



**MEETING Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 3pm**  
 Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER **Monkton Room**

Item	<u>Notes</u>
<b>LL</b> Lord Lansdowne (President) <b>FdRP</b> Fleur de Rhé Philipe(Chairman) <b>AB</b> Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council (Deputy Chairman) <b>RBn</b> Cllr Rolf Brindle Melksham Without PC <b>RB</b> Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council <b>CC</b> Chris Coyle Wilts & Berks Canal Trust <b>RD</b> Rob Dean K&A Canal Trust <b>KH</b> Kath Hatton Wilts & Berks Canal Trust <b>KO</b> Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council <b>CR</b> Charlotte Riggs Swindon BC <b>RW</b> Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council & Melksham Trust <b>RY</b> Robert Yeowell Canoe England <b>JM</b> Jock Mackenzie (Endgable Ltd ) for first part of meeting	
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies;</b> Paul Harris(Oxfordshire CC), Cllr Rodney Rose (Oxfordshire CC), Elizabeth Payne Cotswold Canals Trust, Alistair Millington (Sustrans) Colin Goodhind ( Melksham Community Area Partnership) Gavin Champion (Cooper Tires) Cllr Mark Clarke ( Cricklade TC ) ,Vaughan Welch IWA.
<b>2</b>	Notes from the last meeting 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2014 (pre-circulated) were <b>agreed</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Chairman's Announcements</b> WB Canal Trust have submitted an entry to this year's Living Waterways awards in the education & learning category. The entry is for 'Pewsham Locks: A Centenary Commemoration' The next Partnership meeting is provisionally scheduled for Royal Wootton Bassett with a site visit.
<b>4</b>	<b>Projects update</b> – A summary was pre circulated and is attached at the end of these notes. <b>Melksham Link</b> Jock Mackenzie made a short presentation on the MasterPlan for enabling development for the Melksham Link and <b>KO</b> set the context of the proposal against Wiltshire's Local Plan. The scheme had been submitted to the pre-application planning process. The Masterplan can be downloaded from <a href="http://www.wiltsandberks canal.org.uk/projects/melksham-link/melksham-link-masterplan">http://www.wiltsandberks canal.org.uk/projects/melksham-link/melksham-link-masterplan</a> <b>LL</b> asked what is the total area of the site and how many houses were planned. <b>JM</b> said 500acres with 65 acres of housing- density yet to be confirmed. <b>AB</b> asked if operators had been lined up for all the proposed attractions. <b>JM</b> responded saying that the intention is for an integrated project with 'back to back' contracts minimising any risk for WBCT. The

business plan showed that this is a model that will deliver the canal and it is the intention to use this as a template for other projects elsewhere, acknowledging that each project will have a different solution. Delivery of this phase of the scheme will lead on to examination of the riverside in Melksham. Each of the Wilts & Berks schemes will have its own business plan and unique selling point. **RW** is enthusiast for the scheme but would like further illustration of what it would look like. **JM** said following the presentation to councillors, officers, and interested stakeholders on the previous day, the detail of the masterplan would be developed. **FdRP** noted that the project would need strong justification for the housing as there are likely to be challenges from other developers who have sites in the area. Using the planning pre-app process was a good route to test the likely issues. **RW** asked where we stood with Lottery funding. **KO** said that the Masterplan business case would hopefully fully identify funding sources and this may lead to a requirement for third party funding (e.g. Lottery) but this would be considerably smaller than the total cost of £19m. **JM** said that a very cautious methodology had been used to prepare the business plan. **JM** said in summary it is proposed that the Melksham Link model is used as a template for the other major projects to give confidence of the delivery of such schemes to Swindon Borough Council , Vale of White Horse DC and others. **RY** asked where the entrance to the proposed marina would be. **KO** said it would be on the Wilts & Berks. Discussions are ongoing with Canal & River Trust regarding connection and licensing arrangements. **LL** asked how the landowners that did not get direct advantage from development were going to be compensated. **JM** said that the proposed syndication agreement would have a 'fairness' programme. In addition to direct contribution for the canal construction, the business plan showed an endowment for the long term maintenance of the Melksham Link. **AB** wanted to know the scheme was going to be phased. **JM** said that while that might be possible the preference was for continuous development. **RW** asked if there would be similar schemes for Calne and Chippenham. **KO** said that a full revision of the overall Strategy Plan was currently being carried out for discussion at the next Partnership meeting. This would include details of the major projects under four programmes for Wiltshire, Swindon Oxfordshire and North Wiltshire.

**FdRP** said that this was an exciting and ambitious plan which hopefully would progress and thanked Jock and the team for their hard work.

[JM left the meeting at this point]

**RBn** wondered how this plan was being considered in Wiltshire Council's Strategic Site Plans process. **KH** said that WBCT had submitted the land as part of this process and as part of the current consultation the case is being made for this allocation as part of the enabling development requirement for the Melksham Link. The link between delivering the waterway and the enabling development has to be strong. **FdRP** said that Wiltshire Council continues to be very supportive of the Melksham Link and would do all that is possible within the current planning policy to help the scheme. However it could not ignore the pressure from developers on other sites either. The current pre-application process would be crucial to understand officers' views on the scheme. The hard work of Jock and the team on such an imaginative scheme was commendable and all reasonable effort would be made to help it progress.

**RBn** wondered if there was a 'plan B'. **FdRP** thought that at this stage

that maximum effort should be put into the masterplan and not to dilute the resource that is available.

### **Studley Grange Royal Wootton Bassett**

**CC** reported that the canal restoration here now had assumed maximum priority due to external timing constraints and WBCT directors have now authorised preliminary works on site by placing a contract with Land & Water Services Ltd.

**KH** reported that the initial works are being funded on a £ for £ basis with an external funder matching funding contributions to raise in total between £40k-50k . <http://bit.ly/1w23LrJ>

The total package is complicated and work is still in progress. An application for substantial funding will be assessed at the end of March by a landfill operator's funding organisation. Other avenues are being explored. The total expected cost is in the region of £600k. A contract to move a high voltage power line has been let. The Peoples Millions will contribute £50k to the towpath works.

### **Swindon Eastern Villages**

**KO** said that much time had been spent discussing the Eastern Villages at the December meeting of the Partnership, particularly regarding the robustness of the protection of the line of the canal in the Local Plan. Following the recommendation of that meeting, the concept of obtaining a planning consent for the canal has been looked at and discussed with the Swindon BC planning team. The current recommended action is to consider putting the canal construction through the pre-application process. This would reduce the amount of information required but would register the official interest in delivering the canal. The 'pre app' process would highlight any issues to be dealt with and would be part of the process to submit a full planning application. Other key issues have been discussed including the evidence base for the current proposed route, the possibility of using the canal for site drainage, and the co-siting of the canal, southern connector road and new Thames Water pipeline. **AB** noted that the Swindon Local Plan 2026 (including the canal route) would be put to SBC Cabinet, then full Council for ratification in the next few weeks. **CR** at the request of the Swindon EV planning team asked that all communication on the canal in future is directed via Ken Oliver as a number of individual members of WBCT had been contacting them. **RD** wanted to know that in the context of the canal route being 'protected' in the forthcoming Local Plan, what degree of risk there was of the route being compromised. **AB** said that as well as the line on the map there is a canal policy which defines the protection and the circumstances under which the route could be modified. **KO** noted that this protection was fairly robust to protect against 3<sup>rd</sup> party development but it was not possible to protect from any Local Authority choosing to ignore its own policies (e.g Swindon Bus Station and VWHDC S106 at Grove) other than to gain full planning consent. **FdRP** noted that the LA are likely to resist developers with the policy confirmed in the Local Plan. **RD** asked how precise is the route shown on the map. **KO** said the route as shown had been defined from two consultant's feasibility reports and was currently being refined and reviewed by an engineering team from WBCT.

5	<p><b>Towpath Challenge</b>  <b>FdRP</b> reported that as chairman of the Rural sub group of the Local Enterprise Partnership that discussions had been taking place of the European Structural Investment Fund(ESIF) and the Towpath Challenge had been included as one of the schemes that might be supported. The timescale for any funding might be lengthy as details of how the ESIF scheme will work have not yet been agreed. Any major decisions on this funding will not be made until after the new Government is in place following the May 7<sup>th</sup> General Election. <b>KH</b> wanted to know if the ESIF programme was separate from Leader funding. <b>FdRP</b> confirmed they are separate and that when the ESIF programme is confirmed that projects will need to apply directly, but the applications could be for either capital or revenue. <b>KH</b> noted that revenue funding could be very useful as a manager needs to be recruited for the project as the candidate previously identified is not now able to take up the role. The WBCT land team (chartered surveyors) are picking up some of the work previously started by Tim Pyatt to identify all relevant landowners and titles. <b>RY</b> wanted to know if the towpath at Studley Grange would be a Right of Way. <b>RB</b> said he believed that the RoW had been moved for the duration of the landfill operations, but would be reinstated when the towpath was again available.</p>	
6	<p><b>Canal Delivery Authority</b>  <b>CC</b> said discussions had started with the WBCT's accountants and solicitors on the implications of setting up a delivery and trading company . This is obviously much bigger and more commercial than anything attempted before by WBCT and therefore would need careful consideration. WBCT needs to be protected from any commercial risk. Specifically the mechanism for land transfer has tax and legal implications both for the Melksham Link and the subsequent other major projects. One of the crucial difficulties to be overcome is providing sufficient initial start up funding. Best practice is being sought elsewhere by looking at models such as the Hereford and Gloucester restoration.</p>	
7	<p><b>Partners Reports and Issues</b> not covered in item 4  VWHDC Local Plan –<b>KO</b> said that comments had been made on Part 1 of the Local Plan. The Pt 1 provided temporary route protection from the saved policies of the previous Local Plan. VWHDC require robust demonstration of deliverability of the canal if these policies are to be confirmed in Part 2.  Consideration will need to be given to how the issue is dealt with when a date is set for an EIP for Pt 1. It is possible WBCT may have to object to the policy in Pt1 citing failure to co-operate the adjacent Local Authorities. <b>CC</b> was very concerned that the route protection in Oxfordshire could be lost. <b>FdRP</b> wondered why wording now approved by two inspectors (Wiltshire &amp; Swindon) was not accepted by VWHDC. <b>KO</b> said four major landowners had objected to the Canal Policy as originally written and because of the apparent lack of tangible progress in Oxfordshire the planners had reverted to this less satisfactory situation. The possibility of new works at Grove would be helpful to demonstrate active interest in the canal.</p>	
8	<p>Date and <b>time and location</b> of next meeting :  June 11<sup>th</sup> Royal Wootton Bassett including site visit (tbc)  <b>Further Proposed Dates 2015</b>, Sep 10<sup>th</sup>, Dec 10<sup>th</sup></p>	

**Project Summary Dec 2014- March 2015**

<p><b><u>Melksham Link</u></b>          -Planning application           Land Acquisition- MasterPlan           Consultations</p>	<p>– Environment Statement - further delay with consultants          Scheme submitted to Wiltshire Council for 'Pre App' consultation          Presentation held for Stakeholders 11<sup>th</sup> March          Presentation made to Melksham Town and Melksham Without Parish Councils Neighbourhood Plan steering committee</p>
<p><b><u>Pewsham Locks Project</u></b></p>	<p>Further clearance work carried out on Top Lock          Initial application made to HLF</p>
<p><b><u>Dauntsey Lock Visitor Centre project (Peterborough Arms )</u></b></p>	<p>-WB Canal Trust planning consent approved for disabled access and temporary location of office.</p>
<p><b><u>Royal Wootton Bassett Studley Grange Project</u></b></p>	<p>Contractor appointed subject to funding availability.          Application made to Landfill operator for £350k.          Initial clearance work expected to start shortly.</p>
<p><b><u>Royal Wootton Bassett Depot site</u></b></p>	<p>-awaiting further information from Wessex Water regarding relocation of services .</p>
<p><b><u>Swindon Mouldon Hill</u></b></p>	<p>Planning application submitted-awaiting investigation of water supply</p>
<p><b><u>Swindon Wichelstowe</u></b></p>	<p>-Wichelstowe Link plans on hold awaiting decision on appointment of development partner.</p>
<p><b><u>Swindon Town Centre</u></b></p>	<p>-discussions paused until after May elections.</p>
<p><b><u>Swindon Eastern Villages</u></b></p>	<p>Following discussions at Dec WSO Partnership, further technical work in progress with aim to submit 'Pre Application' to Swindon BC shortly .</p>
<p><b><u>Boat Trips</u></b></p>	<p>Work expected to start soon on Waitrose Landing stage.</p>



