



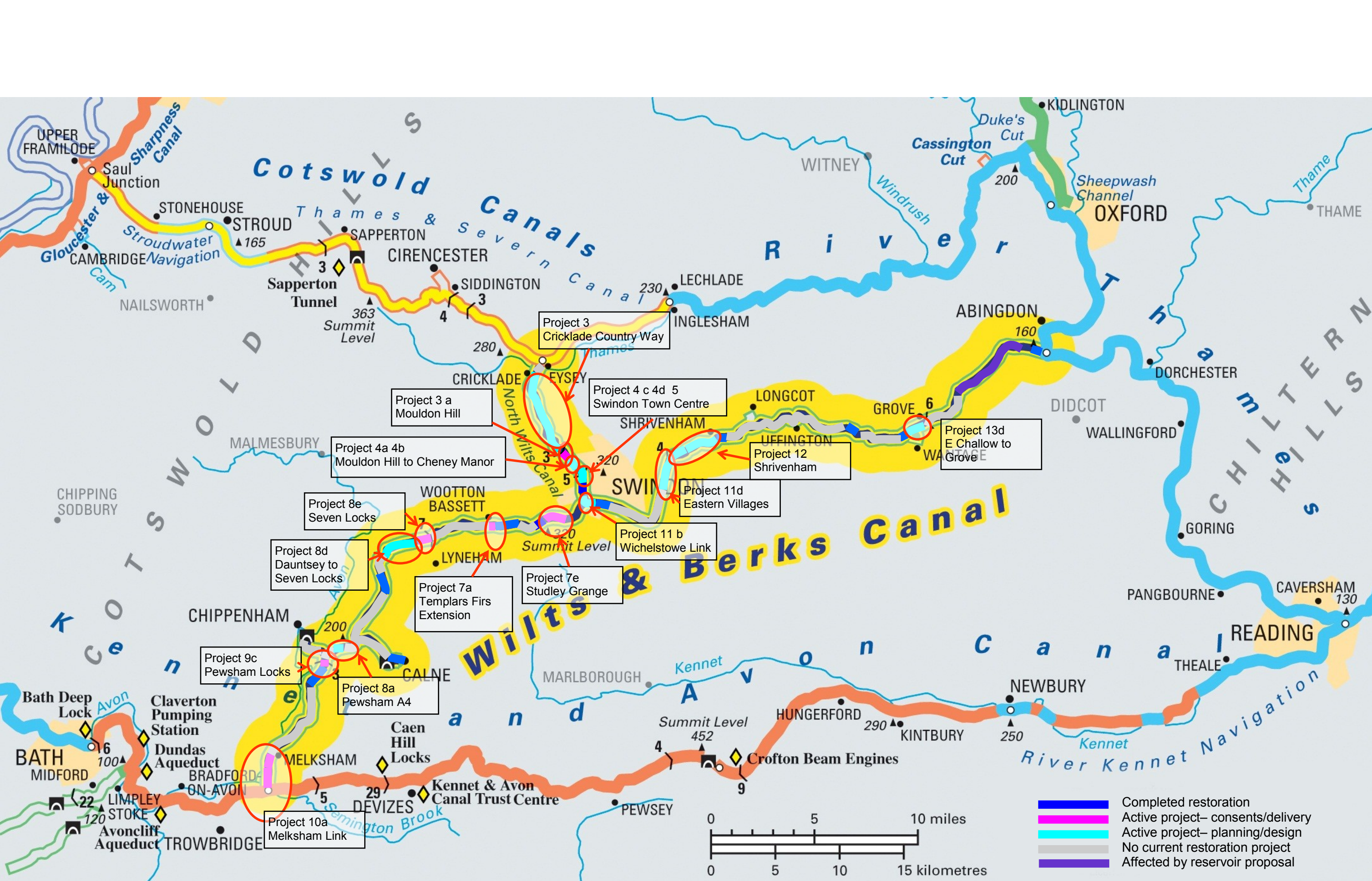
MEETING Thursday 13th March 2014 at 3pm
Bowood Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort Fitzmaurice Room

| Item | <u>Notes</u> |
|---|---|
| LL FdRP AB MC RB RW CC KE KH KO JW RY BS | <p>Attending: Lord Lansdowne (President WSO Partnership) Cllr Fleur de Rhé Philipe (Chairman) Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council (Deputy Chairman) Cllr Mark Clarke Cricklade Town Council Cllr Rolf Brindle Melksham Without Parish Council Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council Chris Coyle Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Kevin East Canoe England Kath Hatton Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council Jonathan Wilshaw Swindon Borough Council Rob Yeowell Canoe England</p> <p>WBCT Trustees also attending Brian Stovold</p> <p>RW declared a pecuniary interest in item 5.1 Melksham Slipway.</p> |
| 1 | Apologies:, Elizabeth Payne (Cotswold CT/IWA) Paul Briggs (Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce), Cllr Rodney Rose (Oxfordshire CC), Gavin Champion (Cooper Tires), Richard Broadhead (Wiltshire Council), Rob Dean (Kennet & Avon Canal Trust), Paul Harris Oxfordshire CC, Elizabeth Payne (Cotswold Canals Trust & IWA), Colin Goodhind (Melksham CAP), Charlotte Riggs (Swindon BC) , Mark Stephens (CRT), Cllr Sue Marchant (VWHDC) |
| 2 | Notes from the last meeting 12 th December 2013 (pre-circulated) were agreed. |
| 3 | <p>Chairman's Announcements FdRP thanked Lord Lansdowne for hosting the meeting. New Living Waterways Awards were calling for nominations http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/living-waterways-awards . Closing date for nominations 3rd April 2014. Please let KO know if you wish to nominate a project . It was likely that future meetings would be at Monkton Park following completion of refurbishment.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Wilts & Berks Canal Delivery Authority (paper distributed Dec 2013) Partnership Members feedback .KO was seeking comment on this proposal and would re-circulate document and would seek and further responses by 31st March. KH reported that funding was being sought for a fundraiser and if this is</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | <p>successful FdRP said that it would be possible for Wiltshire Council to provide “pay and rations”, i.e. be the employer, for any fundraiser if the Trust was able to raise the funds. LL asked if the funding would be for a full time position. KH said that the proposal was for 2-3 days over 2 years. KO noted that advice from other fundraisers would be to limit the incentivisation of the job as it could lead to ‘cherry picking’ of available funds.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Restoration progress. KO showed the meeting a map highlighting the current status of the active projects (circulated with these notes). LL thought the map was very useful. AB noted the large number of communities impacted by the project. KO said that this was probably the least well known major infrastructure project in the south of England. AB noted the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership may be a source of funding. FdRP said that the LEP would be guided by a Strategic Economic Plan currently being finalised and that the canal could fit some of the strands in this.</p> | |
| | <p>5.1 Melksham Link KO reported that the protected species surveys were being carried out (schedule included in Dec 2013 notes.) The study commissioned to look at economic benefits was at final draft stage and following further comments from stakeholders it would be published by the end of March. The initial results indicated a significant benefit for the town. AB asked if it could be used to demonstrate benefit in other locations. KO said that there was a credibility danger in extrapolating the results and that a brief was being written for a similar study for Swindon (as yet unfunded) . The new slipway is nearing completion following a number of weather related delays in preparation for the River Festival of the weekend of 6/7 September. AB asked for all significant event dates to be notified as soon as possible. KE said that British Marine Federation had completed a study on economic impact of boating/water sports – summary at http://bit.ly/1hzTJSF - they might be willing to share more detailed information .RW thought the River Festival might be an opportunity to involve a sailing club.</p> | |
| | <p>5.2 Royal Wootton Bassett – Studley Grange Project CC reported submission of a planning application and that it was hoped that a presentation will be made to Biffa Waste Ltd (site owners) to hopefully facilitate land transfer. It was hoped to start work in the summer subject to permissions. Project is approximately 50% funded. -Depot site/ Templars Firs extension KO reported that planning consent has been granted . Negotiations are in progress to seek permission to work/transfer of land. Work to be carried out in two phases.</p> | |
| | <p>5.3 Swindon Projects Wichelstowe CC reported that discussions were taking place to allow fishing and canoeing on the E Wichel section. A snagging list was being compiled to be resolved with SBC. A business plan is being finalised for the Wichelstowe Link (connecting canal at E Wichel to Westleaze) to request SBC to make an early delivery of the Mill Lane canal culvert (currently will be constructed on completion of 2500 houses)in return for WBCT constructing the</p> | |

