



MEETING Thursday 23rd March 2017 at 3pm

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

Item	Notes	
	Attending	
LL	Lord Lansdowne (Partnership President)	
FdRP	Fleur de Rhe Philipe Wiltshire Council (Partnership Chairman)	
WCr	Cllr Wayne Crabbe Swindon Borough Council	
RB	Cllr Rolf Brindle Melksham Without PC	
RW	Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council	
RBI	Roderick Bluh Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	
JC	James Cleeton Sustrans	
RD	Rob Dean K&A CT	
KH	Kath Hatton Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	
JL	Jason Leach Canal & River Trust	
KO	Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council	
SW	Sheila Wade Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	
TW	Tim Wheeldon IWA	
1	Apologies; James Blockley Oxfordshire CC; Cllr Mark Clarke Cricklade TC, Charlotte Riggs Swindon BC, Colin Goodhind Melksham CAP; Robert Yeowell British Canoeing; Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council.	
2	Notes from the last meeting 15th December 2016 (pre-circulated) were approved	
3	Chairman's Announcements Membership- FDRP welcomed new members Tim Wheeldon representing IWA, James Cleeton Sustrans and Jason Leach from CRT FDRP noted that Kath Hatton was standing down from WBCT Exec and thanked her for her hard work Lord Lansdowne said that Kath's work had been invaluable and she would be missed. KH thanked everyone for the kind wishes and noted that she is likely to move into Oxfordshire and would still be helping WBCT but more in the background.	
4	Projects update – a short summary had been pre-circulated and is included at the end of these notes. Further information about the WBCT Transitions project is circulated with these notes. SW corrected the note that H4H are coming to Pewsham in June. Community Rooms at Peterborough Arms are open but WBCT volunteers are still working on main bar refurbishment- full opening will be with press launch of Towpath Festival at beginning of May 2017. Community Engagement: Transition Project-a report is circulated with these notes-in addition to usual attendance at conferences, talks and events etc. Towpath Festival: WBCT Board of Trustees gave approval beginning of March and work now going on preparing for Press Launch beginning of May 2017. RW said he understood that a planning application would be made soon for a marina at Semington. He thought that there had been an agreement with	

	<p>British Waterways to fund the first kilometre of the Wilts & Berks. FdRP said that this arrangement was proposed a long time ago but circumstances had changed and this was no longer in place.</p> <p>KO outlined current progress on the Melksham Link planning application – we expect a full response from CRT within days having resolved some technical issues (Post meeting note – received on 24th March). A meeting is arranged (31st March) with the ecological team (Wiltshire Council) and the planning case officer to see how the outstanding issues on the proposed works on the river could be resolved. There is still no agreement about how EA will talk to the project team without payment for their officer time. RBI confirmed he is taking the matter up again with Robert Buckland MP who has managed to get some progress in the Thames region but as yet not in the Wessex region.</p> <p>RW asked if the plans of how the marina connected to the canal were available. KO said that no plans were yet published other than the overall scheme.</p> <p>KO drew partners' attention to the recently published draft of the Wilts & Berks Canal Biodiversity Framework.</p>	
5	<p>VWHDC Local Plan Enquiry</p> <p>Pt 2 public consultation Canal Policy – extract circulated with these papers. Full details http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2031-part-2</p> <p>KO asked partner organisations to support the proposed canal policy in this document. Deadline to make submissions 5pm 4th May 2017</p>	ALL
6	<p>Review of strategic sections-</p> <p>KO gave a presentation on 3 strategic schemes:-</p> <p>Melksham to Lacock</p> <p>Lacock to Pewsham A4</p> <p>Royal Wootton Bassett to Swindon</p> <p>-outlining the current status regarding landowner negotiations and restoration. LL said the presentation showed how complex the issues are for even relatively short sections of the canal and wondered if there was a way to show the information to the members (and potential new members) of WBCT. SW said that one of the sections of the Biodiversity Framework (online information) showed the current status of the whole canal. There was a discussion about some of the details of each of the sections and how the project team might deal with landowners who were unwilling to sell a section. JL noted that so far CRT had not used CPO powers for restorations but it was usually against a context of a Local Authority who had indicated that they would use their powers if necessary. The momentum of a project usually was the catalyst for agreements to be eventually made. FdRP noted that Wiltshire Council had just clarified its CPO powers at a recent Cabinet meeting so the mechanism is in place but timing of any potential use would more likely be when the project was more advanced.</p>	
7	<p>Review of the Partnership- The draft discussion document from WBCT is circulated with these notes. RBI said that most of the points in document were not specific but WBCT recognised that a strong Partnership would be very important as more momentum was gained. One suggestion is that to cement a stronger link with the Trust it is proposed that the Chairman of the Partnership is also a Trustee of WBCT. One of the key questions to be answered is who should be members of the Partnership and how they</p>	