MEETING Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 3pm

Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER Committee Rooms C/D

Item	<u>Notes</u>	
<b>LL</b> <b>FdRP</b> <b>AB</b> <b>RB</b> <b>CC</b> <b>RD</b> <b>KH</b> <b>KO</b> <b>CR</b> <b>RW</b> <b>RY</b>	<b>Attending:</b> Lord Lansdowne (President) 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 Kath Hatton Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council Charlotte Riggs Swindon BC Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council & Melksham Trust Robert Yeowell Canoe England	
1	<b>Apologies;</b> Cllr Rodney Rose (Oxfordshire CC), Paul Harris (Oxfordshire CC), Alistair Millington (Sustrans), Colin Goodhind (MCAP), Cllr Mark Clarke(Cricklade TC), Roderick Bluh (WBCT), Elizabeth Payne (CCT)	
2	<b>Notes from the last meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March (pre-circulated) were approved</b>	
3	<b>Chairman's Announcements</b> <b>FdRP</b> Congratulated Cllr Bennett on his recent appointment as Mayor of Swindon. Wilts & Berks Canal Trust have submitted entry to this year's Living Waterways awards in the education & learning category. The entry is for 'Pewsham Locks: A Centenary Commemoration' – it has passed the initial round and a site assessment has just been made. A panel will finally assess all projects in July with an awards ceremony in the autumn. The next meeting of this Partnership is provisionally scheduled for Royal Wootton Bassett with site visit to Studley Grange.	
4	<b>Projects update – a summary was pre circulated and is attached at the end of these notes.</b> <b>RW</b> noted that there had been a number of concerns raised at the Semington Parish Council Annual meeting where the MasterPlan for the Melksham Link had been presented. <b>KO</b> confirmed that the MasterPlan team had asked that any issues be forwarded to them for consideration as the scheme evolved. <b>FdRP</b> noted that the scheme was at a very early stage in the planning process. <b>KO</b> asked that partners helped with WBCT latest funding opportunity by taking part in an online vote. <a href="https://foundation.onefamily.com/projects/peterborough-arms/">https://foundation.onefamily.com/projects/peterborough-arms/</a> <b>KH</b> noted that if successful this would give £25k to the Peterborough Arms project. <b>AB</b> reported that Swindon BC had just announced that its Private Venture	

