Minutes

London & South East Regional Advisory Board

Thursday, 2nd December 2021

3pm – 5pm

Location: Virtual

Attendees

Sir William Atkinson (Chair), Jenny Ballinger, David Brough, Jim Crooks, Ros Daniels (Director), Matthieu Hunt, Sam Anderson-Brown

Apologies

Jenny Ballinger (late running)

Guests

Del Lawton, L&SE Customer Service Supervisor (Minutes)

Minutes / Matters arising

- Membership absences were discussed and confirmed as being due to technological challenges so agreed to leave status quo.

- Ellesdale Floating Classrooms was briefly discussed as attempts to restart continue

- Hayes Anti-Social Behaviour was acknowledged, meeting planned onsite for this is still pending

- Black History Month project discussed as part of Regional Update with feedback from members

Member Updates

Friends of Grand Union Canal

On invitation from David Posnett, WA joined trip on Grand Union Canal to see the impressive work that Volunteers were doing. The origins of FOC were discussed as assistance was provided from the Trust on formal set up as a constituted group for governance, safeguarding and insurance reasons.

Let's Fish

DP provided a brief update and spoke about the excitement around Angling becoming a recognised sport as part of the Commonwealth Games.

Regional Update

Black History Month

Members provided feedback on the launch which was overwhelmingly positive. Discussion moved on to the need to ensure that following events were built over time and that this was just the start. RD advised that planning for next year's initiatives was taking place and funding bids were being looked at.

Government Grant Renewal

Ongoing work was discussed and update provided by RD on meetings held including the Ministerial Visit with Rebecca Pow at Hanwell Flight.

Message to DEFRA continues to be that there cannot be wellbeing without the network and sufficient provision is needed due to the age, maintenance required and effects of climate change.

RAB Members were thanked for providing contacts to Mark Pearson. RD confirmed that Cavendish Agency are working with the Exec Team with Richard Parry leading.

William's Tenure

Members thanked William for his hard work as Chair of the RAB and wished him well for the future. RD is working with Greenpark Agency to search for new chair. New appointment is likely to occur in Spring 2022.

Canal & River Trust

Regional Business Plan

RD shared early thoughts on the LSE Business Plan B22 and talked through the projects. Discussion was held over the contents of the plan with Focus Areas and Community Engagement being of particular interest.

Update on Lisson Grove works was provided on the back of this with update pertaining to reopening of the towpath. The sewage outfall was discussed which led to a wider conversation about dumping in the canals by sewage companies.

Boater Satisfaction

National results on Boater Satisfaction were shared and discussed. Better communication to boaters was the overwhelming suggestion from the RAB on how best to improve boater relations and RD confirming that the Trust is looking at commencing Boater Surgeries to replace Boater Forums in B22.

Planning application was also discussed and the reiteration that planning guidance is sent to all new developers regarding the provision for Boater Facilities to be included.

AOB

No further business was raised

DONM:

TBA