

The **Wilts & Berks**
Canal Partnership

MEETING Thursday 12th March 2009
Ground floor, Civic Centre Wootton Bassett

Attendance:-

ES	Ed Stanford	Swindon Borough Council
IB	Ian Brown	Wiltshire Council
AB	Cllr Andrew Bennett	Swindon Borough Council
AW	Cllr Audrey Wannell	Wootton Bassett Town Council
CF	Colin Fletcher	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
JL	John Laverick	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
BA	Brian Atfield	Cricklade Town Council/ Cricklade Country Way Trust
RR	Russell Robson	Environment Agency
FDP	Cllr Fleur de Rhe Philipe (Chair)	Wiltshire County Council
KO	Ken Oliver	Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership
RB	Rolf Brindle	Melksham Without PC
RW	Richard Wiltshire	Melksham Town Council, Melksham Trust
GC	Cllr G Carr	West Wiltshire DC

Item		
1	Apologies , John Ward, Cllr G Carr, Mark Smith, Cllr Andrew Crawford, Lord Lansdowne, Elizabeth Payne, Cllr A Fitzgerald-O'Connor, Mary Lambe, Alison Blyth, James Sherry, Mark Smith, Gavin Champion, Colin Goodhind, David Tetlow	
2	Minutes of last meeting	
	The Notes of the previous meeting on 11 th December 2008 were agreed.	
3	Matters arising	
	West Wiltshire DC LDF- RW enquired about the latest position. KO confirmed that following meeting with WWDC planners a process had been agreed to include the route into the Wiltshire Core Strategy. Work on this would start with the new Unitary Council and the document was expected 2010/11. Some work on the environmental issues has started following a meeting with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.	
4	Chairman's Announcements	
	Noted good wishes from James Sherry who will be leaving his post on 31 st March Funding confirmation from Vale of White Horse of £4250, and Thames Water £3000 FDP introduced Ian Brown who is the newly appointed head of Countryside & Amenity for Wiltshire Council and will be responsible for the Canal Project Officer post .	

5	Canal Partnership Report	
	Partnership Strategy Document. The final version had been pre-circulated. A few minor corrections were noted . ALL AGREED to adopt the Strategy as the Partnership's Policy with a review every 12 months. KO was congratulated on the work on this document.	
	5.1 Swindon Central Route	
	<p>ES reported that the Central Area Action Plan had been adopted by Swindon BC. He noted that the current economic climate made difficult the possible funding sources for delivery.</p> <p>AB noted the continuing commitment for the scheme and similarly noted delays in other projects in Swindon that would involve the canal. It was generally agreed that more emphasis would be put on other parts of the restoration in Swindon (eg Wichelstowe and Breathing Places project at Moredon)</p>	
	5.2 Cricklade Country Way	
	<p>KO reported that the planning application had been re-submitted to North Wilts DC. There had been a number of objections from Statutory Consultees.</p> <p>An action plan to progress the application had been agreed by the project board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The consultants who wrote the Environmental Statement are being invited to comment on the objections 2) The ES is being reviewed by the District Ecologist. 3) A meeting is being convened by EA to further discuss the project and the objections 4) The application with any required additional information and amendments will be taken to the planning committee of Wiltshire Council in the autumn. <p>RR confirmed that he was setting up the meeting and it would be led by a member of the development control team from Bridgwater office.</p>	RR
	5.3 Thames Crossing Cricklade	
	RR further confirmed that he was trying to use the meeting (see 5.2) of the various departments of the EA to try to define what issues needed to be resolved. He noted EA general support for the project but also further noted the statutory obligations as an environmental regulator.	
	5.4 Vale of White Horse DC Core Strategy	
	<p>KO reported that a response had been made to the consultation on behalf of the Canal Trust and further noted that a discussion was in progress with EA to modify their initial response to the document.</p> <p>KO also reported the latest position on the Thames Water proposal for the reservoir at Abingdon. Thames Water had responded to the consultations by modifying their report. This would bring a 5 year delay to the start of the project and result in a reservoir of approximately 2/3 the original capacity. This report is currently with the Secretary of State who may approve it, ask for a public hearing, or reject the report. KO noted that there were many uncertainties in the report and analysis and that situation would be reviewed annually.</p> <p>There was a further issue in the Core Strategy in that VWHDC have a policy not to allow development that could prevent the reservoir, and a policy to protect the line of the Wilts & Berks Canal. KO reported that there were continuing discussions to see how this could be resolved</p>	

