



## NOTES - NORTH WALES & BORDERS PARTNERSHIP MEETING

<b>Date</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2015
<b>Venue</b>	Llanymynech Village Hall
<b>Attendees</b>	Brenda Harvey, Wendy Capelle, John Yates, Sue Cawson, Frances Done, Alan Platt, Belinda Davenport, Chris Koral, Sara Mogel, Mike Carter.
<b>Other Attendees</b>	Lesley Beard.
<b>Apologies</b>	Roger Hanbury, Barry Stamp, Campbell Boyle, Gillian Edwards, Nicola Said, Ani Sutton.

	Action
<b>1. Welcome, introductions, apologies for absences (Brenda Harvey)</b>	
<b>2. Notes of previous meeting/matters arising (Brenda Harvey)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The notes were agreed</li> <li>• Wendy Capelle to ask Glenn Young to email Belinda Davenport.</li> <li>• Education – Caroline Killeavy to be invited to attend a future meeting.</li> <li>• Approval has been received for agendas and meeting notes to be emailed in addition to being saved to the Extranet with other associated documentation.</li> <li>• Local Stakeholder Engagement Plan               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 5 of the 6 groups have met in various locations around the area. All of the five groups have tasks to provide information to Ani by certain dates and a second date is in the diary to review information gathered and plan the next phase. Prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings Ani is amalgamating the information and double-checking it with CRT colleagues to minimise duplication etc.</li> <li>➤ The second dates will be predominantly about planning engagement, ensuring that stakeholders are prioritised and that it is really clear what the purpose of engagement is</li> <li>➤ Still require information from national office to take a consistent message to stakeholders. Contact with stakeholders (once agreed) is due to start end of July/beginning of Aug.</li> <li>➤ The rural group is the only group that has not met and this meeting is planned for the 10<sup>th</sup> July in Ellesmere.</li> <li>➤ All lead members of the group have been reminded that they will be required to report back progress at each partnership meeting. They will all have similar feedback at the meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, but this will gradually alter as groups identify with different tasks, priorities &amp; organisations.</li> <li>➤ General view that there are numerous opportunities including adoptions, corporate partners, political awareness/PR work.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>WC WC</p>

<p><b>3. Declarations of Interest (All) –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gillian Edwards to email declaration of interests to Lesley.</li> <li>• No further declarations were received in respect of items on the agenda.</li> </ul>	<p>GE</p>
<p><b>4. Enterprise Update (Wendy Capelle)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towpath Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Montgomery Canal – an event at Four Crosses on 5<sup>th</sup> June celebrated the recent completion of towpath enhancements. Russell George (Welsh Assembly Member), John Dodwell and Brenda Harvey cut the ribbon to mark the occasion.</li> <li>➢ Weaver Navigation – June saw the opening of the final 1km of towpath to be upgraded between Northwich and Winsford, a total distance of km. The project was delivered in partnership with the Saltscape Landscape Partnership at a cost of £125,000 funded through WREN Community Landfill Fund, HLF and Cheshire West and Chester Council.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Montgomery Canal Restoration (Heritage Lottery) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Most of the surveys and design work have been completed and cost estimates have been obtained.</li> <li>➢ The community consultation phase is now substantially complete and will inform our Activity Plan for future engagement activities along the length of canal. 2769 respondents gave their views on the canal restoration project as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 54% think the canal is very important to them, with its history and wildlife being given almost the same importance.</li> <li>▪ 80% would like to learn more about the history of the canal and 68% are very supportive of the restoration project.</li> <li>▪ 32% would volunteer on the project and another 20% would consider it.</li> <li>▪ 58% would be interested in community activities with a preference for heritage discovery walk, horse-drawn boat trip and wildlife discovery walk. Young people under 11 years old preferring to learn about traditional wood working skills, followed by horse-drawn boat trips.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• An art session by artist in residence, Mair Hughes was delivered in Llanymynech.</li> <li>• A community archaeology session gave people the opportunity to learn new skills and help discover the past of Maesbury Marsh.</li> <li>• Monty Triathlon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ The event on 9<sup>th</sup> May was organised by Friends of the Montgomery Canal.</li> <li>➢ 35 miles were covered in one day with 17 miles of cycling, 10.5 miles of walking/running and 7.5 miles of canoeing.</li> <li>➢ 600m of towpath improvements (funded by Welsh Government) and 3 new canoe accesses (funded by the Friends of the Montgomery Canal) were installed in advance of the event to improve conditions for participants.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Funding Bids. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ A bid for £217k was submitted for Welsh Government Core Funding. The focus of the bid is to extend The Waterway Action Squad into Wales and recruit two youth engagement officers to deliver youth engagement and volunteering across the Welsh Canals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Stakeholder Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ A successful event was held in Llanymynech on the Wales/Shropshire border to update stakeholders on the progress being made on HLF bid for the further restoration of the Montgomery Canal. Over 50 people attended.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Update (Wendy Capelle)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anderton Boat Lift was closed for 9 days owing to a serious mechanical failure. Additional safety systems will now be activated within the control protocols for the gate operation that will prevent such a failure occurring in the future.</li> </ul>	

- A leak has developed at Aston Locks on the Montgomery Canal causing the navigation to be closed from the locks to Maesbury.