	<p>partner for Wichelstowe is Barratt Homes. <b>CC</b> said that he had asked for an early meeting with the Swindon BC Wichelstowe team to see how this could help progress the canal projects.</p> <p><b>KO</b> reported that a further site visit to Pewsham Locks had been made by the Heritage Lottery Fund officers following an initial application by WBCT for funding. <b>KH</b> said that following changes at HLF a new development officer had concerns that the locks were not listed. The site visit had been to familiarise the new officer with scheme and subject to a revision of the amount of grant be sought, the intention was to apply in November for the next round of funding. The amount of matched funding was very critical.</p> <p><b>KO</b> said that the process had been useful in highlighting that while the Wilts &amp; Berks Canal was on the Wiltshire Heritage Environment Register, the structures were not. Only the River Ray aqueduct at Mouldon Hill was Grade II listed. <b>KO</b> intended to meet the County Archaeologist to discuss including Pewsham Locks and other significant features in the H.E.R. <b>KH</b> said that the dry dock on the site was believed to have special heritage value and this was being investigated further.</p> <p><b>FdRP</b> noted further meetings between the Melksham Link Masterplanning team and Wiltshire Council officers and Members. Wiltshire Council was trying to find a way through what is a sensitive 'planning maze' but if possible would like to be supportive. <b>KO</b> noted that one of the key tests for the proposal had been the approval of the basic financial model.</p> <p><b>AB</b> noted the Wanborough Parish Council's response to the current planning application at Lotmead farm in the Eastern Villages. <b>KO</b> said the WBCT had already made its own submission but the documents would be passed on to WBCT to look at how it might endorse the Parish Council's statement. WBCT is aiming to work on an integrated plan to make the canal deliverable alongside the development proposals.</p>	
5	<p><b>Towpath Challenge KH</b> The current priority was to work up a plan for the Melksham to Lacock section of the canal as it was possible that some funding may be available from the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF). This section would be very suitable for a multi-user path.</p>	
6	<p><b>Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust –restructure CC</b> said that WBCT is likely to shortly restructure its management to reflect the change in way that the restoration project is now requiring delivery of large schemes. WBCT will set up a trading company and a delivery company. <b>CC</b> outlined a number of options that will be discussed at special meeting of the Trustees at the end of June. <b>CC</b> hoped that the new structure would be able to separate the policy and governance of the Trust from the operational requirements of restoration, while acknowledging the extremely valuable work of the volunteers. <b>RW</b> said that the great strength and success of WBCT is its enthusiastic membership. <b>LL</b> asked about the branch structure. <b>CC</b> said that in theory there were currently seven branches. <b>RW</b> wondered if there were any lessons to be learnt for the structure and running of the KACT. <b>RD</b> said that there had been similarities during the K&amp;A restoration to the issues now being faced by WBCT. <b>RY</b> wondered how the completion of restoration of the K&amp;A had affected membership. <b>FdRP/RD</b> said that at its peak the membership of KACT was about 5000 and now is circa 2000.</p>	
7	<p><b>WSO Strategy Plan KO</b> apologised that he revised strategy document was still not yet complete. The delay had partly been caused by a change in scope as there was now an external requirement to carry an audit of the Wilts &amp; Berks canal restoration. CRT/IWA were seeking to update the 2006</p>	

	<p>IWAC report on ‘the state of the nation’s restoration’. <b>KO</b> hoped to circulate the document before the next meeting for partner’s comments. <b>FdRP</b> was pleased that CRT were becoming more involved in the project. <b>KO</b> said it would be very helpful if there was a national policy on restoration to replace the now out of date ‘Waterways for Tomorrow’. <b>RD</b> suggested we should get the new K&amp;A waterways manager Mark Evans involved. <b>KO</b> said he would add him to the distribution list for this partnership.</p>	
8	<p><b>Partners Reports and Issues</b> not covered in item 4</p> <p><b>RD</b> said that on 8<sup>th</sup> August there would be a celebration event at Caen Hill to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the re-opening of the canal.</p> <p><b>RY</b> on behalf of Canoe England wanted to congratulate WBCT on securing the funding for the Studley Grange project.</p> <p>VWHDC Local Plan <b>KO</b> reported that the Examination in Public is scheduled for August.</p> <p><b>AB</b> advised that the Local Development Orders for Swindon BC Solar Farms may still affect the canal route in the Eastern Villages at Inland Farm. <b>KO</b> agreed to investigate with the planning officer.</p> <p><b>Post meeting note</b> Case Officer David Dewart said “<i>The category 2 sites lie outside of the LDO. i.e. if the developers of Inlands Farm wanted to take this scheme forward they would have to go down the planning application route.</i></p> <p><i>A planning application would enable us to more properly grapple with the many issues and constraints at the inlands Farm site.</i></p> <p><i>So to clarify – Inlands Farm does not form part of the LDO.”</i></p> <p><b>AB</b> sought clarity on the management of the Kingshill section of the canal.</p> <p><b>WBCT</b> confirmed that this section was still managed by Swindon BC but they would be very happy to discuss setting up a similar arrangement to Wichelstowe.</p> <p><b>KH</b> noted publicity in the national waterways press and showed the document produced by the ‘Sharing Heritage’ team at Pewsham.</p> <p><b>RB</b> said that Wiltshire Council’s Countryside Access Improvement Plan has now been approved (previously Rights of Way Improvement Plan). There are a number references to the Wilts &amp; Berks Canal in the Plan. The plan will be available in the next few weeks. <b>LL</b> asked what is the Plan duration <b>RB</b> said it would next be reviewed in 2019.</p> <p><b>AB</b> said that in his position of Mayor he would be pleased to support Wilts &amp; Berks events in Swindon.</p>	
9	<p>Date and <b>time and location</b> of next meeting :</p> <p>Sep 10<sup>th</sup>, Royal Wootton Bassett site visit to Studley Grange (tbc)</p> <p><b>Further Proposed Dates 2015</b>, Dec 10<sup>th</sup></p>	





