



Canal &
River Trust

PRESS RELEASE

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CHARITY UNVEILS EXCITING VISION FOR CANALSIDE GARDEN IN NOTTINGHAM

The Canal & River Trust has unveiled exciting plans to transform an area of land next to the Nottingham Beeston Canal into a community garden celebrating Nottinghamshire's heritage.

The charity that cares for 2,000 miles of waterways in England & Wales is keen to rejuvenate the stretch of land next to Wilford Street and has enlisted the help of University of Nottingham students to come up with some designs.

The strip of land, sandwiched between the canal and the Nottinghamshire Archives building, is currently covered in low level scrub and a few trees.

The Trust is keen to see the area revitalised, giving people living and working nearby a welcoming place to enjoy a quiet lunch break or watch the world go by. The charity contacted the University's Department of Architecture and Built Environment which launched a design competition amongst its students.

The winning entry was designed by Tom Cran and Joe Copley and, named The Pit, it celebrates the history of the canal and Nottinghamshire's mining heritage. This is reflected in the use of limestone and colour-graded timber steps symbolising the process of coal formation.

The design includes a canalside amphitheatre and viewing gallery giving clear, uninterrupted views of the canal. There are also seating areas, bike storage and the potential for a café boat to be moored nearby. The Trust is now looking for the funding needed to carry out the works although it is anticipated that some of it could be carried out by volunteers.

Danny Brennan, chair of the Canal & River Trust's East Midlands Waterway Partnership said; "We want to make this pocket of Nottingham's canalside more of a destination and more attractive for local people and we're really excited about the proposals put forward by the students – all of which showed some invention, creativity and great practical ideas.

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

“This new layout will give Nottingham more of the kind of canalside public space that you see in other cities but we just don’t have enough of at the moment. It will be an attractive, relaxing space to escape to at lunchtime, a place to just sit and watch the boats go by and to take in the wonderful historic buildings surrounding Castle Wharf.

“We’re now looking for funding to bring this exciting vision to reality and are keen to work with local businesses who may want to get involved. It’s a fantastic opportunity to make a lasting difference to Nottingham’s canalside, and the way in which local people experience it, and we’re determined to make this new amenity happen.”

There were four entries submitted by the students with representatives from both the Trust and the university choosing an overall winner. Each of the entries will receive a small cash prize in recognition of their efforts.

Professor Tim Heath of the University of Nottingham said: “This has been an invaluable opportunity for our students to undertake a ‘real’ design project for a client in the Canal & River Trust. They have proposed some creative yet realisable designs that will hopefully inform the transformation of this neglected canalside into a popular destination for the local community and visitors to the city.”

To find out more about the work of the Canal & River Trust and how you can get involved go to www.canalrivertrust.org.uk.

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Notes to editors:

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation’s third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites.

We believe that living waterways transform places and enrich lives and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk