

The Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership

MEETING Thursday 11th March 2010 2pm
at Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER

Item	<u>Notes</u>	
Attending:		
FdRP	Fleur de Rhé Philipe (Chairman)	Cllr Wiltshire Council
KO	Ken Oliver	Wiltshire Council – Canal Officer
JY	James Young	British Waterways
MS	Mark Stephens	British Waterways
MR	Mike Rodd	K&A Trust
ES	Ed Stanford	Swindon Borough Council
ML	Mary Lambe	Vale of White Horse DC
AFC	Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor	Cllr Oxfordshire CC
KE	Kevin East	Canoe England
RB	Rolf Brindle	Cllr Melksham Without PC
CG	Colin Goodhind	Melksham Community Area Partnership
RW	Richard Wiltshire	Cllr Melksham Town Council
AM	Alistair Millington	Sustrans
CC	Chris Coyle	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
JL	John Laverick	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
AB	Andrew Bennett	Cllr Swindon Borough Council
1	Apologies: Roger Hanbury (Waterways Trust), Lord Lansdowne, Russell Robson (EA), Liz Payne (CCT), Steve Russell (Wiltshire Council), Ian Brown (Wiltshire Council), Brian Roberts (IWA) Colin Fletcher (WBCT), Alison Blyth (VWHDC), Ian Revill (Wiltshire College), Brian Atfield (CCWay Trust), David Tetlow (Cricklade TC), Dion Alday (Nationwide BS)	
2	Notes from last meeting 9 th December 2009 (pre circulated) were agreed	
3	Matters arising- None	
4	<p>Chairman's Announcements</p> <p>Partnership Funding- FdRP thanked all those who have indicated continuing funding support. Invoices will be sent out shortly.</p> <p>Defra Consultation – Waterways for Everyone – This is the new Government Strategy document to replace Waterways for Tomorrow – the consultation closes on 26th March. The consultation can be found at http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waterways/index.htm</p> <p>Thanks FdRP noted that Ed Stanford would be retiring at the end of this month and thanked him for his invaluable contribution to the Partnership since it started. The meeting concurred and wished Ed well in his retirement.</p>	

5	<p>Canal Officer Report <i>Communications</i> KO noted the recent 4 page article in Waterways World , the inclusion of the project on the Oxfordshire CC web site, and the new road sign at Pewsham on the A4, JY said he would try to expand the content about the Wilts & Berks on the Waterscape web site. <i>Archives</i> links had been made to the archives at the Swindon & Wiltshire History Centre, and Swindon Libraries Swindon Collection of postcards.</p>	
	<p>5.1 Melksham Link KO reported on the current issues: <i>Design Changes</i> – The feasibility of the proposed route through Berryfield has been looked at by the project team and found to be achievable. To defer dealing with the environmental impact upstream of the existing weir, it is proposed to retain the structure until the next phase of the project. A new Flood Risk Assessment will need to be carried out to take account of this. <i>The Water Supply</i> for the canal has been estimated at 6MI/day. Mike Lee (Trust co-engineering Director) has proposed that about one third of this could come from the K&A canal (subject to BW consent) , the remainder being back pumped from the river. <i>Environment Surveys</i> Wiltshire College (Lackham) are about to start on a Phase 1 Habitat survey. <i>Spatial Planning.</i> Discussions between the landowners and the Trust continue. The project continues to make the case for limited development around the waterway as part of the LDF consultations. JL noted that the landowners were very keen to progress the scheme. <i>Water Quality</i> –Further work to be carried out on he lock design to link the canal to the river. <i>Economic Case</i>-Wiltshire Council's regeneration team working is working on business model for Melksham to enable further work on the economic case. <i>Consultation</i>- The Melksham Community Area Partnership have agreed to conduct the public consultation. CG reported that the consultation would be for the month of May and would include Berryfield and Melksham . FdRP thanked the CAP for undertaking this work.</p>	
	<p>5.2 Cricklade Country Way KO reported that the Partnership Board had met recently to discuss helping the Swindon and Cricklade Railway Trust to achieve bringing the track into Mouldon Hill as part of Swindon BC's current plans to open Mouldon Hill Country Park . Natural England have appointed a project officer in conjunction with the Cotswold Water Park Society to look at preparing a bid to HLF for funding to create access from Swindon to the CWP. The project officer is Lesley Greene who has met with KO and Jonathan Wilshaw (SBC) to look at work carried out for the CCway</p>	
	<p>5.3 LDF Wiltshire, VWHDC, Swindon LA's noted that the work on the LDF's was being slowed by the uncertainty about the Regional Spatial Strategy.</p>	
	<p>5.4 Melksham to Lacock Cycleway update AM noted that he had met with two landowners, both of whom are also landowners south of Melksham on the canal route, and they indicated that they are likely to be interested only in a proposal to restore the canal, not just a cycleway option AM also noted that the North Wiltshire Rivers Route cycleway was currently closed near Lacock and a signed diversion was in place.</p>	