  - Boat passage is limited between Frankton Locks and the Queens Head only. We have provided support and assistance to a number of boaters who have been affected by the closure, with only one boat now unable to move out of the closed section to commence a holiday. In addition, we are working closely with a couple of canal side businesses based on the closed section to explore options to enable boaters to access their facilities. In the last day, the horse drawn boat operator has started promoting boat trips from the bottom of the locks to Maesbury for boaters who are moored at the Queens Head and who wish to use the pub/café in Maesbury.
  - 140 meters of piling is being put in place to re-enforce the section.
- Accident at Frankton locks when member of the public fell on top of the lock quadrant whilst in the process of operating the bottom lock gates.
  - It was suggested that balance beams at Frankton are too long and this is being looked at by the waterway.
  - Steps have been highlighted with a marker to show the edges and we are working with the Heritage team to find the best way forward.
- PR/Comms Update.
  - Widespread media coverage after the announcement that the Chester towpath was to be re-opened and 'safe-zone' created to allow remedial work to be carried out.
  - The official opening of the £260,000 Montgomery Canal towpath upgrade at Llanymynech attracted publicity. The event included a briefing session on the Montgomery Canal restoration.
  - All weather River Weaver towpath link between Northwich and Winsford now complete. Coverage in local press. Part of Saltscape programme.
  - A new book devoted to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site received positive reviews in both the local media and in specialist magazines.
  - Canal & River Trust supported the launch of a new service offering free trips on the Shropshire Union Canal for disabled people in a specially adapted boat.
  - A communications plan has been drawn up for the start of work on Ollershaw Lane Bridge, Northwich.
  - A watching brief was kept on the Montgomery canal leak at Maesbury.
  - A photo call is to be held following improvement work being carried out on the Toll Building at Anderton Boat Lift.
  - To celebrate 2015 being the UNESCO International Year of Light, the Society of Light and Lighting will undertake an ambitious project to light a number of the UK and Ireland UNESCO World Heritage Sites; for one night only on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, The Night of Heritage Lighting (NoHL). Negotiations are underway for Pontcysyllte Aqueduct to be included in this one off event.
  - Regional publicity for the Trust's launch of Great Nature Watch campaign to highlight the plight of water voles.
  - The Trust's Share the Space campaign also received local publicity.
- Property Update
  - Tower Wharf, Chester
    - Student scheme
      - ❖ Miller Developments have secured planning consent at appeal and are looking to start work over the summer. This will include the provision of a new slipway.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Flat shed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is the listed building next to Taylor’s boatyard which we sold on a long lease to CTP with obligations on them to refurbish the structure. It is currently proposed that CTP will bring the building back to good repair with a view to it being included in the boatyard going forward. Survey work is being undertaken ahead of a planning and listed building application being submitted.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. Partnership Chairs’ Meeting Feedback (Brenda Harvey)</b></p> <p>Report back on the issues discussed at the most recent meeting of all Waterway Partnership Chairs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All developing these and working on agreed projects.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Neighbourhood Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Discussed scope to engage with all plans and agreed that CRT and partnerships can only deal with priority plans in detail (e.g. Northwich).</li> <li>➤ National team to draft a ‘canal’ policy to be sent to all other relevant neighbourhood plan groups.</li> <li>➤ All to let Wendy Capelle know if there is a neighbourhood plan to be produced.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Northern Powerhouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The concept of this is being discussed at National level and is only relevant to northern partnerships.</li> <li>➤ CRT is in a unique position as it has one interest which runs across the northern powerhouse area and could become a significant partner across major conurbations.</li> <li>➤ CRT National Planning team to produce input to draft national planning policy.</li> <li>➤ Any members who have particular interests in powerhouse and would like to be involved please let Wendy Capelle or Brenda Harvey know. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sara Mogel expressed an interest in being involved with transport aspect and would like to look at policy draft.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Canals are reviewed as part of the transport network. Should we be considering now what canals were created for in the first place?</li> <li>➤ It was suggested that CRT may need to start dialogue with Peel Holdings. All to think about policy and who to link with. Needs to be discussed with Local Enterprise Partnerships.</li> <li>➤ Weaver Navigation and its connections are significant.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Annual meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It was agreed that we can seek to get parts of these sponsored by others.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p><b>7. All Wales Report (circulated previously – Brenda Harvey)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restructuring of Local Authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Welsh Government report published which identifies 8 local authorities in Wales.</li> <li>➤ Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham are to be combined. Powys unchanged.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Important issue of whether canals are devolved to Wales, particularly when current national funding agreement comes to an end.