



MEETING NOTES

Title	South East Waterway Partnership
Date	Wednesday 7 th May 2014
Venue	Milton Keynes Office – 6.00pm
Attendees	Members – John Best- Chair (JB), Ann Davies (AD), Lynda Payton (LD), Andrew Taylor (AT), Cath Fincher (CF), Ken Atack (KA) CRT Staff – Neil Owen (NO), James Clifton (JC), Richard Rutter (RR), Roger Hanbury (RH), Jeff Whyatt (JW), Brian MacAuley (BM), Amy McEleney (AM)
Apologies	Dick Pilkington (DP), Chris Stanley (CS)

1. **Notes from the previous meeting (6th March 2014)** JB
- Wendy Hawk is meeting JC and NO Thursday 8th May to discuss the Sport England bid. The Trust has a good chance of getting the pilot scheme, which is shortly to go to the Sport England board. The next stages are an engagement strategy, understanding how to deliver and getting people involved.
 - JB has a link with Sports Leader UK which could be considered. Post meeting note this was raised with Wendy and this is definitely something for the project officer to follow up when in post.
 - Oxford Heritage open day on the 3rd May was very successful.
 - Kaffe Matthews is currently preparing her song following her journey along the canal.
 - Digital Foxton tenders are live
<http://www.goleicestershire.com/about-us/FoxtonLocksTenders.aspx>

Members update

- GW has resigned as a member of the Partnership.

Outstanding

- Annual reviews still need to be typed.
- LS still to make map showing each Partnership members geographical areas along with locations of project locations.

JB/LS

2. Declaration of Interest

- It was agreed AM will create a generic list of members 'interests'. Members to advise AM of interests they believe should be on this generic list that aren't currently listed on their CV's. If a discussion takes place during the meetings in which a member has an interest they are to declare this. JB declared several interests, including B&MK and Arts Central.

ALL

3. Brian MacAuley – Economist

BM purchased information from Experian to create a database of companies within close proximity of the canal network. This is currently in the testing phase.

It can be used to identify companies to approach for funding etc. The list can be refined by area, type of company etc. so we can find companies most useful to us as a charity.

This could help other teams including fundraising to provide a mailing list; we can also use this to identify the companies who already give to charity.

RR advised the next steps would be to draw up a programme of how we can use the data to assist with the strategic plan.

All queries are to go to JC.

AD suggested we need a template and to ensure consistency with the data and how it is handled.

4. Trust strategy update

NO provided the Partnership members with a briefing on the Trust's ten year strategic plan.

The Vision – Living waterways transform places and enrich lives.

Our Values – Caring, Open, Local, Involvement, Excellence

The Trust has built a ten year strategy so we are clear what we're trying to achieve which includes six strategic goals; Waterways, Places, Prosperity, People, Influence, Resources and how they link together.

JB suggested the South East Waterway would not be affected as much as some other Waterways. JB is keen to understand how the central team will engage with the Waterway and would like to see more teams such as property etc. getting involved under the new structure.

Members wanted to be involved as much as possible in the discussions.

Members agreed the Trust's strategy update should be a standing item on future agendas. RH agreed to inform the project's team the Partnership wants to be involved in shaping the implementation.

5. **Waterway Update**

End of year performance

- A summary of the B14 budgets was given and the South East Waterway, subject to final correlation of figures, has finished third among the waterways for end of year .
- The results do not include overhead maintenance.
- Our spend for BP2014/15 is slightly up on last year and we very much put emphasis on the delivery of high priority notifications.
- We are going to be carrying out a slightly larger lock replacement this winter, with 24 individual gates at 12 sites compared to the 14/15 of last year.
- We chose well with the open days last year.
- NO advises this year we have secured £500,000 from the major works budget for dredging on the Grand Union Leicester section. The current year is the last before the conditional grant allocation under the contract with the government so we would expect to receive an additional £10,000,000 next year.

User Forums

- RH has looked at ways to improve these.
- They were well attended and positive.
- The information gathered from the meeting (regarding shared towpaths/boater facilities) will be used over the next few months. We will feedback to people once decisions have been made.
- JC said the Shared Use of Towpaths consultation resulted in 2,441 completed surveys. There had been three workshops, with a launch of the code of practise in the summer.

Aylesbury Basin

- A final decision is needed for visitor mooring charging mechanism for the moorings on the pontoons. This has been referred to the Boating Sub Group.
- The academy site is still under construction.

Napton

- On Bank Holiday Monday the lock approach wall collapsed on lock 10, possibly as a result of the by-wash outlet being blocked. We closed the lock flight.
- We have received good feedback from customers regarding our rapid response to the issue and the communication from staff.

Post Meeting Note – Contractors worked around the clock to allow the flight to reopened at 11:45am on Friday 8th May 2014.

6. Boating Issues/subgroup

AD has emailed Richard Parry directly asking for clarification on the boat group's purpose and what the direction the group will be going in.

LP said the boating sub group members feel the group is worthwhile. Also that the boating group should not just be about visitor moorings.

Signage has been a significant topic and the group felt they could contribute to this on a local level.

Boating group feedback was that they recognise local issues and need reassurance they are not duplicating the work of other groups.

7. Waterway Strategic Plan

Title options for the front cover were discussed during the meeting JC contributed several suggestions;

- Places for Reflection... Defined by our waterways
- Just add water... Life's Essential Ingredients
- Unique and Diverse... Linking communities; creating opportunities.

Members were invited to send any other suggestions to JC by Sunday 11th May.

Once the last edits have been processed, the document will be passed to the directors.

We are considering a print-run of 250 copies.

Members discussed promoting the strategic plan. This will include mailing with tailored messages addressing specific people directly and identifying projects in the action plan that Parishes can get involved with.

There are 36 parishes with priority destinations, the five key ones are:-

- Stoke Bruerne
- Braunston
- Crick & Yelvertoft
- Cropredy
- Banbury Town

JC will target these high priority areas, plus LEPS with face to face Meetings.

8. Partnership Work Programme

1-1 Sessions have been carried out those who have attended are LP, AD, CS, AT.

LP presented her destination project, using Stoke Bruerne as a pilot, identifying local stake holders for support, noting what destinations would benefit from being developed and what an area can offer. LP asked for help collecting data all Members can get involved with in their local/preferred areas.

Lynda is putting together a job description for two partnership officers, hoping they could split six destinations between them. LP had discussed using volunteers to improve South East partnership website with JW during her 1-1 session, the hoping to make it easier to access, social media strategies were also suggested. JW invited LP to act as project manager for the Stoke Bruerne land scheme.

9. Key Dates/ next meetings

- Monday 7th July
- Tuesday 2nd September
- Wednesday 16th October – confirmed APM
- Tuesday 28th October – Waterway Forum – Braunston
- Thursday 6th November – Waterway Forum - Aylesbury – Circus Fields Marina
- Thursday 4th December – Partnership meeting

10. AOB

- Ebay Sale
All 349 items will be available on eBay, with over 120 listing from 16th May to 30th May. These are mostly signs but there are also limited edition prints of a distance table and section of main line - both for Grand Junction Canal.

The email address for any questions is Ebay.Auction@canalrivertrust.org.uk and the link to go to **only once the auction is live** is <http://www.ebay.co.uk/CanalSale>

AT asked if the Croxley rail crossing would have an adverse impact on the moorings.NO confirmed this would not be the case.

The living waterway Awards were discussed the nomination for Bridge 163 at Lady Chapels was not ultimately submitted due to the ongoing works at Lock 10.