### Project Summary March –June 2015

<p><b><u>Melksham Link</u></b> -Planning application</p> <p>Land Acquisition- MasterPlan</p> <p>Consultations</p>	<p>– Environment Statement - further work commissioned for fish impact and archaeological surveys. Scheme submitted to Wiltshire Council for ‘Pre App’ consultation. Discussions held with Wiltshire Council regarding current housing allocation DPD. Presentation made to Semington Parish Council.</p>
<p><b><u>Pewsham Locks Project</u></b></p>	<p>Further preparation work carried out on Top Lock Site meeting being held with HLF. Project entered for Living Waterways Community Award.</p>
<p><b><u>Dauntsey Lock Visitor Centre project (Peterborough Arms )</u></b></p>	<p>Work started on relocating Engineering Office to site. Current. Funding application requires community vote <a href="https://foundation.onefamily.com/projects/peterborough-arms/">https://foundation.onefamily.com/projects/peterborough-arms/</a></p>
<p><b><u>Royal Wootton Bassett Studley Grange Project</u></b></p>	<p>Funding application successful- work scheduled to start 15<sup>th</sup> June. Project leader appointed for Wildlife Trail .</p>
<p><b><u>Royal Wootton Bassett Depot site</u></b></p>	<p>-site investigation required to locate Wessex Water services.</p>
<p><b><u>Swindon Mouldon Hill</u></b></p>	<p>Discussions expected shortly with EA to progress planning application.</p>
<p><b><u>Swindon Wichelstowe</u></b></p>	<p>-Wichelstowe Link plans on hold awaiting decision on appointment of development partner- announcement will be made this week (comm. 8 June) .</p>
<p><b><u>Swindon Town Centre</u></b></p>	<p>-discussions expected to restart soon.</p>
<p><b><u>Swindon Eastern Villages</u></b></p>	<p>WBCT have now confirmed route design . Planning application submitted for Lotmead Farm development .</p>
<p><b><u>Chippenham</u></b></p>	<p>Discussions started with developer on the planned new route into River Avon.</p>
<p><b><u>Boat Trips</u></b></p>	<p>Work has started on Waitrose Landing stage.</p>