	<p>5.5 2010 Celebration of 200th Anniversary Swindon BC and WBCT are holding a celebration day on Sunday 12th September at Wichelstowe (adjacent to Mill Lane) to mark 200th anniversary of the opening of the canal.</p>	
	<p>5.6 Grove Housing Development ML noted that the developers had indicated that they may now wish to progress the planning application for the development on Grove airfield. KO has met with VWHDC planners to discuss possible S106 contributions to the canal restoration.</p>	
	<p>5.7 New Partners FdRP welcomed Nationwide Building Society as new partners, noting that Dion Alday had been intending to be at the meeting, but had been unable to attend t very short notice. KO noted that the new route for canal passed close to the Nationwide headquarters building in Swindon, and that there had been useful discussions with the Nationwide corporate responsibility team to explore how the canal could be extended eastwards from the current adjacent works at Wichelstowe</p>	
6	<p>Partners Reports and Issues WB Canal Trust JL noted that the Trust had just moved to new offices at Spittleborough Farm Wootton Bassett. He thanked Wiltshire Council and Swindon BC for their help in seeking new accommodation. There seemed to be better prospect of restoration at Studley Grange Wootton Bassett as a recent meeting with the landfill operator had appeared to resolve a number of important and difficult issues. Oxfordshire CC AFC noted Oxfordshire CC's continuing support for the project although budget constraints made financial contribution difficult. Vale of White Horse DC ML echoed the difficulties of LA budgets noting that they had been able to continue to financially support the Partnership. as one of their priority schemes. ML also announced that she would be leaving VWHDC shortly and wished everyone continuing success. FdRP thanked VWHDC for their continued funding commitment and thanked Mary for her contribution to the project. Swindon BC AB noted that Swindon BC were using 'Community Clusters' as a similar system to Wiltshire Council Area Boards. The uncertainties over the RSS may affect the Eastern Development Area. The next phase of Wichelstowe is being considered. From April the New Swindon Company will be replaced by Forward Swindon as the urban development company. KO commented that the Partnership would welcome the opportunity to work with Forward Swindon and would hope that they might formally join. Wiltshire Council Nothing further to report. Town/Parish Councils: Melksham Town, RW asked if there were any further reports that could be accessed to support the economic case for the Melksham Link. MS said that British Waterways may be able to access public benefit information from the 'green book'. KO said he would seek further information and distribute to Partners Melksham Without RB noted the need for a new village hall at Berryfield. KO confirmed that the Melksham Link project would include replacements for the open space used by the canal and the village hall. Wotton Bassett Not represented at meeting</p>	KO

	<p>Environment Agency Not represented at meeting</p> <p>British Waterways Mark Stephens introduced himself as the manager of the Kennet and Avon Canal . He said he was keen to support the project wherever he could. JY asked if the project was able to support a volunteer manager. KO said that it had not been possible yet to access funds for a post but investigations were still being progressed to investigate the Future Jobs fund</p> <p>Wiltshire College Nothing further to report.</p> <p>Sustrans Nothing further to report.</p> <p>Canoe England KE reported that the local representative Robert Yeowell had met with 2 WBCT branches and was hoping to get some regular canoeing at Wootton Bassett and Swindon. KO reported that the Partnership were working with the Wiltshire Youth Canoe at Melskham to produce a design for a new slipway.</p> <p>Kennet & Avon Trust MR noted the major re-organisation of the Trust and its activities, and the plans to work with British Waterways to carry our works on the canal.</p>	
7	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>No further items</p>	
8	<p>Date and time of next meeting :</p> <p>Further proposed dates for 2010:</p> <p>June 24th (change), September 9th ,December 9th</p>	

The Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership

MEETING Thursday 24th June 2010 2pm
at Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER

Item	<u>Notes</u>	
Attending:		
FdRP	Fleur de Rhé Philipe (Chairman)	Cllr Wiltshire Council
KO	Ken Oliver	Wiltshire Council – Canal Officer
JY	James Young	British Waterways
LL	Lord Lansdowne	President Wilts & Berks Partnership
ABe	Alison Blyth	Vale of White Horse DC
MR	Mike Rodd	K&A Trust
JW	Jonathan Wilshaw	Swindon Borough Council
CF	Colin Fletcher	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
GC	Gavin Champion	Cooper Tire
RB	Rolf Brindle	Cllr Melksham Without PC
CG	Colin Goodhind	Melksham Community Area Partnership
RW	Richard Wiltshire	Cllr Melksham Town Council
AM	Alistair Millington	Sustrans
CC	Chris Coyle	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
JL	John Laverick	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
ABI	Andrew Bennett	Cllr Swindon Borough Council
1	Apologies: Roger Hanbury (Waterways Trust), Mark Stephens (BW), Russell Robson (EA), Liz Payne (CCT), Steve Russell (Wiltshire Council), Ian Brown (Wiltshire Council), Brian Roberts (IWA) , Ian Revill (Wiltshire College), Brian Atfiled (CCWay Trust), David Tetlow(Cricklade TC), Dion Alday(Nationwide BS) Cllr Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor (OCC), Kevin East(CE)	
2	Notes from last meeting 11 th March 2010 (pre circulated) were agreed	
3	Matters arising- None	
4	<p>Chairman's Announcements</p> <p>Partnership Funding- FdRP thanked all those who have indicated continuing funding support.. Invoices have been sent. FdRP noted that the future economic climate was likely to be very difficult but emphasised the strength of this Partnership with members from the commercial sector, local authorities and charitable sectors and hoped all organisations would be able to continue to contribute as it would help Wiltshire Council to continue to support the Canal Officer post</p> <p>New Waterways Minister is Richard Benyon MP Newbury (on the K& A) and he was appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Defra on 14 May 2010</p>	

	<p>.</p> <p>IWA briefing note states ‘Mr Benyon served as a Shadow Minister for the Environment, Fisheries and Wildlife. Prior to this appointment he was a Party Whip. He has also served on the Home Affairs Select Committee. He is a riparian landowner and farmer on the Kennet, and a former soldier and founder of the charity help for heroes..He is a vice president of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust , and a keen angling supporter.</p> <p>The Waterways Minister Richard Benyon MP made the following written statement on June 21 2010 ...</p> <p><i>‘I am pleased to be appointed as Waterways Minister as I am familiar with the public benefits the waterways provide and I am making this statement to set out how I intend to take forward inland waterways policy for England and Wales. The Government considers civil society has a very valuable role to play in delivering public services as part of our commitment to creating a Big Society. We will therefore be continuing to look in detail at whether a third sector model would be appropriate for British Waterways, including the possible inclusion of the Environment Agency’s navigations as the other navigation authority grant aided by Government. My department will be engaging a wide range of stakeholders in this work (and liaising with the Scottish Government). However I must make clear that, given the Government’s overriding objective of reducing the financial deficit, no decisions on such a change will be taken until after the forthcoming Spending Review. In the light of this I have also decided not to proceed now with a new Government waterways strategy and I will review the situation following the Spending Review.’</i></p> <p>.</p>	
5	<p>Canal Officer Report</p> <p>KO reported that in addition to the items on the Agenda he was working on a number of other projects:-</p> <p>Swindon Extension of canal eastwards from Wichelstowe on land owned by Swindon BC and to include proposals adjacent to Nationwide Headquarters building , and the recently submitted application for Swindon Gateway (adjacent to Coate Water)</p> <p>Grove Work is nearly completed on a modified proposal for canal restoration funded by S106 from new housing proposals.</p> <p>Future Jobs Fund Any new applications have been cancelled following Government review. AM noted that Sustrans were carrying our maintenance work with a team from current funding.</p> <p>Flood working group –Wiltshire Council’s working group has identified works in Dauntsey as a priority . If these works can be funded it would open the opportunity to possibly use the canal for flood relief</p> <p>Parish Councils – KO noted that there were a number of Parish Councils who were not members of either the Partnership or Trust, Its was suggested that it would be useful to have an annual meeting of the Partnership to showcase the restoration work . KO to investigate. ABE noted that Swindon BC had a suitable forum in the southern area Community Cluster. CC noted that the WB Canal</p>	<p>KO</p>

