coombeswood Trust. Reported that the bid for £1500 from the Proceeds of Crime fund for the Canal Watch scheme has been unsuccessful.
 - **VW** – Attended the Kingswood Trust meeting with LC plus the BCN Bonfire Event which was very successful.
 - **IC** – Attended a meeting with Ikon re funding to continue the work of the Slow Boat next year. The Partnership formally agreed to support this project – IC to confirm to them in writing.
 - **BS** – Reported that The Active Parks project in Edgbaston has
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been very successful, with 108 people taking part in cycling, running and canoeing in the first 3 months. Go-canoeing have also been conducting guided tours around Birmingham which have been fully booked. They have also taken on someone to write 15 new canoe trails around the canals in the West Mids.

- **DC** – Lapal project update – planning application approved (subject to S106 agreement) 17.10.13 which included major sum to construct a section of the Lapal canal with the Worcs BHam canal. IC & VW to meet with Jason Leach in his capacity within the Restoration team. The combination of these funds with some from the cycle funding means that 70% of the overall funding is now secured for the section of the canal to be restored.
- **IC** – Paper on Residential Moorings circulated prior to the meeting – it was agreed that a sub-committee be formed to discuss the Partnership's stance on this – IC to organise. Attended a meeting with the National Trust re the Round House in Birmingham which was a very good opportunity to establish further contact with them.
- **GF** – Reports submitted prior to the meeting – the local Stourbridge walk is now the 2nd most downloaded item on the website.
- **NW** – Attended a meeting re Bradley Arm restoration. Where there was enthusiasm from a local developer and residents. It was agreed that are benefits to the restoration with potential for economic regeneration and opportunities to create a wetland corridor. There is a feasibility study proposal which will cost approx. £8k. It was agreed that NW will lead on the application for funding.
- **JM** – There is good news in that there has been an improvement in hire bookings with lots of first time boaters. Attended a meeting hosted by Richard Parry re licencing, and also a meeting with BSS re review relating to hire boats.

6. Parliamentary Meeting on the 19th November

- The meeting will be held at the Houses of Parliament with a capacity of circa 45 between 4pm-6pm, members to meet at 3.45 in the café in Westminster. Briefing notes to be issued by Thursday 14th November.

7. Waterway Strategic Plan Update

- The SWP is now out for consultation and follow up meetings are to be arranged – Partnership members may be asked to attend. DD advised that the Action Plan which details the projects, and sits behind the SWP will be issued this week for comment. Once agreed it will then go out to the heads of departments within CRT re delivery.

8. Any Questions from Operations and Finance Papers

- None raised.

9. AOB – Including Location of Next Meeting

- Next meeting will be at the Ikon Café starting at 6.30pm.
- It was agreed that the meetings for 2014 will continue to be held on the first Thursday of each month, with the exception of January which will be Thursday 9th January, and there will not be a meeting in August. JJ to send out a meeting schedule.
- LC suggested Askers Trust as a meeting venue – will send contact details to JJ.