



# NOTES MANCHESTER & PENNINE PARTNERSHIP MEETING

<b>Date</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2015
<b>Venue</b>	High Lane Village Hall, Marple
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Partnership:</b> Walter Menzies (Chair), David Baldacchino (Waterway Manager), Iain Taylor, Ian Banks, Jon Stopp, Keith Sexton, Nigel Stevens, Lynda Jubb. <b>Staff:</b> Tracey Jackson, Lynn Pegler, Lucy Rogers. <b>Invited Guests:</b> Sara Hilton (HLF), Andrew Walker (Ombudsman).
<b>Apologies</b>	Frances Done, Julie Sharman, Mark Turner, Graham Birch, Chris Findley, Tayo Adebowale.

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Action

## 1. Chairs Welcome and Introduction:

- Introductions, apologies
- Declarations of interest: None declared.

## 2. Notes of previous meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 – Agreed:

- Water resources consultation: Ask Adam to attend next meeting. **DB**
- Marple Aqueduct consultation closed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. Over 50 responses through the website plus more from other sources. Summary paper will be available and published on the website shortly. **LR**
- Local Authority Funding: Keep as a standard Agenda item for the time being.
- Standedge: WM – Alan Stopher is happy to contribute to the working group.
- Staffing Progress: Support Team member – interviews next week. Esme Fairbourne vacancy – candidate turned the offer down, will re-advertise the post shortly. Development and Engagement Manager – assessment centre last week, 2 candidates moving through to second interview.

## 3. News / updates:

- GB – TJ gave GB's update to the group in his absence. Suggested to set up a Standedge session, include Alan Stopher. NS happy to join that group. Meeting to be set for March, prior to Easter. WM will feedback to GB. **DB  
WM**

- KS – Green Flag: Mentor visit a couple of weeks ago, visited Bosley and Bollington. They are comfortable where we are up to and that the plan is heading in the direction. Submitted revision 5 and again they agreed it's on the right lines. Formal submission in by end of Feb. Judging day in Spring. Decision in June. Signage aspect – we bid for funding to improve the signage on the Macclesfield Canal. Work ongoing around signage and brand guidelines. LR/WM met with MCC & Magnetic North who have created a platform where you can create audio routes. Spoke to them to see if they could create one for the Rochdale Canal. This is a great opportunity for the Friends Fund. IT looked at the top 100 places to visit – Trust app lists the places. Pick this up at the next meeting – add to Agenda.
- IB – AND are coming back Feb/Mar and have advertised for a co-ordinator to work with them. Met with Steve Bottoms, Manchester University, 3 weeks discussed an outdoor performance piece, planning for end of academic year next year, could co-ordinate with our annual event next year. Attended Future Cities Catapult event in London with Arup – they seem focused on Manchester and a Manchester digitisation project. JS has been speaking to AND – Ruth is just about to produce her proposal, they are having their event in 2 places in Manchester.
- IT – Broadoak Marina proposal on the Bridgewater Canal in Worsley – expecting the Ministers decision on the application by end of Feb. Contact IT for more info.
- JS – Dry stone walling project, spent most of the money, have the materials, have a dry stone walling expert doing the training – volunteers and waterway staff. Doing it each week until the end of March. Linear park group in Calderdale, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan they announced the Tour of Yorkshire, mini Tour de France. Diana Monahan is proposing to do a similar thing again this year with the IWA, IWA have agreed to front it.
- WM – Business Plan. Said we would look at Rochdale Canal city cooling, met with Manchester University, they have agreed to a post grad working with us.

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#### **4. Report of Partnership Committee:**

- DB, NS, WM looked through all the applications. Some strong applicants. Happy to go through to interview stage.

#### **5. Business Plan progress report:**

- WM/KS/DB had a meeting with Richard Parry, Vince Moran, Heather Clarke 9<sup>th</sup> Jan. Document was finalised and submitted on 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Draft copies available to view

at the meeting, copies emailed to each Partnership member. Post reorganisation, discussions are still being held with regards to maintenance tasks. Each national functional team will produce a business plan.

#### **6. Axis Tower Project / Central Manchester:**

- IT sent email summary to the Partnership of a meeting re Axis Tower. Looked at strategic issues and tactical issues. Would improve our presence in Manchester, informational and engaging, ie welcome station. Questions we need to address: Is it a good location? Are there locations which would be better? Is it a cost effective way of delivering that opportunity? Is this the right way to do it? Very low risk financially. Developers need to reach agreement on construction of the tower with the Trust. Property team and developers meeting next week. DB – operationally we need a base in Manchester. LJ – we previously identified that we have very little canal side property. JS – we need to spend some time thinking about what we want in the centre of Manchester. WM – central Manchester property would increase the opportunity for volunteers/students to work with us.

