



NOTES EAST MIDLANDS PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date	Tuesday 22 nd July 2014
Venue	The Kiln, Newark
Attendees	Sean McGinley, Danny Brennan, Valerie Holt, Amanda Turner, Robin Stonebridge, Lucie Hoelmer, Stephen Hardy, Cathie Hosler
Apologies	David Pullen, Jason Leach, Katherine Wilson, Glyn Williams, Matt Easter, Anne Halliday, Gemma Denton

Action

1. Notes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

DB expressed apologies for so many absentees due to holiday season. It was mentioned that AH and GD were finding it difficult to put their time into the Partnership due to other obligations. DB said maybe it was time to start looking to refresh the group and recruit more people to the Partnership to fill the skills gap whilst retaining the gender balance. VH mentioned that it might be a good idea to contact the Local Authorities to fill GD's position. DB / SM to discuss further.

SM/DB

DB and RS had recently represented CRT at the House of Lords CRT reception, which went very well.

LH mentioned that a Brazilian NTU student had started to work on the Grantham Project and had met up with Ken Fowler and was now aware of what needed to be done. LH said he will work from Fazeley or Newark looking at a range of issues. We should consider who will carry this work on.

2. Heritage

AT and RS spoke after last meeting and believe the group needs to prioritise some initial projects. RS is keen to develop a 'Story for every mile' and take in all aspects of the canal like Boat Trips and getting locals involved in activities.

With regard to communications, there was a general discussion on the Extranet and our partnership web page. The Extranet was considered poor, clunky and user unfriendly. It was confirmed that this was not only the experience of the East Midlands partnership.

With regard to our web page, it was not considered the ideal tool for communicating with other groups and that maybe we needed a forum / more interactive web site to be able to communicate effectively.

DB suggested that the partnership needed to prepare a one page brief on what was actually needed. DB agreed to start a draft of the website proposal for

DB

comment.

RS asked how much contact we have with East Midlands Heritage. SM confirmed that each waterway was represented with its area heritage advisor but as we have recently lost Tom to a central team, we may not be attending at present.

SM went through the draft Development Plan for the Rangers

AT asked if CRT had an induction programme for volunteers. SM replied that there are specific inductions for lockkeepers for example, but around 85% of our volunteers come from other organisations and so we generally look to that organisation for their induction but he appreciated what was being suggested about a general induction. CRT had carried out a bespoke induction course (for safety, heritage and environment) for the GCS which had been well received.

It was agreed that a general induction course would be a good idea for all volunteers, with a common set of items.

DB asked if Wayne Ball could attend the next meeting to give a talk on volunteering and help us, more generally, to fit the volunteering aspect into the project planning process for Action Plan development and implementation. SM to arrange.

SM

SM

SM to complete the Ranger Development Plan.

3. Project Progression

SM distributed the summary sheet which now has the descriptive traffic light system.

3A: Research - Katherine Wilson reviewed the available information and suggests community focussed research as the next step with more research. AN and LH to comment

AN/LH

3B: Waterside Fun Days – 2 events have already been held. Next is the Big Day Out on 15/08/14 at Chesterfield Canal, Hollingwood.

4A: Youth – ‘Big day out’ – planning well advanced, awaiting numbers.

4B: School Education Programme – progress is slow but the education team are coming to the waterway in August to assess some sites and then we can start to recruit volunteers.

4D: River Training – The idea of convoys seems to have had the most interest. SM to take this further with DP.

SM

5B: Canoeing - Tamsin Phipps is very keen to develop more trails, including parking locations. DB to invite her or her new East Midlands colleague to the next meeting We need confirmation about which waterways are covered by the agreement between CRT and CE.

DB

7A: Walking – SM to contact David Blackburn about guided walks.

SM

9A: Visitor Moorings - Vince Moran has allocated £25k to install / improve customer facilities on the Chesterfield canal. SM to seek views through consultation.

SM

11A: Restorations – The FCC are working with WRG to clean out Lock 4 at Ironville, so that it can then be 3D modelled.

12A: Freight on the water – Lots of discussion ongoing about the use of waterfreight for moving gravel via Colwick wharf as part of the NCC Minerals plan.

12B: Hydro - The Nottingham Princess trip boat is concerned that Holme Lock Hydro scheme will create flows that will make it difficult for them to operate. Reports are being prepared.

19: Environment – Funds received for dredging of SSSI on the Grantham.

SM to add in names / owner column.

SM

There was a brief discussion on Water Management and the effect of the EU Directive. VH suggested we wait until something happens nationally.

DB concluded that the progress report format was a good summary. It needs to be kept dynamic and purposeful.

4. Strategy Update

The new strategy will essentially remove technical and construction activities from the waterway and into central teams, allowing the waterways to concentrate on becoming more customer focussed. Should be in place by November and we're about half way through mapping staff to roles in the new structure. This should free up SM's time to assist with working with the partnership.

5. Annual Public Meeting

A plan needs to be developed ready for October 14th.

AT has checked with the Castle and the 14th is available. Would be free of charge during the day, but DB said we need an evening (to get a good attendance) and so a reasonable charge is acceptable. We should look at around 100 attendees with possibly some break out rooms.

AT to forward to SM some prices.

AT

Next step is to build the agenda. DB said we should work on a basic format 'Not what we want' but 'What have we done, what we are doing and testing with the APM what we are intending to do next year (Action Plan phasing)'.

SM

SM to ask if a Ranger is free and willing to give a presentation.

AT to speak to LH about options for some of the talks, including heritage.

AT/LH

6. Nottingham Event

LH said she had not had the opportunity to do much on this task. DB Offered to help by attending meetings as required. AT to ask Nottingham Castle if they want to be involved.

LH/DB/AT

7. AOB

Waterside Care. LH proposed adopting the waterside care programme that has worked successfully in the West Midlands through 'Keep Britain Tidy' and funded through the WFD. The waterside care officers work with communities to achieve improvements. We need to consider a one off contribution of £5K. VH would like to be involved. DB wants to look at the project budget alongside the proposal.

LH

SM to provide a budget update at the next meeting.

SM

Open Day at the Newark Dry Dock on 31st August – come along and see how our boats are repaired at the biggest inland dock in the country.

RS mentioned the Angling Event at Sandhill Lane, West Stockwith Boat Club event which is based on last years event.

Date of Next Meetings (all at 6:45):

Tuesday 9th September 2014
Tuesday 11th November 2014
Tuesday 13th January 2015