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| | <p>canal sections . LL asked what the completed length would be – CC said this would be a really significant section of approximately 2 miles. AB noted that the new canalside Waitrose store would be a significant destination. CC said that there have been a number of meetings with the Waitrose team and that the store opening on April 10th would include trips on trip boat Dragonfly. RY asked what waterside access there was from the store. CC was sad to report that at present there were no moorings at the store other than the towpath opposite but hoped this would be changed. FdRP was pleased to note the involvement of the local community in the East Wichel canal.</p> <p>Eastern Villages AB reported that there was planning activity on a number of the proposed sites with no direct impact on the protected canal route . KO reported that WBCT and SBC had agreed a statement of common ground for the Local Plan Enquiry as some of the developers were questioning parts of the canal route.</p> <p>Town Centre KO reported that in conjunction with the newly appointed WBCT consultant (Jock MacKenzie) meetings had been held with Forward Swindon and SBC to explore delivery opportunities for the canal.</p> <p>Local Plan AB noted the EIP started on 29th April and was scheduled for most of May . The deadline for registering an interest in speaking is 14th March. RW suggested that the canal could be considered as a method of possible flood alleviation .LL wanted to know the timeline for the Local Plan process. AB said that under favourable circumstances the Plan could be approved by December. RY said that Cheney Manor might be able to benefit from restoration on the N Wilts canal to reduce flooding issues at Bruce St bridges. JW said the priority issue is completion of canal at Mouldon Hill before contemplating further schemes. AB noted relaxation of planning requirements for sustainable energy schemes.</p> | |
| <p>5.4</p> | <p>Pewsham Project KH reported that planning permission had been granted for the ‘top lock/canal cottage’ scheme. Following detailed design work and fundraising it was planned that the cottage would be built by a contractor with W&BCT volunteers carrying out the lock project. The project in partnership with Chippenham Museum had received approx £7500 from HLF Sharing Heritage. Following a successful half term event at the Museum a weekend activity was planned for schools and the general public over weekend of 6/7 June. LL noted the difficult access to the site. KO said the construction/maintenance access for volunteers and contractors would be via the unadopted highway to Middle Lodge Farm. Long term public access would be via the cycleway and when completed from A4 at Pewsham. RY enquired if there could be water based activity (canoeing) at the June event. KO noted that the water level was currently reduced due to a storm damaged culvert- repair work should be started shortly.</p> | |
| <p>5.5</p> | <p>Seven Locks Project CC noted a boundary dispute with the owners of the adjacent land. Work on a revised planning application continues.</p> | |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| | <p>5.6 Grove Project KO reported that following the publication of the technical feasibility report (by Arup) the local team are intending to start work a section of the scheme following a planning application.</p> <p>Planning decision Grove Airfield KO thanked Cllr Rose for following up this issue after the last Partnership meeting. A further meeting is being sought with Cllr Barber (Leader VWHDC) and Head of Planning to try to resolve this issue.</p> <p>VWHDC Local Plan VWHDC are currently consulting on a revised Local Plan.</p> | |
| | <p>5.7 Dauntsey Lock Visitor Centre project –(Peterborough Arms) CC reported that WBCT had made a revised offer to purchase the building which had been accepted subject to a number of conditions. Unfortunately WBCT had not been able to accept all the conditions and therefore some doubt still existed over progress. Work is progressing on the SIB funded business plan.</p> | |
| <p>6</p> | <p>Partners Reports and Issues not covered in item 5</p> <p>FdRP reported that Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy has completed the Examination In Public process and it was hoped that it would be adopted by the end of the summer. AB said that the Swindon Local Plan EIP had just started and would continue until the end of May. KO will attend relevant sessions when the canal policy is being discussed.</p> <p>KO asked members to note the Oxfordshire CC Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation http://bit.ly/1cZvrUS</p> <p>RW asked if CRT on anyone could make a definitive statement about Navigation Rights on the River Avon. KO said the Melksham Link project team were taking the view that navigation could be controlled by the riparian owners and therefore would be seeking an agreement from the relevant parties. KE said that other organisations believed there were public rights of navigation dating back to Magna Carta – more details at http://www.riveraccessforall.co.uk/what_is_the_evidence.php</p> <p>KO reported that the new Chief Executive of Canal & River Trust Richard Parry had recently made a visit to see the work of WBCT. He has indicated that CRT would be keen to help where possible with restoration issues. He has suggested a meeting with the newly appointed CRT restoration manager Jason Leach. CC said that the offer of support was in the context of the Wilts & Berks forming an important link in a southern waterways network.</p> <p>KE noted that CRT were currently carrying out a towpath users consultation. http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/consultations/current-consultations</p> | |
| <p>7</p> | <p>Date and time and location of next meeting : June 12th 2014 Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham</p> <p>Further Proposed Dates 2014 September 11th, December 11th</p> | |
| | | |



UPPER FRAMILODE
Saul Junction
STONEHOUSE
STROUD
CAMBRIDGE Navigation
NAILSWORTH
CHIPPING SODBURY
BATH DEEP LOCK
BATH MIDFORD
LIMPLEY
STOKE
Avoncliff Aqueduct
TROWBRIDGE

Cotswold Canals
Thames & Severn Canal
Sapperton Tunnel
CIRENCESTER
SIDDINGTON
CRICKLADE
EYSEY
Wootton Bassett
LYNEHAM
CHIPPENHAM
CALNE
MELKSHAM
DEVIZES
Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Centre
PEWSEY

WITNEY
LECHLADE
INGLESHAM
Project 3 Cricklade Country Way
Project 3 a Moulton Hill
Project 4 c 4d 5 Swindon Town Centre
SHRIVENHAM
LONGCOT
UFFINGTON
Project 12 Shrivenham
Project 11 d Eastern Villages
Project 11 b Wichelstowe Link
Project 7 e Studley Grange
Project 8 d Dauntsey to Seven Locks
Project 8 e Seven Locks
Project 7 a Templars Firs Extension
Project 9 c Pewsham Locks
Project 8 a Pewsham A4
Project 10 a Melksham Link
Crofton Beam Engines
HUNGERFORD
KINTBURY
NEWBURY

Berks Canal
GROVE
WALLINGFORD
DORCHESTER
GORING
PANGBOURNE
CAVERSHAM
READING
THEALE
KIDLINGTON
OXFORD
Duke's Cut
Cassington Cut
Sheepwash Channel
Thames
River Kennet Navigation
River Kennet