could be engaged to promote the project. **FdRP** noted from her experience with the K&A restoration that the seniority of partner members and their engagement was dictated by the level of activity and scale of what was going on- a sense of purpose for the partnership was important. In terms of this partnership a short to medium term goal would provide a focus to attract relevant organisations. **JL** said he hoped the experience he could share from his work with BW/CRT over ten years would be useful to help shape the way forward, but it could not be denied that it was a challenging task. He agreed that a short to medium term goal that was relevant to each of the members was very important – without this the partnership becomes a talking shop which fulfils a communication purpose and is very useful when letters of support are required this, but such a passive partnership does little to advance delivery of the scheme. Using the example of the Grantham Canal each LA partner is being given specific tasks to carry out and report back. The tasks are varied in complexity and range from communicating information within their organisations to delivering planning policy- currently the tasks do not include for them bringing funding to the scheme, but the tasks brings a sense of ownership for the partnership. On the Ashby Canal the partnership is being modelled more on the pattern of the Cotswold Canals (**JL** is Chairman of the CCP) where a core set of partners form the engine room to carry out the work and a wider partnership deals with more peripheral matters.**RW** wondered if getting Visit Wiltshire involved would be helpful **JL** said that on other schemes this was only useful when the 'end product' was in place. **RD** said that work to widen the scope of the partnership was essential to attract other organisations and that while fully endorsing the need for a short term aim, the 'big picture' vision was also very important. **RBI** said that WBCT was pleased the Wiltshire Council took such an active role in the partnership and he hoped that the other Local Authorities can be persuaded to take a similar course to fully support the Trust. The idea of widening the scope away from just restoration and to look at outcomes would allow a wider engagement. **RD** said that care was needed in picking the short term goal so that it was achievable. **SW** said that the transitions project dealt and towpath festival with some of the issues raised by looking at delivery of health and well being and by creating an opportunity for skills training and learning. **LL** asked how Sustrans had dealt with some of the more difficult problems of delivering their network. **JC** said that Sustrans had recently undertaken a thorough review and had decided to concentrate of fewer things that it did well and use other organisations to do other things. They found that this model had strengthened partnership working. In terms of delivering the network they had acknowledged that where 'ransom strips' existed then sometimes additional funding had to be found to meet landowner expectations.**TW** said that even though LA's did not have much funding available under some circumstances (such as Stroud DC on the Cotswold Canals) a case can be made for funding as an investment. While the Wilts & Berks could not offer very much for the 'commercial sector' at present , there may be opportunities for investment in the land particularly where larger area could be bought and the canal removed and the remaining land sold on. **WC** thought that for suitable projects funding could be found if the investment opportunity was sound. **RW** wondered if Wiltshire Wildlife Trust could be invited to join the partnership. **JL** said that Cotswold Canals had now persuaded Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to