6	Local Authority Issues	
	<p>Housing West of Swindon KO informed Partners of the recently published study showing the preferred options for future housing to the NW of Swindon. On line responses can be made at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/local-development-framework</p> <p>Partnership Funding 2009-10 FDR thanked all Partners for their response to the request for funding. RR noted that EA now require at partnership agreement. IB confirmed that this would be with Wiltshire Council</p>	RR
7	Wiltshire unitary Authority Update	
	<p>FDP noted that Wiltshire Council will come into existence on 1st April and will be run on transitional arrangements until elections on 4th June 2009. It was noted that close liaison with the new Area Boards will be important FDP noted as she was standing for re-election this may be the final time chairing the Partnership. AB asked that thanks be noted to Fleur for her work for the Partnership.</p>	
8	Trust Chairman Report	
	<p>JL confirmed the appointment of Clare Guy as the Environment Director for the Trust. He also thanked RR for the positive responses on behalf of EA to the current issues for the project . CF noted the busy programme of work for the volunteers and it was generally confirmed that this aspect of delivering the project should be publicised during the economically challenging times</p>	
9	Any Other Business	
	<p>KO noted the statistics from the Strategy document that 40% of the canal can be accessed on existing footpaths and was keen to explore how this might be increased.</p>	
10	Date and times of next meetings for 200/9	
	<p>2.30pm Ground floor, Civic Centre Wootton Bassett:- Thursday 11th June 2009 Further Dates for 2009 10thSeptember, 10thDecember</p>	

The *Wilts & Berks* Canal Partnership

MEETING Thursday 11th June 2009
Ground floor, Civic Centre Wootton Bassett

Attendance:-

PN	Patrick Norris	Swindon Borough Council
DT	David Tetlow	Cricklade Town Council
AB	Cllr Andrew Bennett	Swindon Borough Council
AW	Cllr Audrey Wannell	Wootton Bassett Town Council
CC	Chris Coyle	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
JL	John Laverick	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
BA	Brian Atfield	Cricklade Country Way Trust
RR	Russell Robson	Environment Agency
FDP	Cllr Fleur de Rhe Philipe (Chair)	Wiltshire Council
KO	Ken Oliver	Wiltshire Council
RB	Rolf Brindle	Melksham Without PC
RW	Richard Wiltshire	Melksham Town Council, Melksham Trust
MR	Mike Rodd	K&A Canal Trust
EP	Elizabeth Payne	Cotswold Canals Trust /IWA
AOC	Anda Fitzgerald- O'Connor	Oxfordshire County Council

Item

1	Apologies, Cllr G Carr, Lord Lansdowne, Mary Lambe, Alison Blyth , Colin Goodhind, Ian Brown, Brian Roberts, Ian Sharp, Ed Stanford
2	Minutes of last meeting The Notes of the previous meeting on 12 th March 2009 were agreed.
3	Matters arising KO noted that the Environment Agency had set up meeting with all relevant departments to discuss CCWay, Thames Crossing and other issues and the results would be discussed under other Agenda Items.
4	Appointment of Partnership Chairman John Laverick took the chair and called for nominations. Fleur de Rhe Philipe was nominated R Wiltshire and seconded by B Atfield . There were no other nominations. FDP was elected unanimously.
5	Chairman's Announcements FDP thanked members for their support but noted that the appointments to portfolios would not be made by Wiltshire Council until the following week and therefore the acceptance of the Chairman's role would be subject to the outcome of this process. FDP congratulated KO on his appointment as Canal Officer and also thanked all those involved in organising the recent visit by the Trust Patron HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