MEETING Thursday 12th June 2014 at 3pm

Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham Committee rooms C/D

| Item | <u>Notes</u> | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| LL FdRP AB RB CC RD PH CG KO CR | Attending: Lord Lansdowne (President WSO Partnership) Cllr Fleur de Rhé Philipe (Chairman) Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council (Deputy Chairman) Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council Chris Coyle Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Rob Dean K&A Canal Trust Paul Harris Oxfordshire CC Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council Charlotte Riggs Swindon Borough Council | |
| 1 | Apologies: Cllr Mark Clarke Cricklade Town Council, Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council, Kevin East Canoe England, England, Kath Hatton Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, Rob Yeowell Canoe England, Cllr Rodney Rose Oxfordshire CC, Alistair Millington Sustrans, Paul Briggs TVCC, Elizabeth Payne Cotswold Canals Trust, Vaughan Welch IWA | |
| 2 | Notes from the last meeting 13 th March 2014 (pre-circulated) were approved | |
| 3 | Chairman's Announcements FdRP asked members to consider changing the frequency of the meetings as it seemed to be increasingly difficult for members to attend. A number of options could be considered: Reduce the number of meetings per year with an additional monthly update/newsletter. Consider a different venue. AB favoured a monthly update on key issues. CC thought that it would be unwise to reduce the frequency as the Trust felt it was important to maintain contact with the partners. PH was in favour of more written information available before the meeting to aid discussion. RD would like to continue the current arrangements particularly as this partnership did not need to take executive decisions. FdRP asked partners (both attending and non attending) to consider this issue and report back to the September meeting which would have more written reports on the projects leaving more time for discussion. <i>Post Meeting note:</i> <i>Weekly updates are already available at http://wiltsberkscanal.blogspot.co.uk</i> <i>If it was of interest it would be possible to arrange a limited number of video links to the meeting.</i> | ALL KO |

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 4 | <p>Wilts & Berks Canal Delivery Authority</p> <p>KO reported that discussions continued with the WB Canal Trust about how major projects would be delivered. Partners had seen the discussion paper suggesting a Delivery Authority based on a model developed during the Cricklade Country Way project. IWA had made a comprehensive response which had generally not been in favour of this model. CC noted that WBCT was concerned that with major projects becoming imminent (like the Melksham Link), it may not have the resources to manage something of this magnitude. WBCT was therefore actively seeking a solution. This solution will be directly linked to the MasterPlan that was being worked on by consultant Jock Mackenzie. FdRP said that if the SWLEP plans for funding a project in Melksham came to fruition the work on the canal might become part of a bigger project. KO noted that the granting of planning consent for the Melksham Link will bring this issue into sharp focus. FdRP cautioned that VAT recovery for projects should be considered. CC offered to work with KO to produce a paper with more detail for the September meeting.</p> <p>Recruitment of fundraiser. Integral to the Delivery Authority is raising funds. CC reported that WBCT had authorised funding for a part-time fundraiser. Work was in progress to recruit a suitable person who it was hoped would be located within Wiltshire Council.</p> | <p>CC KO</p> |
| 5 | <p>Restoration progress</p> <p>KO reported on the very successful CRT/IWA Restoration Workshop in Birmingham in May. The aim of the workshop was to share knowledge between CRT/IWA and restoration societies. CRT had commissioned Northampton University to assess information currently available on economic benefits of canal restoration. This report is available at http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/library/6337.pdf</p> <p>The meeting viewed the 'Water Adds Value' video produced by CRT. This video is available on memory stick or online at: http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoration/the-benefits</p> <p>CRT is commissioning further work with Cardiff University to try to develop standard methodology for economic benefit studies with particular emphasis on measurement of 'base line' parameters.</p> | |
| | <p>5.1 Melksham Link-</p> <p>KO reported that species survey work for the planning application Environment Statement continues.</p> <p>The Economic Benefits(Amec) report had been circulated to partners and it indicated significant benefits for the community, environment and economy. Significant media coverage had been generated following a press release by WBCT.</p> <p>CG noted that it might be worthwhile to let partners know when such releases were being sent out with an offer of briefing before they were contacted. CC noted the suggestion as part of the 'lessons learned'.</p> <p><u>Land Acquisition-</u> the 'enabling development land' has been submitted via the Wiltshire Council Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment process and discussions with the various landowners continue allied to work on the Trust MasterPlan.</p> <p><u>Berryfield Village Hall-</u> Melksham Without PC had submitted a planning application for a new village hall which would have affected the canal proposal. In consultation with the project and the</p> | |

| | | | |
|--|------------|--|--|
| | | <p>planners it has been agreed that the temporary consent for the existing structure will be extended until the canal application is determined.</p> <p>The Trust will be submitting a business plan to the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership to give more details about the project.</p> | |
| | 5.2 | <p>Towpath Challenge</p> <p>Following the resignation of Tim Pyatt WBCT was actively looking for a new Project Manager. CC said that this was still a top priority for the Trust. KO wondered if RB and or PH could help by advising the Trust on any newsletters etc where the post could be advertised. RB wondered if there was likely to be any remuneration and thought he might be able to forward details of a possible candidate. CC said that the Trust would like this to be a voluntary position but may consider other options. PH said he could provide details of relevant newsletters.</p> | |
| | 5.3 | <p>Royal Wootton Bassett</p> <p><u>Studley Grange Project</u> CC reported that the Board of Biffa Waste Ltd have agreed in principle to a 125 year lease for the canal corridor. The remaining objection to the planning application (from Environment Agency) was about to be withdrawn so it was likely that work could progress soon.</p> | |
| | 5.4 | <p>Canal Restoration MasterPlan</p> <p>CC reported that the Trust had been approached by Jock Mackenzie who had offered to produce, at no cost to the Trust, (i.e. funded by sponsorship) a Masterplan to show how all the canal will be restored. The first key areas being looked at are Melksham & Swindon. Swindon Town Centre was proving particularly difficult as apart from the lack of enthusiasm for the scheme, planning consent had been granted for the new bus station over the proposed route of the canal. FdRP agreed that a MasterPlan for the whole canal would be very useful as the project tended to be viewed as being done in a 'piecemeal' way.</p> | |
| | 5.5 | <p>Swindon Projects</p> <p><u>Local Plan Enquiry in Public.</u></p> <p>Continuing the previous discussion LL wanted to know why the protected route for the canal had been ignored. KO said that Swindon BC had confirmed at the EIP that a contiguous route will be protected through the Town Centre.</p> <p>RD sought further clarity about the bus station issue. KO responded to say that the Town Centre route protection had been given by the Central Area Action Plan and the canal part of this expired in 2011 which allowed the grant of outline planning consent for the Kimmerfield site (which includes the bus station). The Trust has recently proposed a scheme that would include the bus station and canal and is actively discussing the issues with Forward Swindon.</p> <p>FdRP suggested that a meeting is sought with the new Chairman of the SWLEP. KO noted that this was being actively pursued.</p> <p>FdRP also offered to informally raise the issue with the Leader of Swindon BC. AB asked to be kept better informed on these issues.</p> | |