</li> <li>• Montgomery Canal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A brief examination of the benefits of restoring the Welsh section of the canal showed sustained and additional GVA of £2.2m per annum. Non market public benefits sustained and added would be between £3.3m and £4.6m p.a.</li> <li>➤ The latest phase of the £1m towpath improvement project had a very successful opening on 5<sup>th</sup> June.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Llangollen Canal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Trevor - temporary food advertisement received just 10 responses and 2 offers. A company has been selected and arrangements are in place for them to start as soon as planning consent is received. The option of a water based offer has now received consent.</li> <li>➢ Pontcysyllte Aqueduct &amp; canal Guidebook in English and Welsh was launched on 18<sup>th</sup> June. It is the first CRT publication and already receiving excellent reviews. Stock is held by the National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port. Funding has been received from Visit Wales (£16k) and CADW (£3k).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Welsh Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ New Standards have been approved by the National Assembly. The process of introducing standards takes place in a series of rounds. CRT will be covered in later rounds other than where we receive funding from Welsh Government where we will need to comply with their policy.</li> <li>➢ We are reviewing implementation of our current Welsh language policy currently and will recommend revisions where necessary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Promoted Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Over the past 18 months Natural Resources Wales – the largest provider of outdoor recreation in Wales - has been working to promote specific partner promoted routes to a wider audience via outlets such as Visit Wales, ViewRanger and TrailZilla focused on families with buggies and wheelchair users.</li> <li>➢ Severn Way – Newtown to Welshpool section – <a href="http://my.viewranger.com/route/details/MjM0ODA%3D">http://my.viewranger.com/route/details/MjM0ODA%3D</a></li> <li>➢ Llangollen History Trail - <a href="http://my.viewranger.com/route/details/MjM0ODE%3D">http://my.viewranger.com/route/details/MjM0ODE%3D</a></li> <li>➢ Afon Lwyd Trail – <a href="http://my.viewranger.com/route/details/NTAzNzU%3D">http://my.viewranger.com/route/details/NTAzNzU%3D</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Integrated Business Plan (All) – Progress Reports from Character Groups Activities (report from Ani Sutton read by Brenda Harvey)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ellesmere Port/Chester Canal Corridor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ There has been a delay in applying for the funding and this is being addressed.</li> <li>➢ Ani Sutton updated the Character Group on 24<sup>th</sup> June.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Waterway Explorers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Explorers is only available at Trevor at the moment due to only having one education volunteer. This is identified as an area that the partnership may be able to assist with.</li> <li>➢ Progress has been made with the new post of education volunteer officer but this post has now altered from a North Wales post to an All Wales Post. Ani to discuss this further with Education Team on 10<sup>th</sup> July to see how partnership could assist and how this post can benefit NWB CRT.</li> <li>➢ WHS &amp; Llangollen Character group have been updated by Ani Sutton.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Restoration of the Montgomery Canal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Discussed in the Character area how we will work with the other groups involved in Montgomery Canal.</li> <li>➢ Meeting arranged for both partnerships to meet.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Unpowered Access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ No further details or update on this.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Marshalls Arm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ An Sutton, Duncan Davenport and Wendy Capelle have met to have an overview of this location</li> <li>➢ Ani Sutton has completed a familiarisation session with the local supervisor of the area</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Agreed that Ani Sutton will arrange a meeting for Duncan Davenport, Chris Koral and the local Ranger from WCC to discuss ideas for the area; potential adoption. Discussed within the Weaver Navigation character area group.</li> <li>• Saltscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Discussed in Weaver Navigation Group that ideally a member of the partnership will be on the interview panel for the new post and this group will support this post with the local engagement using the current work on the CRT stakeholder engagement strategy/plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Natural Health Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ani Sutton and Campbell Boyle have met and looked at the range of provision in Staffordshire, and some recommendations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ellesmere Yard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Contact person given to Brenda Harvey to consider if a presentation is required for the Rural Area Character Group.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Planning Obligations Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Have been informed that the way forward for this is to contact Alison Truman and get placed on the consultation list. Correct way forward to be discussed at partnership meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Angling Tasters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Potential for Welshpool, Whitchurch and Ellesmere Port as suggested by Fishing team but time is running out to plan. Potential for Welshpool event to link into presentation of adoption certificate. Ellesmere Port and Whitchurch to be discussed in Character groups and is on the agendas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• University of Liverpool presentations were excellent. Character areas could be applied to some of the students' work.</li> </ul>	ALL