**MEETING Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 3pm**

Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER Committee Rooms C/D

Item	<u>Notes</u>	
<b>LL</b> <b>FdRP</b> <b>RB</b> <b>CC</b> <b>RD</b> <b>ME</b> <b>CG</b> <b>KH</b> <b>KO</b> <b>EP</b> <b>JT</b> <b>RY</b>	<b>Attending</b> Lord Lansdowne (President) Fleur de Rhé Philipe(Chairman) Cllr Rolf Brindle Melksham Without Parish Council Chris Coyle Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Rob Dean K&A Canal Trust Mark Evans Canal & River Trust Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership Kath Hatton Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council Elizabeth Payne IWA & Cotswold Canal Trust Jonathan Till Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Robert Yeowell British Canoeing	
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies;</b> Paul Harris Oxfordshire CC, Alistair Millington Sustrans, Charlotte Riggs Swindon BC, Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council, Cllr Andrew Bennett Swindon Borough Council, Cllr Mark Clarke Cricklade TC, Cllr Rodney Rose Oxfordshire CC, Gavin Champion Cooper Tires, Vaughan Welch IWA, Jason Leach CRT	
<b>2</b>	<b>Notes from the last meeting 11<sup>th</sup> June (pre-circulated)</b> were approved with a minor amendment.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Chairman's Announcements</b> FdRP welcomed new members attending and congratulated the WB Canal Trust team who received Highly Commended at Living Waterways awards in the education & learning category. The entry was for 'Pewsham Locks: A Centenary Commemoration'. It was noted that the Partnership has new web address <a href="http://www.canalpartnership.org.uk">www.canalpartnership.org.uk</a>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Projects update summary</b> was pre circulated and is attached to these notes. Studley Grange- <b>JT</b> noted that there were continuing issues with designers and contractors as yet unresolved. Both ends are excavated but there is a centre section unfinished. Target date for completion is June 2016 but there are further issues with disposal on Biffa site and WBCT is having to pay to keep some capacity available. <b>KH</b> reported that Big Lottery Fund have just granted an extension to the towpath and wildlife trail project because of construction delays. <b>RD</b> was concerned that there might be further delays in remobilising in spring. <b>JT</b> said that there was a retained sum to allow work to be completed by another contractor if necessary. <b>KO</b> noted that completion of the dredging was not the end of this project as the final part of the scheme is to rebuild the Bincknoll Lane bridge to link to the restored section at Morningside Farm. The funding appeal is still ongoing for this work.	

5	<p><b>Approval of Restoration Strategy Plan (pre-circulated)</b>  <b>KO</b> noted that the document had been completely revised from the previous version produced in 2011/12. The context of the revision was the reorganisation of WBCT and the engagement of Masterplanning consultants. The guidance for the Masterplanning continued the prioritisation of sustainable stand alone sections (e.g. Studley Grange is part of the Royal Wootton Bassett to Swindon project) . The document has been discussed in detail with WBCT and has been approved by their Board of Trustees. The document has been circulated to Partners for any amendments and is being presented for final approval at the meeting. <b>Mark Clarke</b> from Cricklade Town Council had commented that a ‘public’ version of the document should be considered. <b>EP</b> presented a detailed comment document from IWA to the meeting. <b>KO</b> asked if there were any fundamental changes being suggested as there appeared to be too much detail in the document to be absorbed at the meeting. It was agreed that the points would be considered and included if appropriate at this late stage. <b>LL</b> raised the issue of how to deal with landowners who might not be persuaded to have the canal restored ( for instance where it would be intrusive into a private garden) <b>KO</b> said the document as written suggested this would be resolved ultimately by use of the Transport &amp; Works Act to acquire the land. However in the context of a revision of WBCT landowner engagement policy it, perhaps would be more prudent to consider more emphasis on route deviations where required. <b>EP</b> wondered if ownership was always necessary and whether the key issue was control of the canal. <b>EP</b> further noted from the Cotswold canals experience landowner attitudes do change to being more positive when restoration is under way. After further discussion <b>it was agreed</b> that the policy is to aim to restore the canal the historic line where possible ( noting the already agreed major route re-alignments at Melksham Swindon Cricklade and Abingdon) but to be pragmatic if local deviations are required to satisfy the requirements of individual landowners and/or to consider factoring in the costs of wider land purchase. <b>It was agreed KO will amend this section of the document and with this change the Strategy Document would be adopted.</b>  <b>FdRP</b> thanked <b>KO</b> for the large amount of work on this document.</p>	KO
6	<p><b>Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust –restructure</b>  <b>JT</b> noted that the process or restructuring has now been going on for some time and was now coming towards a conclusion. The basis of the change was the creation of a Board of Trustees as an overview body to look after governance and to set objectives with an Executive team to carry them out. The positions on the Executive will be filled shortly following a call for expressions of interest. <b>CC</b> explained that as some further changes to the Governance of the Trust would be required an EGM was being planned for 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to ask members to approve the changes .</p>	
7	<p><b>Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) Local Plan Enquiry</b>  <b>KO</b> outlined current position where VWHDC were proposing only to maintain a saved canal policy from the previous Local Plan until WBCT provide a number of further evidence documents. In 2011 VWHDC had originally proposed a policy similar to Wiltshire and Swindon but had withdrawn it following the public consultation where a number of landowners had objected .  The Local Plan Examination in Public will be in February. The Partnership have objected to the VWHDC not including the original canal policy. The</p>	