	<p>become an active member of their partnership because the specific outcomes of the current Phase 1b bid were in line with GWT aims for enhanced biodiversity. JL noted that the discussions at this meeting generally veered towards project detail rather than a broad view of strategy. The partnership could continue with this way of working and have its 'trophy' organisational names to display but he thought the 1 to 3 year aims that specifically required skills that potential partners could bring was more likely to produce meaningful results and this was a more likely route to securing partners like the wildlife trusts and others. RBI conclude the discussion by saying that WBCT would take the ideas away – particularly the short-medium term achievable goals – and make some further proposals.</p>	
8	<p>Swindon BC New Eastern Villages Public consultation Green Infrastructure Strategy and Island Bridge Vision http://bit.ly/2n5HzgK Members are asked to make some comment about the importance of the canal as part of the NEV GI. The deadline for submission is 5pm on 3rd April.</p>	ALL
9	<p>IWA Restoration Hub. KO RBI attended a conference hosted by IWA to examine how canal restoration could be more effectively brought to the attention of Government and others in national arena. A proposal following on from the conference is expected shortly.</p>	
10	<p>Partners Reports and Issues RW wondered if there were further opportunities to promote the project following a number of successful television programmes about canals. JL noted the forthcoming Restoration Workshop on 1st April and apologised for the length of time it had taken to get a full response to Melksham Link planning application. JC said that Sustrans were currently reviewing their network with an aim to improve it and remove potential conflicts where possible and proposals would be made available for comment during the next 12 months. RBI asked if Sustrans could help with bid applications particularly to Lottery funding.</p>	
11	<p>Date and time and location of next meeting : 3pm 15th June at Wiltshire Council offices Monkton Park Proposed Dates for 2017 : 5th October (Change of date) 21st December</p>	

Project Summary December 2016 to March 2017

<u>Melksham Link</u> -Canal Planning application	A number of responses received from consultees Still to complete: Wiltshire Council Ecology CRT- EA
<u>Biodiversity Framework</u>	Final draft currently under review http://arcg.is/2n4Nh1S
<u>Pewsham Locks Project</u>	Project work suspended 'Help for Heroes' team scheduled for autumn 2017
<u>Dauntsey Lock Visitor Centre project</u> (Peterborough Arms)	Work progressing – Community room fully open
<u>Royal Wootton Bassett</u> <u>Studley Grange Project</u>	Planting programme in association with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust has started Opening planned for summer 2017 date tbc
<u>Royal Wootton Bassett- Templars Firs Extension</u>	First works started
PR-	Wilts & Berks restoration featured on CH5 Celebrity Carry on Barging
<u>Swindon Mouldon Hill</u> <u>Swindon Wichelstowe</u>	No further progress -Wichelstowe Link plans on hold awaiting final signing with Swindon BC joint venture partner Barrett (David Wilson) homes. Working with CRT to confirm canal design for Middle Wichel Investigations in progress to see how East Wichel Canal can be kept at proper water level.
<u>Swindon Town Centre</u>	Awaiting co-operation agreement from SBC
<u>Swindon Eastern Villages</u>	Public consultation under way for GI Strategy and Island Bridge Vision Review work being carried out by SBC on WBCT Technical Note on use of canal for land drainage and flood relief.
<u>Land Acquisition</u>	First transfer from Wiltshire Council at Morningside Farm RWB due for completion shortly. New lease at Challow in progress.

Studley Grange – tree planting



Celebrity Carry on Barging



Work starts at Templars Firs



Community Room Peterborough Arms





MEETING Thursday 15th June 2017 at 3pm

Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER Committee Rooms A/B

Item	Notes	
	Attending	
LL	Lord Lansdowne (Partnership President)	
FdRP	Fleur de Rhe Philipe Wiltshire Council (Partnership Chairman)	
SP	Cllr Steve Petty Melksham Without PC	
RW	Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council	
RB	Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council	
GC	Gavin Champion Cooper Tyres	
JM	Jock MacKenzie representing WBCT	
KO	Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council	
CR	Charlotte Riggs Swindon BC	
TW	Tim Wheeldon IWA	
1	Apologies; James Blockley Oxfordshire CC, Robert Yeowell British Canoeing, Cllr Mark Clarke Cricklade TC, Jason Leach CRT, Rob Dean KACT, Sheila Wade WBCT, James Cleeton Sustrans, Colin Goodhind MCAP, Cllr Wayne Crabbe Swindon Borough Council	
2	Notes from the last meeting 23rd March 2017 (pre-circulated) The notes were approved	
3	Chairman's Announcements Membership. FdRP welcomed new member Steve Petty from Melksham Without PC .CRT Restoration Manager – Jason Leach- is taking up another position and CRT are in the process of appointing a replacement.	
4	Projects update – A short presentation was made about these projects and this attached with these notes. Questions Melksham Link SP asked about the likely timing and the relationship with the landowners. KO said that the order in which things had to happen was that the planning permission for the canal had to be obtained first. JM confirmed that the enabling development would be done in two phases. The first phase would be the marina and a short section of the canal. Phase 2 would be the remainder of the masterplan to the river. One landowner had caused the problems that had made phasing necessary and it was planned that a different strategy would be used for the second phase. LL asked if there were more specific plans to enable Phase 2. JM said it was not appropriate to publicise them at this stage but the Partnership would be kept fully informed. KO noted the separate agenda item on the relationship with EA, and said that for the time being WBCT had no option other than pay for meetings when required. LL asked what length was each of the phases. KO said	