<p><b>Montgomery Canal (report from Alan Platt)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Yates and Alan Platt are members of the Montgomery Partnership (MP) and met with Brenda Harvey and Ani Sutton to discuss how the MP could fit into their plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ John Yates, Ani Sutton and Brenda Harvey to meet with John Dodwell and Michael Limbrey so that a clearer idea of how the waterways partnership can help the MP can be discussed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	BH/AS/JY
<p><b>Chester and Ellesmere Port (Sara Mogel)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting was held at National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port. Discussions took place regarding who we are engaging with.</li> <li>• These are 2 distinct areas and the canal is the link.</li> <li>• Chester Renaissance and Ellesmere Port Development Board are in discussions.</li> <li>• Angling taster days could be held at Ellesmere Port with local anglers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Could involve deprived young people.</li> <li>➤ If we push angling, how do we do this without upsetting others? All to think about this and provide feedback at next meeting.</li> <li>➤ Need to consider wildlife (e.g. swans).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Brenda Harvey has contacted the 3 new MPs to arrange meetings.</li> </ul>	ALL
<p><b>Weaver Navigation (report from Chris Koral, Mike Carter and Gillian Edwards)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> June. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Looked at what area we have.</li> <li>➤ Heavy industrial potential partnership is unique.</li> <li>➤ Also rural areas.</li> <li>➤ Canoeists to be encouraged to use Weaver Navigation.</li> <li>➤ Populated areas spreadsheet.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Rural Centre</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group has not yet met. Wendy Capelle to join the group and Nicola Lewis-Smith would also be able to provide support.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>World Heritage Site and Western Llangollen Canal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group meeting has been held.</li> <li>• Stuart Mills and Heather Clark meeting senior Council leaders to discuss long term future.</li> <li>• Could consider working with Eisteddfod organisation.</li> <li>• Trevor – need to think about what would attract interest of Welsh Government and what can be done at Trevor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Catering – building surveyor to look at green shed. There is a vehicle inspection pit in the shed and this may make the shed unsuitable for storing/preparing food. The shed may need to be demolished.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Midland Gateway (report from Campbell Boyle read by Brenda Harvey)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder Engagement Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ At a meeting with Ani Sutton, the characteristics of our area were discussed at length and summed up as having no significant commercial operations beyond individual farming. Other than this, there are ten canal side pub/restaurants, three hire boat depots and two boatyards. There are no large employers in our area but little unemployment. Health parameters are generally good, although it is an area with a large elderly population.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In Gnosall, the 'Best Kept Village' leader has been contacted and principals of other organisations have been listed.</li> <li>• Natural Health Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Using Gnosall as a pilot - identified the Staffs CC person responsible for the Walking for Health sponsored programme, and the funding mechanism which covers only publicity and training of walk leaders. Perhaps working at National level the Trust might achieve a profile in this programme? Gnosall GPs already play an active part in this scheme, and the local walk leader has been identified</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Planning obligations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ After the next IWA/SWG meeting with Staffs CC in August, identify relevant county officers and arrange to meet. Use SWG document as a basis for discussion? (This document also refers to Natural Health Service above).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Norbury has a good facilities building but that this locked up all the time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Why are cyclists and canoeists unable to access these? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Keys are sold in waterway offices to anyone who requests these and are not restricted to boaters.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Engaging People (Brenda Harvey)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do we want to talk to people about? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ For example, some boaters are very knowledgeable and some have minimal knowledge of waterways.</li> <li>➢ Some people don't understand the changes in the move from British Waterways to being a charity.</li> <li>➢ A clear briefing paper is needed re: what to say to people. CRT is quite a well-resourced charity but with significant liabilities (e.g. cost of maintenance).</li> <li>➢ It is important to identify who to engage with who can 'add value' to the waterways. Need to have individual messages relevant to those people.</li> <li>➢ Partnerships support CRT and local communities.</li> <li>➢ Brenda Harvey to request a draft of the briefing required for next meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Annual Meeting (Brenda Harvey)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This could start with an explanation of what is in it for communities.</li> <li>• Keynote speaker for the morning required.</li> <li>• Group Character Areas in the afternoon.</li> <li>• Could talk about how canals enhance lives (am) and ask the audience how we can work together with them (pm).</li> </ul>	<p>ALL</p> <p>BH</p>