	and reported that there had been positive feedback about the event.	
6	Canal Partnership Report	
6.1	Role of the Canal Officer in the Countryside Team	
	<p>On behalf of Ian Brown KO indicated that the Countryside Team was still being formed and there would be more to report at the next meeting in September when the Countryside Manager (Steve Russell currently recovering from an operation) would be able to outline in more detail how the Canal Officer would work within the team. However it was certain that the resources available to the project from within Wiltshire Council would be of great benefit. The post would cover all aspects canals with Wiltshire (Kennet & Avon and Cotswold Canals) but there was no doubt that the primary drive for the post was the restoration of the Wilts & Berks Canal</p> <p>AOC asked if the contribution from Oxfordshire County Council had been received. KO noted that one of his first jobs will be to send invoices to all Partners.</p> <p>JL noted that the WB Canal Trust were fully supportive of the appointment and wished to thank KO for his work as Chief Executive of the Trust where in the 3 years he had considerably advanced the project.</p>	
6.2	Canal Officer Work Programme	
	<p>KO indicated that it had been agreed that he would continue to act on the projects in progress on behalf of the Canal Trust and would also be working on the items 6.3-6.6 on this Agenda</p> <p>JL reported that he and Chris Coyle(Trust Company Sec) were discussing how tasks previously carried out by the Chief Executive would now be organised</p>	
6.3	Melksham Link Project	
	<p>KO outlined a proposed plan to deliver the first part of the scheme outlined in the 2007 Black and Veatch Report . The proposal is to provide a navigable waterway for the Wilts & Berks Canal from a new junction at Semington to connect to the River Avon in Melksham . Details of the proposal are contained in a Project Initiation Document circulated with these notes. The timescale would start the project to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the opening of Wilts & Berks (and Kennet & Avon) in 2010 and to complete by 2014 (the 100th anniversary of the Act of Abandonment).</p> <p>It was intended that this project would deliver boats into the River Avon in Melksham but would not seek to modify the weirs (and adjust water levels) at this stage although it would remain part of the overall scheme, and the subsequent environmental issues would be considered as part of the project.</p> <p>The proposal was discussed by Partners and it was Agreed to proceed subject to addressing the environmental issues highlighted during the consultations on the B&V report.</p> <p>KO noted that due to the timescale it was likely that the scheme would use the normal planning process before the new route was adopted into the Wiltshire Core Strategy.</p> <p>MR noted that the K&A Trust would be keen to be involved in the scheme subject to approval by their Council.</p> <p>JL reported that previously there had been discussions with British Waterways and other interested parties about constructing the first kilometre as moorings for the K&A. The waterway would be built accommodate vessels that currently navigate the K&A. It was intended that the Canal Trust would build some of the locks.</p>	

	<p>In response to a question from EP, KO confirmed that the new waterway was about 3km in length.</p> <p>It was noted that there would be an opportunity to involve other Third Sector organisations to deliver work on the project.</p> <p>RW suggested that an autumn open meeting in the town should outline the proposal and address the issues that had been previous highlighted by objectors to the scheme</p> <p>BA asked if this proposal might have an impact on the delivery of the Cricklade Country Way. KO confirmed that there should be no detrimental impact.</p>	
	<p>6.4 Cricklade Country Way</p>	
	<p>KO reported that the meeting with the Environment Agency had discussed the issues highlighted in the response to the planning application. It was the intention to further assess these issues with the District Ecologist and the Trust Environmental Director (Clare Guy), to carry out any further work required, and re- submit the application in Spring 2010.</p> <p>PN noted that the work on Mouldon Hill Country Park was about to start.</p>	
	<p>6.5 Thames Crossing Cricklade</p>	
	<p>The meeting with the Environment Agency had discussed what was required to allow the project to progress, particular related to water quality issues .</p> <p>RR in response to questions about the Water Framework Directive confirmed that there was scope within the Directive to take account of excessive cost and potential social benefit.</p>	
	<p>6.6 Pewsham Locks to Double Bridge restoration</p>	
	<p>KO reported that with the completion of Double bridge, the restoration of the remainder of this section was now the major project for the Trust. An application to Heritage Lottery Fund had been made to restore the Locks Dry Dock and other areas as an educational facility.</p>	
7	<p>Local Authority Reports and Issues</p>	
	<p>Oxfordshire . AOC noted that following the recent elections it would be confirmed if she was to remain as representative on the Partnership.</p> <p>Vale of White Horse DC KO reported that there were continuing discussions with the Environment Agency about modification to their response to the Core Strategy consultation. RR confirmed that he hoped to confirm that there would be a modification to the original statement.</p> <p>KO also reported the correspondence between the Trust and Thames Water . There had been an anomaly in the proposed VWHDC Core strategy and it had been agreed that the protected route for the canal would be that required by the proposed building of the reservoir, unless the reservation for the land required for the reservoir was withdrawn. In this case the protected route would revert to the historic line.</p> <p>Swindon</p> <p>PN reported that funding was currently a major issue for the town centre re-development. The first houses had now been occupied at Wichelstowe and there was a desire for a strong community based scheme for access to green space.</p> <p>AB reported that he had confirmed that a recent consent application for a town centre store did not have any major impact on the proposed canal basin.</p> <p>AB also noted the N Wessex Downs AONB had now in operation and Local Area Group (LAG) that had access to Leader + funding as was actively encouraging projects to apply.(A small section of the Swindon Eastern canal route is within the AONB)</p> <p>Wiltshire Council</p> <p>FDP noted that most work is now complete on transition to the Unitary Authority.</p> <p>KO reported that he was in contact with Jim Sherry who was heading the forward planning team , to discuss the inclusion of the protection of the canal route in the Wiltshire Core Strategy LDF</p> <p>Cricklade Town Council KO confirmed the timetable for planning application in</p>	