	<p>basis of the objection is that VWHDC have a Duty to Cooperate with the other Local Authorities for 'cross border ' infrastructure projects and the evidence required should be reasonable and proportionate.</p> <p>To demonstrate the deliverability of the canal included in the submission to the inspector will be a landowner engagement policy, the WBCT plans for an environmental assessment of the canal line and the Strategy document together with Masterplanning strategy.</p> <p><b>RD</b> asked how much work would be involved if WBCT had to submit all the further information . <b>KO</b> said it was a major piece of work and as yet the full scope was not defined.</p> <p>A further long discussion centred around any way other partners might help at the moment. It was generally concluded that the current process for the EIP was probably the only way to deal with this issue and if further help was needed <b>KO</b> would let everyone know. It would probably be prudent once the documents had been lodged for the EIP to directly approach VWHDC to see if any compromise could be agreed.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Partners Reports and Issues</b> not covered elsewhere</p> <p><b>CG</b> asked if a representative from either WBCT or Partnership could attend the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan steering group to clear up some issues on the canal route. It was agreed that someone would attend the January meeting.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Date and time and location of next meeting :</b></p> <p><b>Proposed Dates for 2016</b> at Monkton Park Chippenham</p> <p>17<sup>th</sup> March: 16<sup>th</sup> June:15<sup>th</sup> September:15<sup>th</sup> December</p>	
	<p><b>Meeting closed at 4.15pm</b></p>	



### Project Summary June to December 2015

<p><b><u>Melksham Link</u></b>          -Canal Planning application</p> <p>Land Acquisition- MasterPlan</p>	<p>– Environment Statement - final proof checking of before submission next week.</p> <p>Offers made to a number of landowners subject to approval of outline planning application for enabling development. This scheme may require variation of the canal route</p>
<p><b><u>Pewsham Locks Project</u></b></p>	<p>Further preparation work carried out on Top Lock</p> <p>Project received 'Highly Commended' in Living Waterways Community Award.</p> <p>Scheme is at final selection stage of CRT funding application to Peoples Postcode Lottery Dream Fund. Decision expected end of January.</p> <p>Scheme partners are 'Help for Heroes'</p>
<p><b><u>Dauntsey Lock Visitor Centre project (Peterborough Arms )</u></b></p>	<p>Plans being revised for possible 'meanwhile use'</p>
<p><b><u>Royal Wootton Bassett Studley Grange Project</u></b></p>	<p>Work started in July . Last partnership meeting was site visit. Scheme approx 80% completed .Contractors suspended work in November and intend to complete in drier weather in the spring. Finished parts of the canal have been left in water. Next phase of scheme will be to rebuild Bincknoll Lane road bridge</p>
<p><b><u>Royal Wootton Bassett Depot site</u></b></p>	<p>Work on discharge of planning conditions under way</p>
<p><b><u>Swindon Mouldon Hill</u></b></p>	<p>Positive discussions held with EA hope to progress planning application shortly</p>
<p><b><u>Swindon Wichelstowe</u></b></p>	<p>-Wichelstowe Link plans on hold awaiting final signing with Swindon BC joint venture partner Barrett (David Wilson) homes</p>
<p><b><u>Swindon Town Centre</u></b></p>	<p>-discussions expected to restart soon.</p>

<b><u>Swindon Eastern Villages</u></b>	Discussions continuing with SBC planners regarding planning application for Lotmead Farm development regarding proposed scheme prejudicing delivery of canal. Further discussions with Swindon BC and Wanborough PC in progress regarding possible use of canal for land drainage/flood alleviation
<b><u>Chippenham</u></b>	Discussions started with developer on the planned new route into River Avon.
<b><u>Boat Trips</u></b>	Successful opening of landing stage at Waitrose in July – significant increase in passenger numbers



**Western Section of canal completed - Studley Grange**



**HRH Duchess of Cornwall – Waitrose Landing Stage opening**



**Pewsham Lock before & after clearance**