	<p>that Phase 1 would deliver the canal route to the old railway line (a few hundred metres), Phase 2 would deliver the remaining approximately 2 km to the River Avon. FdRP noted the frustrations of everyone and the continuing delays but said the first (albeit short) section would be a demonstrable start to the project. TW asked about the extent of the planning application – KO said it was as shown by the red line on the accompanying map.</p> <p>Pewsham No questions.</p> <p>Studley Grange No questions.</p> <p>Swindon Wichelstowe KO noted that the unresolved technical issues had arisen mainly due to lack of regular communication between WBCT and Swindon BC Wichelstowe team. This has now been addressed and KO will be meeting the Swindon BC Wichelstowe team on a monthly basis (similar to meeting set up for the NEV).</p> <p>Swindon New Eastern Villages No questions</p> <p>Thames Crossing Cricklade RW asked if the Thames Path had been considered in this scheme. KO said it would be considered in the context of the restored towpath on the Thames and Severn Canal.</p> <p>Grove – Stockham development KO reported that WBCT was currently in dispute with the adjacent developer concerning the installation of a low level non navigable footbridge over the canal line. TW asked if this was a new section of canal. KO confirmed that it is and as such is not yet covered by the policy that is intended to be included in the forthcoming VWHDC Local Plan Pt2 when the route would have better protection.</p>	
5	<p>VWHDC Local Plan Enquiry Pt 2 public consultation closed on 4th May – response to be published by VWHDC. FRDP asked if there was a timeline for the process . [Post meeting note- programme just published by VWHDC and circulated with these notes]</p> <p>FdRP asked KO to check current Oxfordshire CC representation on the Partnership .</p>	KO
6	<p>Review of the Partnership- It was agreed that as previously discussed the Partnership would continue to meet in its current quarterly format but would also investigate setting up project specific ‘mini partnerships’. FdRP wondered if Swindon NEV might be an appropriate place to try out one of these partnerships as there was an embryonic structure in place. KO said he would contact the local member (Cllr Sumner) to see if this could work.CR noted that he was a member of the North Wessex Downs AONB’</p>	
7	<p>Working with DeFRA Partners (Environment Agency Natural England Historic England) – Charge for services Letters have been received from Defra and EA outlining the current arrangements for working with WBCT. It was agreed this was a difficult situation and that KO and WBCT would try to change things at the highest level to try to find a way to make an</p>	