| | | | |
|----------|------------|--|--|
| | | <p>AB reported that a late submission by Swindon BC has proposed a new road through the Eastern Villages which may affect the canal. KO said that this was very concerning as the project team had not been made aware of this change. CC confirmed that this appeared to be a repeat of the 'bus station' issue where the Trust had not been consulted.</p> <p>AB noted that the new Waitrose store had opened next to the canal in Wichelstowe. CC said the store management were very pleased with the canal side cafe and were working with the Trust to facilitate boat trips from the site.</p> | |
| | 5.6 | <p>Dauntsey Lock Visitor Centre project – CC reported that the Canal Trust has agreed Heads of Terms with the vendor of the Peterborough Arms and has sufficient funds to purchase it. There would be much more work to do to refurbish the building and turn it into a canal centre (including negotiation with the adjacent landowner).</p> | |
| | 5.7 | <p>Pewsham Locks Project CC noted continuing preparatory work on the part of the project that has planning consent (Top Lock and Cottage). An event on the site in association with Chippenham Museum has been funded by Heritage Lottery Fund. The Heritage Canal Open Days were taking place shortly. Schools had been invited on Friday 20th with the public open day on June 21st. Details had been previously circulated to partners.</p> | |
| | 5.8 | <p>Seven Locks Project CC reported ongoing difficulties with an adjacent landowner regarding a boundary definition.</p> | |
| | 5.9 | <p>Grove Project <u>Planning decision Grove Airfield.</u> KO reported a meeting with the Leader and Head of Planning of Vale of White Horse DC. The S106 negotiations were still going on and a request had been made again for a contribution to the canal. KO had said that the precedent of such a large housing development with the canal on its southern perimeter not contributing would affect the remainder of the project.</p> <p>CC noted progress with other development sites in the area.</p> | |
| 6 | | <p>Partners Reports and Issues not covered in item 5 AB noted that there may be opportunities for European funding via the SWLEP</p> | |
| 7 | | <p>Date and time and location of next meeting : September 11th Monkton Park Chippenham Further Proposed Date 2014, December 11th</p> | |



MEETING Thursday 11th September 2014 at 3pm
Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham Committee rooms C/D

| Item | <u>Notes</u> |
|---|---|
| AB RB RW CC RD PH KH CG KO JH BS | Attending: Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council (Deputy Chairman) Cllr Rolf Brindle Melksham Without PC Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council Chris Coyle Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Rob Dean K&A Canal Trust Paul Harris Oxfordshire CC Kath Hatton Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council (From Item 5 onwards): Cllr Jenny Hannaby Vale of White Horse DC Brian Stovold Wilts & Berks Canal Trust |
| 1 | Apologies: Lord Lansdowne President Cllr Fleur de Rhe Philippe Wiltshire Council (Chairman) Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council Alistair Millington Sustrans Liz Payne Cotswold CT Cllr R Rose Oxfordshire CC Charlotte Riggs Swindon BC Paul Briggs TVCC Vaughan Welch IWA |
| 2 | Notes from the last meeting 12th June 2014 were pre-circulated and there were no amendments. |
| | Matters Arising: Weekly blogspot http://wiltsberkscanal.blogspot.co.uk/ Canal Delivery Authority CC reported that Wilts & Berks Canal Trust (WBCT) directors have decided to set up a delivery company and are looking at the details of the proposed structure. AB wanted to know about possible cost implications. CC said the cost implications were that the Delivery Company would have paid employees or consultants. KH reported that progress was being made following discussions at the previous meeting with the logistics of recruiting a fundraiser to be based at Wiltshire Council. Canal & River Trust (CRT)/Inland Waterways (IWA) Water Adds Value Workshop Water Adds Value video http://www.wiltsandberkscanal.org.uk/news/water-adds-value-video Impact of waterways restoration report (Northampton University) |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/library/6376.pdf CC reported further help from CRT with Swindon Town Centre project- Richard Rutter (Head of Enterprise (South Wales and Southern England) has attended meeting and offered advice to advance the project. RW asked if CRT were taking a different attitude to restoration project from their predecessors British Waterways. CC said there was a considerable difference with much more support now (resource not financial). | |
| 3 | Chairman's Announcements Meeting format :Project update summary was circulated with meeting papers- it would be helpful to have feedback if this was useful and should be continued. | ALL |
| 4 | Projects update –The following summary was pre circulated | |
| | Melksham Link -Planning application Land Acquisition Pewsham Locks Project Dauntsey Lock Visitor Centre (Peterborough Arms) Seven Locks Project Royal Wootton Bassett Studley Grange Project Depot site Swindon Mouldon Hill Wichelstowe Eastern Villages Town Centre | - Ecological surveys completed - Environment Statement to be completed by consultants by end September -Facilitator appointed for syndication agreement - Invitation to tender sent out for design of lock cottage -Further work carried out on repair to damaged culvert -WB Canal Trust completed purchase on Aug 15th -Initial tidy up completed -Project team deciding next steps for short-term works -Details of land curtilage dispute being discussed. -Main project on hold -Environment management plan being compiled -Discussions with Wessex Water under way to assess whether pipes need to be moved -Planning application submitted -Planning application submitted for Waitrose landing stage -Wichelstowe Link plans on hold awaiting decision on appointment of development partner - Initial discussions held with developer regarding canal route -Continuing discussions about delivery opportunities |
| 5 | Towpath Challenge KH As reported previously the project manager (Tim Pyatt) left last year and following a suggestion at the last meeting a possible replacement has been found (Chris Hogg). Details of how this appointment might be made and funding issues were still being discussed. | |

