

Wilts and Berks Canal Partnership– Meeting and Action Notes

Thursday 7th December 2006

Wootton Bassett Civic Centre

Topic	Discussion
Present	<p>Councillor Fleur de Rhe Philippe (Chair) – Wiltshire County Council Ed Stanford – Swindon B C Anna Crosbie – Consultant to NWDC Colin Fletcher – Foxhangers Canal Holidays/W&BCT Ken Oliver – Chief Executive – W&BCT John Laverick – W&BCT Rolf Brindle –Melksham Town Council Richard Wiltshire – West Wilts District Council Brian Roberts – Chair - IWA Central Southern Region Councillor Wannell Councillor Doubell Alison Blyth – Vale of White Horse District Council Councillor Elsa Boyce Ken Burgin – Cotswold Canal Trust Elizabeth Payne – Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Janet Flannigan – W&BCT Gary King – Wiltshire County Council (WCC) Don Vickers – Environment Agency Brian Poulton Bruce Hall – Chairman of Cotswold Canal Trust</p>
1. Apologies	<p>Clive Wilce Councillor Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor Chaloner Chute</p> <p>The Partnership wished Chaloner a speedy recovery.</p>
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting	<p>The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.</p>
3. Officer's Report	<p>AC went through the report on CC's behalf.</p> <p>1. Institutional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Partnership thought that it was a good idea to invite British Canoe Union to their group. Wiltshire Wildlife to be considered as a new partner. <p>Fleur voiced concerns over the group getting to big for the meetings.</p> <p>Jan Flanigan thought it would be useful to know who had signed up to the Partnership. Action: AC to distribute a list of members who had signed up to the Partnership.</p> <p>2. General Strategic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC reported that the Lotto project was now through to the second and final stage. DEFRA cuts – there were implications for CC's post and this was noted as a point of concern. <p>3. Project Progress – Priority Areas</p> <p>This item would be discussed later on the agenda.</p>

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3. Officer's Report	<p>4. Post Funding</p> <p>4.1 Concern was raised over CC's funding. Several letters had been received declining financial support for this post, reflecting severe DEFRA cutbacks. There was uncertainty over the amount of time CC could now commit to the project.</p> <p>4.2 Anna's post would be renewed till next March but she would be returning to New Zealand next February.</p> <p>5. Landowners and Land Acquisition</p> <p>Meetings with landowners in the Cricklade and Melksham area had been successful. Savills had been appointed as Land Agents.</p> <p>6. Public Relations, Events</p> <p>Lord Landsdowne offered to host an event in the Spring – all partner chief executives, lead members and potential funders to be invited.</p> <p>Recommendations – Consideration to be given to two items under 3.</p> <p>3.1 Publicity – Recommendation that the Duchess of Cornwall be invited to the event in Spring at Bowood and to also attend the formal opening of a major trust restoration project on the same day. All agreed this was a good idea.</p> <p>3.2 - The Partnership would miss Anna and were glad that she was staying till February. Fleur understood CC's predicament. Anna reported that the Environment Agency, British Waterways, DEFRA and West Wilts DC had all declined funding for CC's post which had resulted in a shortfall of between £12 - £18K. All agreed CC had put in a huge amount of work and it was essential to keep him on the project.</p> <p>Anna reported that there had been a freeze on budgets at NWDC. Brian Poulton asked if CC had looked at his area for funding. He suggested Mr Kemp could help with accessing the relevant charities. Gary King, funding officer from WCC was also happy to offer advice. Action: Anna to liaise with Gary and Brian regarding potential funding. Action: Richard Wiltshire would speak to his colleagues at West Wilts DC to find out why they were not funding CC's post.</p> <p>Anna asked if a table of contributions to CC's post would be useful. Everyone agreed it would be. Action: Anna to distribute a table of contributions.</p>
4. Cricklade Country Way Lottery Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna reported that the project had reached the Stage 2 bid and had been awarded £250,000 from the Lotto. Anna happy to update anyone who is not up to speed with the project. • Key staff and consultants have been appointed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme Manager (Fiona Hampton-Matthews) - Finance Support Officer (Jerry Walters) - Project Administrator (Angela Sutcliffe) - EIA Interim Statement (Peter Brett Associates) - Water Resources Study (Carl Bro). • Deadline for submission May 2007 • Outline Planning Permission to be submitted by February 2007 • Cricklade Steam Railway interviews to be held Friday 8th December. • Sustainability Monitoring of Transport and 14 other items still outstanding. • New office now set up and running.

Topic	Discussion
<p>4. Cricklade Country Way Lottery Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community consultation now officially closed by WCC team – good feedback and a return of a third – good response. Ken added that people could still submit their views on www.crickladecountryway.org.uk. • Risk – Huge issues e.g. water and land acquisition, are being closely monitored. • Savills – Land acquisition report back - January 2007 • Baseline documents in place: Gantt programme, cash flow cost plans, match funding and in kind hours. <p>Brian Roberts asked if the members of the various trusts could be kept updated of progress. Anna confirmed that the Communications Strategy would be dealt with in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Don Vickers was concerned over the submission of the planning applications. Ed Stanford confirmed that an outline not a full planning application would be submitted, but that scoping issues could be covered. Ed urged CC/Anna to contact Don at EA. The Environment Agency did not object to the proposal in principle.</p> <p>Action: AC to arrange meeting between the 2 planning authorities and Don at the EA.</p>
<p>5. Cricklade Country Way Project Board</p>	<p>Anna highlighted that there had been a number of delays including the draft memo from the NWDC Legal Dept. David Stirling had confirmed that if the Legal Dept could not issue this then he would look into an outside consultant to deal with it.</p> <p>Anna had not distributed the list of Board members but this will be done as soon as possible. There was a concern over the size of the group and whether the Project Board was the best place to engage different groups. Fleur asked if anyone should not be on the list. Ken didn't think SWRDA should be on the Board and Fleur had a query on WWT and the Cricklade Country Way Trust. Ed felt that funders were critical and should be on the list and the agencies critical on moving the project forward. Ed suggested opening the meeting up to other organisations who may be interested but have a core voting group of critical members.</p> <p>All Agreed that the Environment Agency, funding partners, Steam Rail and the Community Forest should stay for the second part of the meeting (the Lotto Project Board meeting).</p>

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6. Any Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary King mentioned the Cotswold Water Area Park – commission by Scott Wilson. • Councillor Doubell highlighted the concerns of volunteers gaining access to the Pewsham Lock because of the tenant owner. All meetings with him had been cancelled. Action: Fleur, Councillor Doubell and Colin Fletcher to meet up to discuss this further. Councillor Doubell would email Fleur with the details. • John Laverick - HRH Duchess of Cornwall would need access for the canal opening and the Bowood event. Action: Colin Fletcher to investigate this. • Ken Oliver reported that the second edition of Canal Lane would be out by the end of the year. • Ed Stanford reported that Councillor Phil Young had been appointed and was keen to be involved in the Canal Partnership. • Fleur and the Canal Partnership thanked Anna for all her help with the Partnership.

Date of Next Meeting	Thursday 15 th March 2007 – 2.30pm
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