



NOTES OF THE KENNET AND AVON PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date	Wednesday 3 rd February 2016
Venue	Devizes Meeting Room, CRT Office, Devizes
Attendees	<u>WP Members</u> Tamsin Phipps – Chair (TP), Emma Fearnley (EF), Terry Fell (TF), Rob Dean (RD), Ken Oliver (KO), Mark Evans – Waterway Manager (ME), John Inman (JI), Richard Watson (RW), <u>CRT Staff</u> Alison Jordan (AJ), Matthew Symonds (MS), Caroline Robson (CR), Maeve Thompson (MT), Suzanne Featherstone (SF)
Apologies	<u>WP Members</u> Alistair Millington (AM)

Action

1. Welcome

TP – Chair welcomed Partnership Members to the meeting

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared

3 Notes and actions arising from the last meeting – 9th December 2015

TP reported that the format of the Annual Partnership Meeting can be tailored to suit each Waterway, this includes when the meeting can be held. It was suggested that September would be an appropriate time to hold the meeting and link in with a local event such as during a heritage weekend, to encourage a higher number of attendees.

4. Chair's Update TP

This has been a very busy period of time. There has been a lot of progress made along the waterways.

In addition the 11 Partnership Chairs have requested the opportunity to have time to get together as the value of sharing our experience as chairs, both with each other and with the Trust is enormous. These are very valuable meetings and a very welcome opportunity to share ideas.

The second of these meetings took place on 1st February and covered such matters as

- Sharing and Communication between Chairs - all agreed that we would benefit from having the opportunity to share knowledge and experience with each other and that the collective identification of issues and ideas would be of benefit to the Trust. This would therefore be improving the value the Trust derives from partnerships.
- Sharing project ideas and developments - Examples quoted were Green Flag and health related projects.
- Partnerships' Make-up and Capacity
- Community Engagement
- CRT PR
- Integrated plan for the whole waterway territory -
- Green Flag – following success in Manchester and Pennines what can we learn about how to approach securing Green Flag status?
- Health Projects
- Property and property management
- Working with businesses - this was another topic identified where knowledge and experience could usefully be shared between chairs.
- APM formats

The next meeting of the Chairs is due to be held in March.

5. Waterway Managers Update – Volunteering, Customer Operations, Development and Engagement updates

Mark Evans Waterway Manager

ME is attending a meeting in Exeter with the local council on Thursday 4th February to discuss Canal & River Internal Governance Framework.

Plans for the Bath Boathouse are moving with the help of an appointed consultant who is preparing a Business Plan for the project – consulting with stakeholders and looking into the options for its usage. First draft to be available by 5th February. It is anticipated that BaNES will start work on the restoration within the coming weeks. Heads of Terms to be drawn up.

The impact of the floods means that dredging programme has been affected. The Long Pound will still be in the financial year (16/17) as planned, but Crofton maybe deferred.

ME reported that there is funding for a separate Business Plan for Bridgwater & Taunton. There will be a consultant either external or internal appointed to head up this work.

Canal & River Trust and Help for Heroes have come together for the first time with an ambitious plan to change the lives of ex-servicemen and women through a programme of canal restoration, transforming waterways across England in the process.

The project will train ex-servicemen or women with an accredited qualification as they recruit volunteers to help transform the waterways. Around 200,000 local people will be involved through events, walks, education programmes and other activities. The UK's canals and heroic veterans are the winners in People's Postcode Lottery's 'Dream Work is planned to be undertaken locally and also linked in with the Wilts and Berks restoration

Steve Manzi Volunteer Development Co-ordinator

K&A volunteer KPI's for Q3 100%.

Volunteer lock keeper recruitment has started, we will have five locations this year Bath, Bradford-on-Avon, Caen Hill, Crofton and Newbury.

At Newbury, which is a new location this year, VLK's also be trained to operate West Mills Swing Bridge.

Dale Marshall Customer Operations Manager

We have secured a budget from April 2016 to employ a Team Leader to help manage our growing number of volunteers and the tasks they carry out for us. This will mean a small change to the team structure.

The new team leader will report directly to Max Ward. Mark Betson Team Leader on the B&T will report directly to DM

Avoncliff water point - Wessex Water have installed the fresh water supply to within 4m of the planned location for the new water point. We are awaiting Vinci installing the last section and the water point itself. We will be using a cast Iron water point from the farm yard, which will be more in keeping from a heritage point of view.

Two volunteer project managers have been appointed to take on responsibility for Jubilee woodland. Chris Edwards and Chris Hartley will be joining us in early February, working 1 or 2 days per week

Post-Christmas winter stoppages at Seend Wharf Bridge, Lock 21, West Mills Swing Bridge, Garston Lock, Picketsfield Lock & Sheffield lock are all in progress and largely on schedule for completion on the published dates.

Caroline Robson Development & Engagement Manager

Share the Space will be relaunched in April, with a national week of action. All waterways have been asked to prepare a plan of events for the year. In line with data showing where the highest number of incidences/collisions occur, we will hold events at Caen Hill, West Mills,

Bathampton and Bradford on Avon. To support the campaign, new 'maplets' (pocket size fold out maps and Share the Space messaging are being designed for all the waterways.

Plans for Jubilee woodland continue with the help of TCV(The Conservation Volunteers) and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT). Thanks to all who gave time to the recent planting event. Funding will help with restocking, management and creation of the pond. In addition, we will work with WWT to create a community garden, complete with raised beds, an orchard and new signage.

The Heritage Trail from Bath to Bradford on Avon is set to complete by the end of the financial year. The trail includes new interpretation and leaflet – which follows on from the first of our heritage trails which began in Bath. Artwork for a new six panel interpretation board at Aldermaston has been received and is being finalised. The next set of boards will be at Kintbury, before undertaking a review of signage requirements for the entire waterway.

6. Three year plan review

Please refer to action plan attached.

7. Open Day 21st February Sheffield Lock CR

Sheffield Lock Open Day is taking place on Sunday 21st February, between 10am-3pm. Roles include meet and greet, talking to the public about the site and its history, helping with refreshments, and assisting the Explorers (education) team with craft activities and general stewarding.

8. Review of the Kennet & Avon Facilities MS

A national campaign is being carried out to review the facilities (Elsan points and pump outs). The first phase will be ascertain a correct list of the facilities along the canal across the country. The second phase will be to evaluate if the standard of services is met on the waterways and to fill in where additional facilities are required.

MS to send further information on the above project to EF

MS

9. Welcome Boat update JI

Jl invited members to visit the boat after the meeting.

The Welcome Station Boat is now on Caen Hill Flight. We have secured a donation of ash veneered plywood and a kitchen unit from Camberg Devizes. The roof is in the process of being lined and the structure is in place for the studded walls. The boat is currently having electrics installed by CRT staff from Gloucester. The electricians have fitted the lights and plug sockets. So far work has started on the bulkheads around the toilet and steps down into the boat.

The boat has a full business licence and the expected finish time for the works on the boat is around Easter time.

There will be a competition taking place with local schools to name the boat.

10. AOB

TF reported complaints received about the towpath at Horton and All Cannings.
MS – CRT will be sending out a 'Boat Owners Views' a survey to all boaters over the next three years. A third of licence owners will receive it per year

KO As part of the Gypsy and traveller's policy, KO has been contacted by Julian House in Bath offering the services of an outreach worker.

MS reported to members that the Boaters Sub Group has been put on hold as concerns were raised that currently there is not sufficient resources to support eleven of these groups.

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 5th April 2016 Devizes Office.