| | | |
|----------|---|--------------------------------|
| | <p>The towpath walk did not take place this year pending additions of significant new lengths of towpath. AB asked if the funding was in place for appointment of a manager. KH said this would be one of the tasks for the new proposed fundraiser. PH said that he would be pleased to work on the 'missing' sections of the towpath in Oxfordshire which were relatively small in number and quiet clearly defined. BS said he has been working on this and would get in touch. JH was keen to link in with the riverside paths in Abingdon. RW asked how Sustrans might be able to help. KO said that their most active help was on parts of the canal that fitted into their strategic routes (e.g. Melksham to Lacock). RB noted that Sustrans are still trying to progress route at Reybridge. AB wondered if there are any other cycling partner organisations. KO noted Local Authority sustainable transport funds and previous work with CTC group in Swindon. JH noted Harwell cycle user group. AB said that Leader groups (funded via Defra) may be a source of future funds. RD noted the recent CRT consultation on shared towpath use. Cycling has featured in user responses, with suggestions of the possibility of speed limits. Careful use of terminology for Wilts & Berks would be prudent- shared use towpath rather than cycleway. RB noted that conflict is more likely when the paths are used for commuter routes.</p> | <p>BS PH</p> |
| <p>6</p> | <p>Melksham River Festival KH said that the Festival had been set up to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Act of Abandonment of the Wilts & Berks Canal and to showcase opportunities for river usage in Melksham. About ten trail boats attended with a number of steam launches and WBCT trip boats. There were 'try canoeing sessions' and a number of demonstrations on the river and other land based attractions. The event was well attended. AB asked if there were likely to be other water based events in the future. CC said that while desirable, organising and running such events takes much WBCT resource and financial risk. Leekes of Melksham had underwritten this Festival. CG said that he was discussing whether some of the river activity could be included in existing events (e.g. Party in the Park) CC said that the next similar festival in Melksham would be to mark a significant event for the Melksham Link project. KO noted that WBCT were fundraising for a second trip boat and one of the possible locations for this could be Melksham. RB said that feedback he had was that the event was very much enjoyed by the local community. AB asked if the event was going to hold a 'wash up' meeting. CC said that the project team would be holding a meeting and there was external analysis of visitor responses. CG wanted to record thanks the WBCT team for organising a superb event for Melksham.</p> | |
| <p>7</p> | <p>Canal Delivery Authority Further to this issue reported in Matters Arising CC said that in considering the delivery of large scale projects like the Melksham Link WBCT had decided that it was necessary to put in place an 'arms' length' organisation to carry out the work. The composition of the executive team was still being discussed but it was recognised that the 'Authority' would need to properly financed and resourced with input from relevant stakeholders.</p> | |
| <p>8</p> | <p>Partners Reports and Issues not covered in item 4 Swindon Local Plan EIP AB reported that at the request of the Inspector a number of modifications had been made to the Plan. If these were</p> | |

acceptable the revised Local Plan would be made available for comment during a 6 week public consultation. There had been no modification to the canal policy in this process. Partners would be invited to comment when the timetable for the consultation was known.

Post meeting note:

Consultation: www.swindon.gov.uk/localplan.

The closing date for any comments is 5pm on Thursday 30th October 2014.

KO noted that the route being protected was 'around Swindon' for the mainline- M4 Coate Water Eastern Villages and through the Town Centre for the North Wilts. The 'proposals map' showed an indicative line but it was recognised that local variations may be necessary. **CC** agreed that following many further discussions following the rather pessimistic view at the last WSO Partnership meeting that modest steps were being taken to resolve the route issues in the town centre. **RW** asked if the route would be better described as 'in the town centre' **KO** responded that the planning of the town centre route needed to deliver land value gain and tourism revenue to offset the high capital cost of urban canal construction. As reported earlier, recently Canal and River Trust had attended to offer help (knowledge and experience) as CRT recognised that Swindon would be the hub of the restored southern waterways network. **CG** wondered if the synergy between the benefits for both Melksham and Swindon by including the canal in each town could be further explored.