	<p>response to DT</p> <p>Melksham Without PC RB confirmed the continuing support for the project from the Parish Council</p> <p>Wootton Bassett TC AW noted the continued community usage of the restored section in the town.</p>	
8	Canal Trust Report	
	<p>JL re-iterated the success of the visit by the Patron and reported that the visit had without doubt raised the profile of the project and had led directly to donations of two amounts of funding to the Trust. JL also thanked Novacast in Melksham for the kind donation of the bridge plaque for the opening.</p>	
9	Open Forum	
	<p>It was confirmed that KO would renew the invitations to British Canoe Union and Natural England to join the Partnership.</p> <p>KO reported that at the invitation of some students the Trust had been invited to an evening at Wiltshire College Lackham where a presentation was made to the Trust and College staff of recent course work undertaken on the canal project. As a result a meeting will be held shortly with the Director of Curriculum to see where further links can be made to the project. If appropriate the College will be invited to join the Partnership. Further suggestions were made to investigate inviting Sustrans, and British Horse Society.</p> <p>KO said that as part of his new duties he would be contacting Partners shortly to see how the project could be promoted on their web sites.</p> <p>RR reported that Environment Agency are drawing up an agreement to allow access to funding.</p>	
10	Date and times of next meetings for 2009	
	<p>2.30pm:- Thursday 10th September 2009 Venue to be confirmed</p> <p>Further Dates for 2009 10th December</p>	

The **Wilts & Berks**
Canal Partnership

Meeting Notes Thursday 10th September 2009
Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER

Attendance:-

LL	Lord Lansdowne	President Canal Partnership
CF	Colin Fletcher	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
AB	Cllr Andrew Bennett	Swindon Borough Council
CG	Colin Goodhind	Melksham Area Partnership
CC	Chris Coyle	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
JL	John Laverick	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
BR	Brian Roberts,	Inland Waterways Association
FDP	Cllr Fleur de Rhe Philipe (Chairman)	Wiltshire Council
KO	Ken Oliver	Wiltshire Council
RB	Rolf Brindle	Melksham Without PC
RW	Richard Wiltshire	Melksham Town Council, Melksham Trust
KE	Kevin East	Canoe England (British Canoe Union)

Item		
1	Apologies,	
	Mary Lambe, Alison Blyth, Ian Brown, Ian Sharp, Ed Stanford, Cllr Brian Atfield ,Steve Russell, Cllr Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor, Liz Payne, Mike Rodd, Alistair Millington, Gavin Champion, Mark Stephens, Cllr D Tetlow, Russell Robson, Cllr A Wannell, Paul Hammond.	
2	Notes from last meeting	
	The Notes of the previous meeting on 11 th June 2009 were agreed.	
3	Matters arising	
	None	
4	Chairman's Announcements	
	FDP welcomed Kevin East form the BCU FDP noted that nominations were now open for the British Urban Regeneration Awards 2009. If any Partners thought they might have an eligible project they should contact the Canal Officer as soon as possible as the deadline for applications is 30 th September. Further information from www.bura.org.uk .	

