



Meeting Notes

Title West Midlands Waterways Partnership meeting

Date 06 March 2014

Venue Groundworks Offices, Tipton

Attendees	Peter Mathews CMG	(PM)
	Dean Davies	(DD)
	David Caunt	(DC)
	Graham Fisher	(GF)
	Len Cresswell	(LC)
	Nick Crombie	(NC)
	Vaughan Welch	(VW)
	Ivor Caplan	(IC)
	John Harris	(JH)
	Anne Cranston	(AC)
	Steve Burt	(SB)
	Sarah Rudy	(SR)
	Jason Leach	(JL)
	Ben Seal	(BS)
	Neil Wyatt	(NW)

Apologies Karen Creavin, Keren Jones, Jim Matthias

1. Welcome and Apologies

- PM welcomed everyone to the meeting and Apologies were acknowledged.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting

- The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and agreed.

3. Declaration of Interest

- No new Declarations

4. Chairman's Report

- Joined with JH to hold meetings with James Morris MP, Gisela Stuart MP and Mark Garnier MP – all have offered strong support for the Trust and are now more engaged.
- Invited to attend HS2 meeting as part of the consultation process and spoke to BCC re possibility of organising a site visit with interested parties.

5. Group Reportage

- **SB** – Community Engagement Officer regarding the graffiti in Stratford – the Probation Service will be carrying out the work.
-

-
- Attended the Historic Narrowboat Club AGM which Richard Parry also attended. The club gave a £500 donation to CRT.
 - **LC** – Reported that local residents of Earlswood Lakes are experiencing some problems with night fishing in the area.
 - **VW** – Attended a meeting of the Staffordshire Waterways Group where there was discussion around local and neighbourhood plans and possible effect of the waterways strategic plan.
 - **AC** – Highlighted the up and coming Living Waterways Awards – an example for West Mids was suggested as the Galton Valley project where SB has raised funding, and volunteers are enhancing.
 - **NW** – The funding for the feasibility study at Bradley is now secured, with contribution from the Wildlife Trust, IWA and CRT – the proposal to proceed was carried unanimously by the Partnership and NW was authorised to accept the grant offers on behalf of the Partnership. CRT will act as bankers for the project.
 - **GF** – Reported improving stats on downloads of the Stourbridge Canal Walk
 - Asked by CRT to review website
 - Invited as a member of the Partnership to spend time at a local school to talk about the canals.
 - The Slow Boat has secured funding for the next 3 years – invited on behalf of the Partnership to a meeting next week.
 - **IC** – As a boater's representative on the Council attended Richard Parry's recent boaters meetings. Reported a very positive change in attitude.
 - There was a discussion regarding the deterioration of the Tipton Gauging house while the site is awaiting development.
 - There has been a meeting of the Residential Moorings Group regarding the way forward. A report will be produced for a future meeting.
 - **BS** – Attended a meeting hosted by the National Trust which included all sports linked to National Trust properties. Suggested a good example for CRT to follow.
 - May is National Watersports month with activities to be planned in the West Midlands.

6. Wyrley & Essington Canal – Local Nature Reserve Proposal, Briefing Paper

- Briefing paper distributed by JH prior to the meeting – asked for any comments from Partnership Members by 21st March.

7. AOB – Including Location of Next Meeting

- DD – Details of the HS2 plans for Curzon St to be put on the Extranet.
 - Partnership members volunteer time outside the monthly meetings is to be captured – DD to write out to collate.
 - **Date of next meeting Thursday 3rd April 2014 at The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge.**
-