VWHDC Grove Airfield S106

KO noted that as previously reported to Partners none of the £49m S106 contribution from the proposed development of the Grove Airfield site was being allocated for canal restoration. The Trust & Partners were extremely concerned at the precedent that this set, particularly as current Vale of White Horse DC policy stated that contribution would be made. The Partnership was still trying to find any way that this situation could be changed. **JH** responded that she had limited influence and that there was a great demand for other community infrastructure and therefore she did not think there was much that could be done. **JH** further noted that Wantage TC was preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. **KO** noted various discussions following the planning decision with the Leader and Head of Planning to request a further consideration of a 'nominal' contribution to the canal/towpath underpass planned for the Denchworth Road. **BS** said that this underpass would provide a safe road crossing from the development for pedestrians and cyclists. **JH** noted the continuing resistance by the developer to any further contribution. **AB** asked if there is anything further that could be done. **BS** would consider lobbying council members. **CG** wondered if any of the allocated funds for cyclepaths could be re-designated for this underpass. **PH** advised that the issue should be discussed with Oxfordshire CC Highways officers (via Cllr Rose or with Cllr David Nimmo Smith Cabinet member Environment and Transport). **AB** asked if Cllr Hannaby's VWHDC Group Leader might be able to help by putting pressure on the governing administration. **RW** wondered if the recently produced economic benefit study for Melksham might add some strength to the argument. **JH** noted that in her opinion much of the problem with some officers and councillors was the credibility of the canal restoration. **KH** said that WBCT needed to start a major campaign.

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| | <p>VWHDC Local Plan</p> <p>KO reported that the next revision of VWHDC Local Plan is due to go to public consultation in the next few months. There is an indication from officers that some consideration is being given to removing the Canal Policy included in the original document. JH was concerned that the current administration was not supportive of the canal restoration. AB wondered if a motion could be put to a VWHDC council meeting indicating concern at the possible withdrawal of the canal policy. KO said he and WBCT could supply relevant information. If the issue came to the EIP two partners would find themselves in opposition.</p> <p>AoB</p> <p>RB wanted KO to present a summary of the Economic Benefit report to Melksham Without/ Melksham TC.</p> <p>KH asked if there had been any further feedback about the frequency of these meetings. AB said that the consensus was that quarterly was fine with consideration of how business was conducted.</p> | |
| <p>9</p> | <p>Date and time and location of next meeting : December 11th Monkton Park Chippenham</p> <p>Further Proposed Dates 2015 March 12th, June 11th, Sep 10th, Dec 10th</p> | |



MEETING Thursday 11th December 2014 at 3pm
Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham Committee rooms C/D

| Item | <u>Notes</u> | |
|--|---|------------|
| LL Lord Lansdowne (President) AB Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council (Deputy Chairman) CC Chris Coyle Wilts & Berks Canal Trust RD Rob Dean K&A Canal Trust KH Kath Hatton Wilts & Berks Canal Trust KO Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council EP Elizabeth Payne Cotswold Canals Trust CR Charlotte Riggs Swindon BC RY Robert Yeowell Canoe England | | |
| 1 | Apologies; Cllr Fleur de Rhe Philippe, Paul Harris (Oxfordshire CC), Cllr Rodney Rose (Oxfordshire CC), Paul Briggs (TVCC), Cllr Rolf Brindle Melksham Without PC, Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council, Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership, Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council, Cllr Mark Clarke Cricklade TC, Gavin Champion Cooper Tires, Vaughan Welch IWA. | |
| 2 | Notes from the last meeting 11th September 2014 (pre-circulated) were approved | |
| 3 | Chairman's Announcements Apologies were sent from Fleur who was attending another meeting and sent her best wishes for Christmas and New Year. Meeting format: AB asked if members could comment on whether they found the pre circulated Project Update summary useful. LL commented that he thought it might be helpful if maps of project locations were included. AB wished to congratulate the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust on funding successes: £50k Big Lottery Fund Peoples Millions and £10k Yorkshire Building Society with special thanks to all who voted. KO said that the Peoples Millions vote has taken place for six projects, 2 of which went head to head on three nights. Although the Studley Wildlife did not win on the night it received the funding as the highest runner up votes (approx 3200 votes) . KO added his congratulations particularly to Kath Hatton who had managed to get the scheme into the shortlist. CC said that this was the first time that WBCT had organised something on this scale and lessons would be learnt for any future campaigns. KO said social media has been very important and thanked other canal groups and Canal River Trust and IWA for their support. | ALL |

Projects update – summary pre circulated and attached to these notes.

Further update and Questions

Pewsham Locks KH noted that the project had been subdivided with Top Lock + Cottage as a separate scheme from the restoration or the other locks/workshop/ heritage centre - these would be submitted early next year as a bid to HLF.

AB asked if Community Payback teams were used on the canal. **KH** said that they had been used in Swindon. **EP** said that they had been used in the Stroud area for towpath building. **RD** noted that KACT had stopped using them when charging for expenses was introduced. **LL** wanted to know how public access was going to be arranged. **KO** said that the long term plans were for access (parking) adjacent to the A4. Short term construction access and long term disabled access would be via the lane at Middle Lodge Farm. Events (like the open day) would use temporary field parking close to Middle Lodge Farm. Cycleway access would continue from Pewsham Way. **AB** thought better signage of existing routes would be useful. **KO** said that videos of the crafts demonstrated at the Open Day were now available to view at <http://www.wbct.org.uk/branches/melksham-calne-and-chippenham/1326-pewsham-heritage-open-day>. These are the sorts of skills that will be on show when the Heritage Centre project is completed.