	<p>Trust would be happy to provide speakers to give a presentation directly to any Parish Council.</p> <p>Members of Parliament –following the General Election there are a number of new MP’s on the canal route . It was agreed to send an invitation to them to visit the project .</p>	KO
	<p>5.1 Melksham Link Consultation- The Community Area Partnership in Melksham are carrying out a community consultation . CG outlined the key stages for the consultation and the programme was circulated at the meeting .RW asked if the project had any information about whether grey water discharge would be allowed from boats navigating on the R. Avon. KO responded that British Waterways had guidance on this issue which can be made available . Flood Risk JL reported that the WB Canal Trust had commissioned consultants to carry out a revised Flood Risk Assessment. Work was on hold subject to further investigations about issues at Clackers Brook. Planning KO reported continuing discussions with Wiltshire Council Spatial Planners, Highways, Economic Development departments. Landowners JL reported continuing discussions which have resulted in a number of changes to the route Environment Wiltshire College students are about to complete Phase 1 habitat survey</p>	
	<p>5.2 Cricklade Country Way FdRP noted that the CCWay project Board had met earlier that day. KO reported on progress on the outline planning application, a funding application to HLF (Cotswold water Park Society leading), and progress on Mouldon Hill Country Park and the restoration of the Swindon & Cricklade Railway.</p>	
	<p>5.3 LDF Wiltshire, VWHDC, Swindon LA’s noted that the work on the LDF’s was now being progressed but uncertainty about what policies might replace those in the Regional Spatial Strategy were continuing to cause delays.</p>	
	<p>5.4 Project Officer Service Level Agreement. JW noted that there did not seem to be an SLA in place between Swindon BC and Wiltshire Council. ABI reported that there was an SLA in place for VWHDC and she would forward a copy to use a basis for Swindon BC</p>	
	<p>5.5 2010 Celebration of 200th Anniversary Swindon BC and WBCT are holding a celebration day on Sunday 12th September at Wichelstowe (adjacent to Mill Lane) to mark 200th anniversary of the opening of the canal. ABe reported that work on the event was progressing</p>	
	<p>5.6 Thames Water UTMRD Abingdon Reservoir. ABI noted that the public enquiry into Thames’ Water’s plans had started in Oxford. VWHDC was taking the same line as EA in that they did not believe Thames Water had demonstrated the need for the reservoir. KO noted that the Cotswold Canals Trust were asking for water transfer from the River Severn to be re-considered. KO also noted that the Infrastructure Planning Commission had been abolished by the new Government and this had been the proposed method of applying for consent. [Please note VWHDC web site has more information] http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news_views/topical_issues/DetailPage-7594.asp</p>	

6	<p>Partners Reports and Issues</p> <p>WB Canal Trust JL reported IWA were launching the Tom Rolt Appeal to fund Inglesham Lock. The appeal noted that the restored Thames & Severn and Wilts & Berks Canals will link Swindon to the Thames. http://www.waterways.org.uk/campaigns/appeals/iwa_national_restoration_appeal_inglesham_lock</p> <p>Oxfordshire CC not represented at the meeting</p> <p>Vale of White Horse DC No further items</p> <p>Swindon BC</p> <p>AB noted the change of New Swindon Co to Forward Swindon. JW reported that he was familiarising himself with the canal project and had spent some time with Ken to discuss particular issues in Swindon</p> <p>Wiltshire Council Nothing further to report.</p> <p>Town/Parish Councils:</p> <p>Melksham Town Nothing further to report</p> <p>Melksham Without RB Nothing further to report</p> <p>Wotton Bassett Not represented at meeting</p> <p>Environment Agency Not represented at meeting</p> <p>British Waterways JY reported that British Waterways were piloting a scheme on the K&A Canal to work with Trust as a prelude to becoming a ‘third sector’ organisation by 2012. He was working on draft plans for a Partnership Board.</p> <p>Kennet & Avon Trust MR commented that the K&A Trust was actively working with BW to find a way to deliver a workable scheme.</p> <p>Wiltshire College . Not represented at meeting</p> <p>Sustrans Nothing further to report.</p> <p>Canoe England Not represented at meeting</p>	
7	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>CF noted that work was about to start on the canal at Pewsham and the Canal Trust had received substantial support from Community 1st (Viridor) and the Chippenham Area Board?</p>	
8	<p>Date and time of next meeting : 2pm September 9th at Wiltshire Council Offices Chippenham</p> <p>Further proposed dates for 2010: December 9th</p>	

The Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership

MEETING Thursday 16th September 2010 2pm
at Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER

Item	<u>Notes</u>	
Attending:		
FdRP	Fleur de Rhé Philipe (Chairman)	Cllr Wiltshire Council
KO	Ken Oliver	Wiltshire Council – Canal Officer
JY	James Young	British Waterways
RR	Russell Robson	Environment Agency
AB	Andrew Bennett	Cllr Swindon Borough Council
JL	John Laverick	Wilts & Berks Canal Trust
JW	Jonathan Wilshaw	Swindon Borough Council
RW	Richard Wiltshire	Cllr Melksham Town Council
GC	Gavin Champion	Cooper Tire
RB	Rolf Brindle	Cllr Melksham Without PC
CG	Colin Goodhind	Melksham Community Area Partnership
1	Apologies: Lord Lansdowne (President), Roger Hanbury (Waterways Trust), Mark Stephens (BW), Liz Payne (CCT), Steve Russell (Wiltshire Council), Ian Brown (Wiltshire Council), Brian Roberts (IWA) , Ian Revill (Wiltshire College), Brian Atfield (CCWay Trust), David Tetlow (Cricklade TC), Dion Alday (Nationwide BS) Cllr Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor (OCC), Kevin East (CE), Mike Rodd (KA Trust), Alison Blyth (VWHDC), Colin Fletcher (WBCT), Alistair Millington (Sustrans), Chris Coyle (WBCT), Steve Russell (Wiltshire Council)	
2	Notes from last meeting 24 th June 2010 (pre circulated) were agreed	
3	Matters arising- None	
4	Chairman's Announcements FdRP thanked everyone involved in the events at Semington and Swindon Wichelstowe and asked John Laverick to report on these special events: JL thanked the teams involved in organising both events. At Semington on 8 th September about 60 guests and more than 100 onlookers saw the Trust Patron HRH Duchess of Cornwall name the new trip boat 'Dragonfly' and ceremonially cut the first sod of the Melksham Link. At Wichelstowe on 12 th September the Trust and Swindon BC celebrated the 200 th anniversary of the opening of the waterway at the Canal Festival. AB reported that over 2000 visitors enjoyed the event and were able to take trips on the canal on Dragonfly which had been moved to its 'home waters'. Participation in canoeing and angling had brought much activity to the site.	

5	<p>Canal Officer KO noted an outstanding action to write to other Parish Councils and to M.P.'s.- Semington PC is a priority. KO also noted that the project was considering looking at creating local groups of 'friends of the canal'.</p>	
	<p>5.1 Melksham Link KO showed the latest plans which now included the River Avon section and a 'Phase 1a' with the canal section leading out of the river. CG reported that the first part of the consultation has been completed with over 120 responses. These were being analysed and this would lead to the compilation of a further questionnaire. KO said that in discussion with the Canal Trust it was intended to distribute information about the project to Berryfield and Semington residents. An interpretation board will be made for the site of the new junction.</p>	
	<p>5.2 Cricklade Country Way KO reported that a joint meeting with Cotswold Canals Trust was scheduled for 19th October to review the current technical proposal. A joint meeting with Swindon BC and Cotswold Water Park in August had discussed funding bids. A meeting will be organised in October with HLF to discover if a parallel bid can be made from Swindon. Work had been completed on assessment of the ecological survey works required to be able to submit an outline planning application.</p>	
	<p>5.3 LDF Wiltshire, VWHDC, Swindon Work is continuing</p>	
	<p>5.4 Project Officer Service Level Agreement. Using the template supplied by VWHDC Swindon BC is preparing a suitable document for an agreement with Wiltshire Council.</p>	
	<p>5.5 2010 Celebration of 200th Anniversary AB noted that it was hoped to use the site for further community events. A number of Swindon Members and the area M.P had attended.</p>	
6	<p>Partners Reports and Issues WB Canal Trust nothing further to report. Oxfordshire CC not represented at the meeting Vale of White Horse DC not represented at the meeting Swindon BC. JW asked if anyone had any information about the modifications to the Reservoirs Act. KO said he would seek further advice. Wiltshire Council Nothing further to report. Town/Parish Councils: Melksham Town RW noted that he was organising an aerial video for the area. He also noted that the Town Council and Melksham Without PC had decided not to form a waterways working group. Melksham Without RB noted that it may be pragmatic to restore the canal towpath before the canal. JL responded that the project would do this and would seek to acquire as much of the route as possible at the earliest opportunity. Wotton Bassett Not represented at meeting Environment Agency RR noted a ICE Dredging Conference on 28 September http://www.ice.org.uk/Events-conferences/Events/CEDA-Dredging-2010-New-Legislation-for-a-New-Dec RR reported that a restructure of EA would merge Thames and SE regions.</p>	