	<p>exception for this community led charitable project. KO said that in looking back at the history of EA's involvement one of the main reasons for joining the Partnership was the declining leisure usage of the upper Thames. FdRP said that at an appropriate time it may be possible to brief the Leader of Wiltshire Council to seek a meeting the new Secretary of State. RW wondered if the healthy living aspects of the canal restoration with opportunities for walking and cycling should be emphasised.</p>	
8	<p>IWA Restoration Hub</p> <p>Following the successful setting up of a national centre of excellence for information and advice IWA has decided to examine how it could lobby at national level to raise the profile and importance of canal restoration schemes. Following an initial 'concept' meeting, a second gathering of interested parties is taking place at the end of June to try to define what may be required. JM noted that from a Masterplanning perspective an effective way of lobbying government is essential. TW noted that the practical advice was being well received with restoration groups and that the scheme also involved the opportunity to attend an annual workshop co-hosted by CRT. FdRP said that the Partnership would be pleased to support this initiative.</p>	
9	<p>Partners Reports and Issues not covered elsewhere</p> <p>WBCT Masterplanning JM said that after working on proposals for nearly 2 years he would shortly be submitting his work to WBCT, and would be pleased to share this with the Partnership. The work of necessity has been expanded to consider the concept of the Southern Canals Network giving regional significance to economic, ecological and social benefits. The scale of these combined projects, while not directly comparable with something like HS2, were nevertheless substantial. The original brief for Masterplanning was in the context of the Wilts & Berks canal alone and this work has been concentrating on the three major junctions at Abingdon Cricklade and Melksham plus the central hub of Swindon. The Masterplan for Swindon has been proposed to the Leader of the Council including a financial offer to redevelop central Swindon with a scheme valued at £1.5 Billion. JM believed that the proposition would be presented to senior members of Swindon BC in July. The Leader had stated that while welcoming the idea of the canal it had to be deliverable and fundable. JM believed that the team he had assembled could demonstrate that both criteria were achievable. The scheme would be delivered in phases and the first of these is ready to start. Although the hub is crucial, Masterplanning is also being completed for Chippenham, Calne and Grove/Wantage. JM said that if the Masterplan is approved by WBCT then the role of the Partnership would be even more important in helping to deliver the scheme. JM said he would be pleased to share the finished work with partners for comment. LL was concerned that lessons should be learned from the way Sustrans had acquired land and that the Partnership should have a clear plan about how it would deal with difficult 'pinch points'. TW asked how the Masterplanning process would affect the work of the volunteers. JM said that while the Masterplanning was clearly centred on the major conurbations the work of the Trust and its volunteers would be essential to complete the less technically challenging (mainly rural) areas. LL was concerned that it would be difficult to get Government to endorse the overall plan for the Wilts & Berks. In response to a further</p>	

	<p>question from TW, KO said that in the past schemes like the Rochdale and Huddersfield Narrow had previously attracted such support via the Millennium Commission. KO noted that there was a comparison of sorts with HS2 in terms of potential pay back where the return from canal based schemes was likely to be more favourable. FdRP thought that the comparison to HS2 would be difficult to sustain. FdRP confirmed that the Partnership would be very keen to see the completed Masterplan.</p> <p>Land Drainage Wiltshire Council KO noted the Wilts & Berks restoration would be included in the forthcoming Land Drainage Strategy as a potential way of moving flood water and/or retaining water in upper catchments.</p> <p>RW wanted to confirm active participation of canoeing. FdRP confirmed the continuing interest of British Canoeing.</p> <p>FdRP asked that all partnership members be reminded of future meeting dates.</p> <p>TW asked if the project had considered using assets of community interest process. KO said it had been used to help the Peterborough Arms purchase. FdRP said that in some circumstances it could be useful but at best was only a 6 month delaying process.</p> <p>LL thanked Charlotte Riggs for her hard work over a number of years as she was now leaving Swindon BC. This thanks was echoed by FdRP on behalf of the partners.</p>	KO
10	<p>Date and time and location of next meeting : CHANGE OF DATE October 5th at Wiltshire Council offices Monkton Park</p> <p>Proposed Dates for 2017 : 21st December</p>	

VALE OF WHITE HORSE LOCAL PLAN

UPDATE BULLETIN 7 – JUNE 2017



INTRODUCTION >

This bulletin is the seventh in a series of progress updates on the Vale of White Horse District Council's Local Plan.

LOCAL PLAN PART 1 PUBLICATION

We have now produced the final desktop published version of the adopted Local Plan 2031 Part 1.

The Part 1 Plan is available to view and access on the Council website at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/new-local-plan-2031-part-1-strategic-sites>

Copies are also available to view at local libraries and the Council offices.

AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT

The Council has published an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) that covers the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

The AMR helps to track the progress towards meeting our development needs and to establish whether our adopted policies for the Local Plan 2031 Part 1 are being effectively implemented.

The AMR is available to view and access on the Council website at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/supporting-documents>

FIVE YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY UPDATE

The Council has updated its five year housing land supply position as of the 31 March 2017. The Council has a five year housing land supply of 6.7 years district wide.

The five year housing land supply statement is available to view and access on the Council website at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/housing-supply-statement>

UPDATE ON LOCAL PLAN 2031 PART 2 AND NEXT STEPS

We received over 3,000 comments from over 500 individual consultees and/or organisations to our Local Plan 2031 Part 2 Preferred Options Consultation. We are currently reviewing the consultation responses to inform an update to the Part 2 Plan. It is anticipated that we will consult on the Publication Version of the Local Plan 2031 Part 2 in the autumn of 2017.



DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

Alongside the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), we consulted on a draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) from December 2016 to January 2017.

We are currently reviewing the consultation responses received and updating the SPD.

It is anticipated the SPD will be adopted in summer 2017.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) UPDATE

The Council has received the Inspector's Final Report following the Examination of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule.

A copy of the Inspector's Report can be viewed and accessed on the Council website at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/delivering-infrastructure/community-infr-0>

A copy is also available to view at the Council offices and at local libraries in the district.

It is anticipated that CIL will be adopted by Full Council in July 2017.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROGRESS ACROSS VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT - JUNE 2017

Area application submitted	Consultation on area designation	Area designated	Parish preparing plan	Parish consultation pre-submit to Vale	Plan submitted to Vale	Vale consultation on plan	Independent examination	Referendum	"Yes" or "No" vote	Plan 'made' (adopted)
Appleton with Eaton										Adoption target 2018/19
Ashbury										Adoption target 2018/19
Blewbury										Plan made 14 December 2016
Chilton										Adoption target 2018/19
Cumnor										Adoption target 2018/19
Drayton										Plan made 15 July 2015
East Challow										Adoption target 2017/18
East Hanney										Adoption target 2018/19
East Hendred										Adoption target 2018/19
Faringdon										Plan made 14 December 2016
Great Coxwell										Plan made 15 July 2015
Longworth										Plan made 12 October 2016
North Hinksey (inc Botley)										Adoption target 2017/18
Radley										Adoption target 2017/18
Shrivenham										Adoption target 2017/18
St Helen Without and Wootton										Adoption target 2017/18
Stanford in the Vale										Adoption target 2018/19
Steventon										Adoption target 2017/18
Sunningwell										Adoption target 2017/18
Sutton Courtenay										Adoption target 2017/18
Uffington and Baulking										Adoption target 2017/18
Wantage										Adoption target 2017/18
West Hanney										Adoption target 2017/18

Market town / Local Service Centre

Larger village

Smaller village

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE >

We have five made Neighbourhood Plans – Blewbury, Drayton, Great Coxwell, Faringdon and Longworth. These plans form part of our district wide policies (referred to as the Development Plan – that includes the Local Plan), which inform how planning decisions are undertaken.

We continue to support neighbourhood plan groups across the district in preparing their plan. The Planning Policy Team provide support for towns and parishes in preparing their vision and objectives and offer informal guidance for preparing planning policies.

We have prepared a Vale of White Horse Neighbourhood Planning Toolkit, which is available to view and access on our website and can be used to inform the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans.

Please continue to share your views on what else you would like to see from our future Local Plan Bulletins relating to Neighbourhood Planning.



MEETING Thursday 5th October at 3pm

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

Item	<u>Notes</u>	
RD TC WCr RWi RB SA-B ME CG KO RW	<p style="text-align: center;">Attending</p> <p>Rob Dean (Meeting Chairman) Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Cllr Tony Clements Cricklade TC Cllr Wayne Crabbe Swindon Borough Council Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council Roderick Bluh Wilts & Berks Canal Trust Sam Anderson- Brown Canal & River Trust Mark Evans Canal & River Trust Colin Goodhind Melksham Community Area Partnership Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council Russell Weymouth Swindon BC</p>	
1	Apologies; Lord Lansdowne, James Cleeton Sustrans, Cllr Fleur de Rhe Philipe, Cllr Steve Petty Melksham Without PC, Peter Walker CRT, Tim Wheeldon IWA, Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council, Jonathan Till WBCT, Kevin East British Canoeing	
2	Notes from the last meeting 15th June 2017 (pre-circulated) were agreed	
3	<p>Chairman's Announcements • RD informed attendees that an audio recording would be made of the meeting and the audio file kept as verbatim record. Notes will be produced as usual.</p> <p>Membership: Change of representative for Cricklade – Cllr Mark Clarke will be replaced by Cllr Chris Hodgson. For this meeting the Town Council was represented by Cllr Tony Clements.</p> <p>Canal & River Trust Restoration Manager –RD welcomed recently appointed Sam Anderson- Brown.</p> <p>RD Asked all to consider voting for Heritage Heroes in the Historic England Angel Awards –details had been previously circulated.</p>	
4	<p>Projects update –</p> <p>Melksham Link KO outlined the current work that is under way to respond to issues identified by Environment Agency for the WBCT planning application which was first registered in 2012. WBCT have been trying to get a definitive list of issues that EA are objecting to in the planning application so they can be addressed and the scheme progressed to a planning committee. KO noted that EA seemed to require validation of responses generated by the WBCT technical team, so consultants now needed to be appointed to compile a report to complete this process. RD asked if there were any show stopping issues. KO said that outstanding matters were connected with various issues on the River Avon and that Wiltshire Council's ecologist and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust had objected with similar concerns. Part of the problem is the uncertainty of some issues and</p>	