Royal Wootton Bassett Studley Grange

WBCT reported that the lease for the site has now been signed. **KH** said that the completed lease would permit a number of funding applications to start.

Swindon Eastern Villages

There was much discussion concerning the effectiveness of the canal route protection across the site. **AB** noted that there was no single developer and the approach appeared to be on a “first come first served basis”. **KO** noted that as part of the Local Plan WBCT and SBC had a statement of common ground allowing for agreed minor variations of the route from the preferred line. The preferred Line had been developed by the WBCT Engineering Director reviewing a number of technical reports which showed various options. The route submitted to the Local Plan used a ‘best value’ approach for construction. **CC** said that he was concerned that constructing the canal might get lost in the process of developers seeking to promote their own schemes. **LL** suggested that the Local Authority would have the powers under development control to define where the canal should be. **AB** said that while that was probably true in theory, viability and financial issues might be the determining criteria. **RD** said that determining the route here seemed to be the biggest potential risk to the project and wondered if planners would have the technical skill to determine the canal route. **KO** said that this issue had occurred elsewhere and consideration had to be given to applying for planning consent for the canal on its preferred route through the Eastern Villages (J15 to A420). This would demand a significant amount of work and funding to get the application determined (EIA species survey engineering design etc). **LL** wondered what the reaction of a planning committee would be to such an application. **KO** said that there would be little grounds for refusal as it was supported by Local Plan policy.

It was agreed that WBCT would urgently consider the applying for

KH CC

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | <p>planning consent in the Eastern Villages and seek as much help as possible from partners to achieve protection of the route</p> <p>Wichelstowe</p> <p>The SBC project team reported that they expected a decision on a joint venture partner by March 2015.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Towpath Challenge</p> <p>KH This was still being given a high priority as a strategic aim but there had been difficulty in contacting Chris Hogg who was being considered for the role of project manager. The next W&B walk is now likely to Easter 2016</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Canal Delivery Authority</p> <p>CC reported discussions with the Trust lawyers and accountants to set up initially a Trading Company followed by the Delivery Company twchich was needed to start work on the Melksham Link.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>Partners Reports and Issues not covered in item 4</p> <p>Swindon Local Plan CR said that the Inspector's final report was expected in February</p> <p>Wiltshire Core Strategy had now been approved.</p> <p>VWHDC Local Plan KO reported that the policy in the current consultation is asking for further demonstration of deliverability of the canal before inclusion of a route protection policy in Part 2 . In the short term the existing protection for the route is being maintained by the saved policies of the 2011 Local Plan. A meeting was scheduled for the next day with the Leader of VWHDC to discuss further how the Trust could work more closely with VWHDC.</p> <p>RD wished to record that it had been an impressive year for the Wilts & Berks project and asked KH and CC to convey the thanks of the Partnership to the volunteers of WBCT.</p> <p>RY reported that the Swindon Kingshill section now had two private boats using the canal. There had been some illegal fishing activity in the area.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Date and time and location of next meeting :</p> <p>KO asked members to consider the format of the meeting to see if it might be made more attractive to attend. LL suggested that one of the meetings each year should be a site visit.</p> <p>Next meeting March 12th 2015 Monkton Park Chippenham</p> <p>Further Proposed Dates 2015</p> <p>June 11th (possible site visit), Sep 10th, Dec 10th</p> | |



Project Summary September –Dec 2014

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Melksham Link -Planning application Land Acquisition Consultations</p> | <p>– Environment Statement to be completed by consultants by end January following further meetings with EA First draft of MasterPlan completed including feasibility report from Barker Langham Presentation made to joint meeting of Melksham Town and Melksham Without Parish Councils</p> |
| <p>Pewsham Locks Project -Further work carried out on repair to damaged culvert</p>  <p>Funding secured from Yorkshire Building Society to complete culvert</p>  | <p>Initial clearance work carried out on Top Lock</p>  <p>New work boat completed and launched</p>  |
| <p>Dauntsey Lock Visitor Centre project (Peterborough Arms)</p> | <p>-WB Canal Trust application made for temporary transfer of office to premises</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Open Day held in November</p>  |
| <p>Seven Locks Project</p> | <p>-environment management plan completed</p> |
| <p>Royal Wootton Bassett Studley Grange Project</p> | <p>Tenders issued to 4 contractors for works to start works in April 2015</p> |
| <p>Successful bid to Peoples Millions for towpath works Studley Wildlife Trail</p>  | |
| <p>RWB Depot site</p> | <p>-awaiting permission to work from Wiltshire Council</p> |
| <p>Swindon</p> | |
| <p>Mouldon Hill</p> | <p>Planning application submitted- awaiting meeting with EA</p> |
| <p>Wichelstowe</p> | <p>-Wichelstowe Link plans on hold awaiting decision on appointment of development partner</p> |
| <p>Town Centre</p> | <p>-continuing discussions about delivery opportunities- awaiting response for co-operation agreement with Swindon BC</p> |
| <p>Boat Trips</p> | <p>Successful summer season Father Christmas trips fully booked Planning application submitted for Waitrose landing stage- decision expected shortly</p> |