5	Canal Officer	
5.1	Melksham Link Project	
	A project team has met and discussed various issues including the route. It was agreed that the recent briefing note sent to the Area Board Chairman would be circulated to Partnership members to provide an update of project progress. RB noted that the proposed canal would be suitable for wide craft and asked the project team to consider the cost implications of constructing wide locks. CG asked that the newly forming Community Area Partnership is included in consultations. KE noted that other waterway projects used the ratio of £15 return for every £1 invested.	
5.2	Land Negotiations	
	KO noted the current negotiations at Shrivenham and Wootton Bassett. The Trust noted that there are continuing problems with owners of the canal at the landfill site at Studley Grange Wootton Bassett where it had been expected that restoration would be able to commence. FDP asked to be fully briefed about the situation.	KO
5.3	Pewsham Locks Heritage & Education Centre	
	The Canal Trust were waiting for a decision from Heritage Lottery Fund on a funding application [Post meeting note HLF have declined the funding request]	
5.4	Water Framework Directive	
	KO noted that there will be considerable implications for the project to comply with the WFD. Contact had been made with the Severn and Thames River Basin Management teams to confirm the route of the Wilts & Berks Canal and its classification as an Artificial Water Body (AWB) – for new build, or Heavily Modified Water Body (HMWB) –for existing route. KE noted that there were often inconsistencies between the two EA regions.	
5.5	Thames Crossing Cricklade	
	The meeting with District Ecologist has been postponed to 16 September.	
5.6	Communications	
	A number of Partners web sites have updated. KO has sent information to all Partners to give the project a consistent message..	
5.7	2010 200th Anniversary Celebrations	
	It is likely that there will be 3 celebrations next year subject to confirmation Date tbc – official start of the Melksham Link Project. First week September Boat gathering at Jubilee Junction following National Waterways Festival at Beale Park Pangbourne. 11/12 September Canal celebration at Wichelstowe Swindon subject to permissions from Swindon BC.	AB
5.8	New Partners	
	KE explained the role of Canoe England and the block licensing arrangements for BCU members. He outlined preliminary discussions about use of the in-water sections of the canal. He would be reporting to the BCU the following week about joining the Partnership and requested copy of the MoU for the Partnership. KO reported that Alistair Millington from Sustrans apologised that he could not be at the meeting, but in principle would be interested in being involved in the wider canal project and would be attending the next meeting.	KO

6	Local Authority Reports and Issues	
	<p>Oxfordshire ..No report</p> <p>Vale of White Horse KO reported that the EA were unwilling to modify their response to the VWHDC LDF Core Strategy. A number of Partners were concerned about this situation. KO to pursue further.-</p> <p>Swindon</p> <p>AB noted that there was still doubt about the adoption of the draft Regional Strategies for the South East and South West</p> <p>Wiltshire Council</p> <p>FDP noted the importance of the Area Boards . RW asked if there was any merit in inviting Area Board Chairmen to the Partnership. FDP said that the general policy of Wiltshire Council was to send a single representative. KO suggested that it may be appropriate to invite Area Board Chairmen when specific items were being discussed.</p>	KO
7	Canal Trust Report	
	<p>JL noted the re-launched Trust web site , and the continuing discussions regarding replacement of Chief Executive. A new Trip Boat Manager is to make a presentation to Trust Council of Management in September with the aim of starting a regular trip boat service in 2010..</p>	
8	Open Forum	
	<p>Meeting venue. KO confirmed that it was possible to have future meetings at Monkton Park Chippenham , but would circulate a request for other Partners to host at other venues if this is not convenient.</p>	
9	Date and times of next meetings for 2009	
	<p>2.30pm:- Wednesday 9th December Venue to be confirmed</p> <p>Further proposed dates for 2010: March 11th, June 9th, September 9th , December 9th</p>	

DRAFT

The *Wilts & Berks* Canal Partnership

MEETING Wednesday 9th December 2009 at 2.30pm
at Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER

Item	<u>Notes</u>		Action
	Attendance		
FdRP	Fleur de Rhé-Philipe (Chairman)	Wiltshire Council	
RW	Richard Wiltshire	Melksham Town Council	
KE	Kevin East	Canoe England	
CF	Colin Fletcher	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	
EP	Elizabeth Payne	IWA/Cotswold Canals Trust	
ES	Ed Stanford	Swindon BC	
MR	Mike Rodd	K & A Trust	
CG	Colin Goodhind	Melksham Community Area Partnership	
RR	Russell Robson	Environment Agency	
IR	Ian Revill	Wiltshire College	
CC	Chris Coyle	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	
JL	John Laverick	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	
GC	Gavin Champion	Cooper Tire	
SR	Steve Russell	Wiltshire Council	
JY	James Young	British Waterways	
AM	Alistair Millington	Sustrans	
KO	Ken Oliver	Wiltshire Council	
1	Apologies: Lord Lansdowne, Mary Lambe, David Tetlow, Brian Atfield, Brian Roberts, Paul Hammond, Alison Blyth, Roger Hanbury, Cllr Andrew Bennett, Ian Brown, Mark Stephens, Rolf Brindell, Cllr A Fitzgerald-Oconnor		
2	Notes from the last meeting 10 th September 2009 (pre circulated) were accepted with minor amendments		
3	Matters arising None		

4	<p>Chairman's Announcements</p> <p>FdRP reminded partners that requests for contributions to the Canal Officer post had been sent, and appreciating that all budgets were under severe pressure, sustaining the position for future years would be greatly helped by continuing external funding.</p> <p>FdRP welcomed newly signed members from BCU (Canoe England), Sustrans, Wiltshire College, and the Waterways Trust, whose Chief Executive Roger Hanbury was unable to attend but had written;</p> <p><i>We are always keen to lend support to restoration schemes and in this particular case our association with the Cotswold Canals makes it particularly appropriate that we should be looking wider and adding our support to the Wilts & Berks. The realities are that we will have to provide most of our input through the Cotswold Canals Partnership but on this basis we would be happy to be associated with Wilts & Berks.</i></p> <p>FdRP also reminded Partners of the IWA campaign to persuade the Government not to sell off the property assets of British Waterways. It appeared that the campaign been at least temporarily effective. The petition was still active on the Downing Street web site: http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/protectourcanals, which at the time had just over 19000 signatures.</p> <p>JY thanked everyone for their support and asked if the Partnership could give their written support. ALL present agreed.</p>	FdRP
5	<p>Canal Officer Report</p>	
5.1	<p>Partnership Annual Report & Proposed Work Programme</p> <p>The proposed work programme had been circulated pre to the meeting. KO asked partners to contact him if they wished anything to be added to the programme.</p>	
5.2	<p>Melksham Link</p> <p>KO reported that the project team were now working on details of the route following a topographic survey. It appeared that the route to include Berryfield was likely. KO noted that there were continuing discussions with the Economic and Regeneration teams at Wiltshire Council. The project would be presented to the Wiltshire Council Melksham Area Board at the February meeting, after which the proposals would be publicised as part of a full public consultation.</p> <p>CG noted that the Melksham Community Area Partnership was now operating and that heir new website would have the capability for consultations.</p> <p>RW asked if there was any way that the Ecotec data from the K&A study could be updated to be more relevant to Melksham.</p> <p>KO said that the Wiltshire Council Economic Development Team were looking to find away to revise the modelling to suit the business profile of the town.</p>	
5.3	<p>Cricklade Country Way</p> <p>FdRP reported the partnership board had just met . KO noted the current challenge to deliver outline planning consent in the Wiltshire area of the scheme. ES confirmed that Swindon BC planners were assembling some advice on how they had dealt with the environmental issues in the Mouldon Hill application using reserved matters.</p> <p>KO also reported that Natural England have approached the Cotswold Water Park with a proposal to put together a new partnership to apply for</p>	