the project team were trying to get to a position where further studies would be a conditional part of the planning consent to be carried out as more certainty emerged as the works were commissioned on dredging for instance). **SA-B** noted that other projects have continuing similar issues where there appear to be different responses from individual officers. **KO** noted that sometimes the responses were a matter of interpretation as there was no definitive 'rule book'. **RWi** wondered if the small group of 'local objectors had any influence with EA. **ME** asked if there was a defined timetable for the continuing work. **KO** said that one of the defining factors would be the expiration of the validity of the original survey work. In response to **RB** it was noted that commissioning a further report from the consultants was preventing further progress. **RB** was concerned that some of the issues appeared to be that individual officer opinion could not be easily challenged. **KO** confirmed that there was no process where you could get a 'second opinion'. **RW** asked if this was still a holding objection- **KO** said that these were particular issues and clarifications from the Environment Statement. **KO** noted that any further works that may be planned as part of the 'Masterplan' –i.e. the proposal for the first section of the W&B canal and marina would require the WBCT application consent for the Melksham Link (canal & river) before the specific application could be considered. **WCr** wondered if further political pressure could help ease the current 'log jam'. **KO** thought that the perception of this major project application being submitted by a relatively small and perhaps under resourced voluntary organisation had affected how much scrutiny had been applied. This issue had already been discussed with CRT. **S A-B** said that there were limits on how far CRT could be involved and would not (as requested by KO) be able to submit the application to change the perception of how much 'back up' might be available however they would consider trying to find a robust way of indicating support. **RD** wondered if the Partnership had a role to play in giving the perception of a larger and more resourced organisation and whether CRT might further 'validate' the proposed consultant' report. **S A-B** said that would be possible if sufficient planning could take place to allow CRT to programme the work. **S A-B** said that following his earlier visit to the Wilts & Berks and subsequent 'wish list' submitted by KO he had made a bid to CRT management for some engineer time to be included in their business plan in the next financial year for work on water resources. Without committing anything at this stage it would be helpful if requests for other such technical help could be made with as much notice as possible. Regarding validation of the Melksham Link report this could be possible but S A-B would need full details of what is required. **KO** thought that the work now was too far advanced to make this a practical possibility (but would check with the project team) .

Pewsham

No further update

Studley Grange

The project had now been completed and the proposal for a linking permissive footpath to the existing Right of Way to Hay Lane had now gained planning consent and an agreement with the landowner should be completed shortly. The site should be fully open next spring but there was