	<p>There is a consultation currently under way on enjoying water in London and SE. RR invited partners to comment http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/121173.aspx</p> <p>He also reported that there were national discussions between BW and EA on mutualisation.</p> <p>British Waterways JY reported that water resource issues were now being considered for the Melksham Link. He also said that work had been carried out on updating the K&A Ecotec report. KO asked if there would be an opportunity to include a section of the Melksham Link. JY said he thought this might be possible and would investigate. He also reported that BW was actively recruiting volunteers from Corporate organisations.</p> <p>Kennet & Avon Trust not represented at the meeting, but it was noted that the first meeting of the new K&A Partnership was to be held on 29th September</p> <p>Wiltshire College . Not represented at meeting</p> <p>Sustrans Not represented at meeting</p> <p>Canoe England Kevin East reported via email Canoe England was pleased to be associated with the Trust's recent successful events at Melksham and Swindon. The interest in canoeing at Swindon was most satisfying where the Canoe England stand handled numerous enquiries about local canoe clubs. It was noted the canoeing activity also generated considerable interest in access and use of the canal at the Westleaze location that clearly indicated a local demand for such a "doorstep" facility.</p> <p>The numbers participating in the come and try sessions organised by the Swindon & District CC exceeded 200, keeping Chris Bird and his team of helpers very busy throughout the day right up to the site closing down. The club looks forward to recruiting some new members and were happy to support an event another time.</p>	
7	<p>Open Forum No issues</p>	
8	<p>Date and time of next meeting : 2pm December 9th at Wiltshire Council Offices Chippenham</p> <p>Proposed dates for 2011: March 10th , June 9th ,September 8th ,December 8th</p>	

The Wilts & Berks Canal Partnership

MEETING Thursday 9th December 2010 at 2pm
Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER

		<u>Notes</u>
LL FdRP KO ABI RW CG ABe JW JL CF CC GC EP MR KE	Attending: Lord Lansdowne (President) Fleur de Rhe Philipe (Chairman) Wiltshire Council Ken Oliver (Canal Officer) Wiltshire Council Alison Blyth Vale of White Horse District Council Richard Wiltshire (Melksham Town Council) Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council Jonathan Wilshaw Swindon Borough Council John Laverick Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Colin Fletcher Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Chris Coyle Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Gavin Champion Cooper Tires Elizabeth Payne Cotswold Canals Trust Mike Rodd Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Kevin East Canoe England	
1	Apologies: Alistair Millington Sustrans, David Tetlow Cricklade Town Council, Brian Atfield, Brian Roberts, Cllr Anda Fitzgerald- O'Connor Oxfordshire CC, Russell Robson EA, Steve Russell Wiltshire Council, Ian Brown Wiltshire Council, James Young BW, Dion Alday Nationwide	
2	Notes from last meeting 16 th September 2010(pre circulated) were accepted as an accurate record	
3	Matters arising- None	
4	Chairman's Announcements FdRP reported that Chippenham Vision have agreed to joining the Partnership. A letter has been received from Forward Swindon setting out their position supporting the project but not wishing to formally join. [Letter is appended with these notes]	
5		
	5.1	Melksham Link-Project Update KO described latest changes to the displayed plans, which now included the route from the river to the historic line north of the town. The likely timetable for the Wiltshire Core Strategy would suggested it will completed by the end of 2012. JL reported further positive meetings with the landowners and that, subject to their agreement , the Trust would like to submit an outline planning application for the canal route. CG confirmed that the first stage of the community consultation had been completed .114