	HLF Landscape funding.	
5.4	<p>Wiltshire LDF KO reported that discussions were taking place with Spatial Planning team to secure the route of the canal, and to indentify potential development opportunities. Jane Hennell Area Planner from British Waterways was also commenting on LDF.</p>	
5.5	<p>Melksham to Lacock AM reported that he was working with KO to identify and contact the landowners on the canal route in the New Year with the aim of creating a cycle route along the towpath. He noted the current closure of route 403 at Naish Hill with local on road diversions.SR confirmed that the licence with a local landowner had expired with Wiltshire Council, and despite extensive investigations and negotiations, an alternative to the route had not yet been achieved. It was the long term aim to use the canal route if a suitable agreement could be achieved.</p>	
5.6	<p>Communications: Web Site KO asked if all partners could consider putting a 'common message' about the project with a link back to the Partnership web site. Wiltshire, Swindon BC, and VWHDC now all had been updated. KO can supply suitable wording for each partner Road Signs WBCT have funded a road sign which will be installed by Wiltshire Council on the A4 at Pewsham to identify the crossing point of the canal</p>	
5.7	<p>2010 Celebration of 200th Anniversary KO noted that the 3 events scheduled for 2010 were still tentative at this stage and subject to negotiation. Melksham Link – a ceremonial start to the project was being considered in the autumn. Swindon Wichelstowe- negotiations continuing for use of the site adjacent to the canal for the weekend 11/12 September. Jubilee Junction- link to adjacent lake. Wed 1st September First comments by EA planning team seem to have some difficult water quality issues to resolve. RR asked that the information was sent to him so he could investigate further. The event would be scheduled to take place on the Wednesday after the National Waterways Festival at Beale Park</p>	KO/RR
5.8	<p>Shrivenham – Land Acquisition KO reported that working with the Canal Trust, negotiations were well advanced to lease a large section of the canal route in the Shrivenham area.</p>	
5.9	<p>New Partners Wiltshire College IR welcomed the opportunity to meet Partners and reminded all of the resource of thousands of students at the College. He noted the first joint project to carry out some environmental studies and asked all partners to consider if there were any other areas where the college could work with the project.</p>	All
6	<p>Partners Reports and Issues Vale of White Horse DC- AB had reported by telephone that the request for funding was being considered but there were revenue budget issues. Swindon BC ES noted that the economic downturn had affected much of the regeneration plans for the town centre, and that work was being reviewed for the next phase of Wichelstowe. Environment Agency RR noted the current cuts in EA budget. The Water Framework Directive management plans were being reviewed by the Secretary</p>	

	<p>of State. The teams working on both basin plans were being made aware of the Wilts & Berks project . KO to be invited to workshop on river-based recreation</p> <p>British Waterways JY advised of British Waterways re-organisation effective from the start of November. Some functions had been centralised but the operational waterway units had been made smaller to more easily deal with customer issues. Marks Stephens and his team were based in Devizes and looked after the K&A and Bridgwater and Taunton canals. JY was part of the regeneration team and was keen to be involved in the Wilts & Berks restoration. The national Director for BW (Mark Bensted) had already visited the Melksham link project with the Financial Controller (Ian Jarvis)</p> <p>BCU KE welcomed the opportunity to use the facilities of the Wilts & Berks for canoeing and noted that Wiltshire Youth Canoe Club were seeking to improve their river access at Melksham. JL confirmed that WBCT were in discussions about a multi use slipway. KE reported that Canoe England had appointed Robert Yeowell, who lived in Wroughton near Swindon as a Local River Advisor</p>	
7	<p>WB Canal Trust Chairman report</p> <p>JL noted that current weather conditions had halted much of the restoration work . The Trust had been given notice to quit the offices at Wootton Bassett Town Council , and currently Wiltshire Council were trying to help find suitable alternative, but the Trust would also welcome another other offers of help</p>	
8	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>RW noted that Sainsbury's were now progressing their application for an extension to the store at Melksham. Partners might consider that this application might help contribute to the project.</p> <p>Any other Issues and topics raised by Partners</p> <p>MR noted that the review of K& A Trust was nearly complete and that they hoped to be more outward looking in the future wit a new Chairman and a number of focussed projects.</p> <p>Location of meetings</p> <p>It was agreed that Chippenham would continue to be the venue for future meetings</p>	
9	<p>Date and time of next meeting at 2.00pm 11th March 2010</p> <p>Further proposed dates for 2010: June 9th, September 9th ,December 9th</p>	