#### **7. Waterway Manager / Enterprise / Communications / Property updates:**

- **Waterway Manager:** Still difficulties with Highroyd and Dutton. The team are on site at Dutton and this morning a reactive press statement was issued. Both are expected to be open at Easter. Works at Locks 2 and 92 have started. Stubbins wharf was dewatered for 9 days and volunteers were building dry stone walls in the canal. 56 expressions of interest of volunteers to become volunteer lock keepers. Middlewich Town Council would like us to get involved at the Folk and Boat festival. Next stage of the Undercroft public consultation will start in April.
- **Enterprise update:** Work at Oldknow is continuing – site visit this afternoon. Tender for digital learning and CGI packages are due to go out in next couple of weeks. Velocity – on site and attended first progress meeting, already suffering vandalism, and theft. TfGM very excited about this project and keen to promote. Working towards 3<sup>rd</sup> June completion date. Installation of artwork in Newton heath – publicity to follow. Cycle City ambition grant funding – was an invite to put forward schemes, local authorities recognise our ability to deliver – 5 schemes have gone forward. Opportunity for huge investment on our canals.

- **Communications/Media update:** More Blue Peter filming next week. Abseiling was unfortunately called off due to the snow. Nice piece on Granada News about volunteers. The Guardian want to do a piece on the waterways through Manchester.

#### 8. Forthcoming Events:

- **Date/Time/Location of next meeting:** 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – Manchester.
- **Lock 2 open days, Sowerby Bridge:** 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015
- **User Forum dates:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Macclesfield Rugby Club / 29<sup>th</sup> April, Rochdale Rugby Club.
- **Angling Consultation:** 18<sup>th</sup> March, Hyde Town Hall

#### 9. Andrew Walker - Ombudsman:

- Andrew talked to the Partnership about his background. Gets 70 – 80 contacts a year, not all are regarding the Trust and not all have completed the internal complaints procedure. Of these, 15 – 20 turn into actual investigations a year. Complaints vary from overgrown veg, property issues, continuous cruising. Draft reports will be issued by the Ombudsman shortly. Website is due to be upgraded. Ombudsman only becomes involved after the complaint has gone through our internal complaints process. However, if he can, he will advise to help reach a solution before it reaches that stage, but will not perform an investigation until it has gone through the process first. Number of complaints coming into the Trust has gone down.
- TJ invite Andrew to our conference.
- Request for appropriate photographs for the website.

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#### 10. AOB:

- Standard templates for external presentations – TJ to work on a standard presentation which the Partnership can use externally.
- Living Waterways Awards 2015 – Want to put one in for vegetation management for our volunteers around the Macclesfield Canal. Plus something around the work that was done for the Tour de France. Look at the timescales and think about what we are going to put forward.
- Partnership conference – provisional date set for 4<sup>th</sup> June. Mechanics Institute not

TJ

available for this date. Do we want to keep the same date and look for an alternative venue, or defer to following week, 11<sup>th</sup> June at the Mechanics Institute?

**11. Heritage:** Including presentations from Sara Hilton HLF, Lucy Rogers Enterprise Manager and discussion on future priorities:

- Sara's territory – Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester. If there is something cross boundary, Sara can put us in touch with other regional colleagues.
- Applying for HLF funding – how does the scoring criteria work? Numerous criteria, 3 key things, benefits for people, community and heritage. IB asked if HLF and Arts Council are looking at joint funding for projects? Key for HLF is that the starting point is Heritage, can joint fund but is complicated, can match fund grant and aid money, but can't match fund lottery money.
- Nationally the HLF director of operations meets with Julie Sharman and Richard Parry regularly. Regionally, Sara meets with Julie on an ongoing basis 9 - 12 monthly. If we have a sense of projects we want to take forward, Julie could bring these to HLF.
- Evaluation is important, and HLF expect an evaluation report. Can go onto their website and have a look at some of the evaluation reports they have put out.
- JS has seen some of the projects, monetary values both large and small, JS can see lots of opportunities which would fit into the small funding range. Is there an opportunity to get funding for volunteers to deliver works over a number of locations over a period of time? Sara suggested maybe try 1 small volunteering project and move on from that using the experience to engage other partners and demonstrate over a larger geographic area and timeframe.
- Anything over 100K is a 2 round assessment. Up to £100K a decision is made straight away.

**Lunch / Networking, followed by site visit to Marple Aqueduct.**