		<p>comments had been received and, together with the responses from the project team, these were available on the Partnership web site http://www.wiltsandberkscanal.org.uk/consult.doc . The second phase of the consultation will be a specific questionnaire and would run from January 2011 with a public meeting in April. RW reported that Melksham Town Council, Melksham Without Parish PC and Semington PC had formed a waterway working group. Notes from the meetings would be forwarded to KO. KO reported that further discussions were being held to investigate hydro power from the Avon and the implications of the flood map on possible development opportunities. KE noted that Canoe England could help design combined canoe slalom/fish passes for the weirs.</p>	
	5.2	<p>Cricklade Country Way Work was progressing at Mouldon Hill with the visitor car park now open.. Further canal restoration would be taking place as part of the Phase 2 programme of work.</p>	
	5.3	<p>Wichelstowe Swindon Project update JW reported work on the canal at East Wichel will be completed in January. Master planning for the next phase of the site will be starting shortly. A draft agreement was being discussed with the Canal Trust for an operating licence for this section of canal</p>	
	5.4	<p>Funding 2011 -12 FdRP noted that the financial climate would be very difficult in the next budget year so asked all contributing partner members to do their best to continue to help fund the canal officer post.</p>	
	5.5	<p>Wootton Bassett Project CC reported that the Trust was undertaking a challenging project to restore the section of canal between Hay Lane Swindon and Chaddington Lane Wootton Bassett. Work at the landfill site operated by Biffa was due to be completed by 2012 and the landowner at the Butterfly Farm had indicated that the work there need to be completed by Sept 2011. An ecological survey had been commissioned prior to a planning application being submitted. FdRP commented that Cllr Sturgis may wish to be kept informed of progress on the landfill site.</p>	
	5.6	<p>Pewsham Project CF reported good progress with the canal now dredged from Double bridge to 300m from Pewsham Locks (about 1mile) . Further ecology work would lead to a planning application next year for restoration of the locks and dry dock.</p>	
	5.7	<p>Swindon Mouldon Hill Project Reported in 5.2</p>	
6		<p>Partners Reports and Issues WB Canal Trust JL noted that while the Trust awaited the results of the public enquiry into the Thames Water Abingdon Reservoir , several restoration projects were in progress in Oxfordshire at Challow and Childrey Vale of White Horse DC ABI confirmed that VWHDC Core strategy programme is running at about the same speed as Wiltshire. The Grove Airfield housing planning application is expected early next year and therefore the proposals for any S106 contributions to the canal would now need to have more urgency. All VWHDC council members will be subject to elections in May 2011.</p>	

	<p>Swindon BC ABe hoped that it would be possible for a Wichelstowe Festival in 2011. The modified planning application for the Gateway (Coate Water) site is likely to be submitted in February 2011. It is likely that the Eastern Development Area will be considered for housing up to 7500, not the original 12500.</p> <p>Melksham Town Council RW asked if there had been any progress on the update on the Ecotec report and inclusion of Melksham Link. KO apologised for not circulating the report to partners and that it would be sent out with the draft notes. KO would enquire if British Waterways had made any progress with information for the Melksham Link. RW noted that a spring river festival would be held at Melksham in 2011.</p> <p>K&A Trust MR reported on British Waterways' plans to become a charity. He noted the concerns being expressed about the proposed governance and the effect of a national waterways charity working alongside local trusts. MR urged partners to take part in the forthcoming DEFRA consultation</p> <p>Cotswold Canal Trust EP noted great the help and support for the project by the dredging work being carried out at Spine Road (Cerney Wick), and the work about to start at Inglesham Lock..</p> <p>British Waterways In a written report JY noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was announced on 14th Oct that BW would become a charity by April 2012. • The pilot Waterways Board on the K&A Canal had its second meeting in November. Progress is being made on recognising the top priorities on the waterway and developing the composition of the Board. BW is working on the process for developing the Strategic Waterway Plans, that will provide guidance for the medium and long term future of the waterways. • BW made several presentations at the AINA Conference in November. CEO Robin Evans set out the emerging plans for the NWC – New Waterway Charity. Localism is at the heart of the new direction and Richard Benyon MP, Waterways Minister, said that BW was blazing a trail for the Big Society agenda. • JY has now joined the Cotswold Canal Restoration Partnership. <p>Canoe England KE reported that their membership continued to increase. There were concerns that funding cuts to Natural England and Environment Agency would reduce the number of leisure/recreation officers.</p>	
7	Open Forum There were no further items	
8	Date and time of next meeting : March 10 th 2011 Proposed Dates 2011: June 9 th ,September 8 th ,December 8th	