	<p>an opportunity to visit as part of the WBCT AGM on 21st October. It was agreed that it would be useful to arrange a separate Council Member visit.</p> <p>Swindon Wichelstowe RW Work on the new District Centre (Canalside) has started with construction starts on the school, pub/hotel and the canal. The planning application has been submitted for the first 200 houses. KO noted that a section of canal would be de-watered and closed for at least 6 months. The technical design for this section had been used as a 'pilot' to see how CRT could help with design reviews and some useful amendments to the scheme had happened following this process. KO noted the current planning application for the business village at Croft Road which included a section of the canal. KO was now working with WBCT to produce a scheme and planning application to join this to the completed canal at East Wichel. This required a lock and ecological issues will feature in any proposal as the site was used for newt translocation for the East Wichel site. S A-B said that again with sufficient notice CRT ecology team may be able to help. The lack of water retention in the East Wichel section was discussed, The WBCT local team are trying to carry out some further tests to determine the source of the leak but inspection of the construction drawings would suggest that the design of the piling did not specify sealing behind the piles so this could be a possible cause of leakage. If this is substantiated there would need to be a lining placed in front of the piles. RB was keen to find a solution as this section had never retained water and what should be a showcase for the canal project was somewhat of an embarrassment! KO agreed to meet with RW to try to find a solution. RB noted that although the canal here was run by WBCT under licence the asset is owned by Swindon BC and therefore this issue should be resolved by them. WBCT licensed the fishing rights on this section but the low level of water endangered the stock. CG asked in the context of the Melksham Neighbourhood plan how the case for canalside housing could be advanced. S A-B said CRT could help with the material collated under the title of Water Adds Value.</p> <p>Swindon New Eastern Villages KO reported that WBCT would be appearing at the Planning Appeal for the Lotmead site (November) to try to get the objection about canal deliverability upheld. WBCT were still trying to demonstrate the need for the canal as part of the land drainage/flood relief for the NEV site. The Technical Note submitted to SBC had been rejected by Atkins (consultants) as demonstrating the need for the canal as part of flood management. WBCT had submitted a rebuttal and now awaited a further response. RD said that the issue really centred around whether the canal was needed for flood management and therefore who would pay for its construction. RW said he would pick up on the issue and meet with the relevant officers.</p> <p>Thames Crossing Cricklade WBCT has started some work to validate a proposal discussed ten years ago for the new canal route to the east of Cricklade. The proposal had not been advanced then as no agreement could be reached with EA on water</p>	<p>KO RW</p> <p>KO RW</p> <p>RW</p>
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	<p>quality issues. An engineer from the WBCT team is working on the proposal which will be tested in planning system. TC noted the concerns of the town of ever more water coming from Swindon while EA were reluctant to clear/dredge the river channel.</p> <p>Grove – Stockham development A strategic section of the canal has just been submitted for pre-app advice. This section has been chosen as the adjacent land is being rapidly developed and one of the schemes has a section 106 agreement to transfer land for the canal when an appropriate planning consent for the canal has been approved. The report from VWHDC identified ecological issues with newts and bats. WBCT will decide whether to progress this to a full application.</p> <p>It was also noted that the long awaited development for the Grove Airfield site was now about to start but as previously reported there was no Section 106 contribution for the canal (despite VWHDC specific policy),</p> <p>RWi was anxious to make sure canoeists would be included on all sections of restored canal.</p> <p>S A-B noted that some of the difficult issues discussed at this meeting might be more effectively dealt with by a stronger Partnership. S A-B wondered how the Partnership could better promote the benefits of the canal restoration. KO suggested that the delivery of a high profile/high visibility scheme like the Melksham Link would go a long way to address this. RB said that delivery of the Royal Wootton Bassett to Swindon scheme would also help. RW noted that legacy issues of maintenance also caused concerns for Local Authority partners and demonstration of value uplift of property were important. S A-B said that exciting the local community about the canal would be very important to stimulate political support. KO noted that following recent discussions on this issue smaller working groups of partners were being set up to work on specific projects.</p>	
5	<p>VWHDC Local Plan Pt 2 public consultation closed on 4th May –The Draft Plan Pt 2 was approved by Full Council at the meeting on 27th September. Extract of Policy 31 had been circulated . The plan will go to a further consultation before being adopted .</p> <p>Kevin East from British Canoeing had commented Policy 30 <i>The Council will actively seek opportunities to improve the accessibility and the addition of new connections and status upgrades to the existing rights of way network, including National Trails..</i> <i>Comment – welcomed, especially for any Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP's), Historic Rights of Way that are identified and added to the Definitive Map or Permissive Path for connecting the canal with the ROW network.</i> Policy 31. <i>Comment- Council support for the Wiltshire, Swindon & Oxfordshire Canal Partnership Restoration Strategy to safe guard the line of route (3.269), improve access (3.274) and generally encompass recreational and environmental enhancements is welcomed. Protecting the environment is important and this aspect should not lose sight of the socio-economic gains that can benefit local communities accrued from canal restoration schemes that have a successful track record. There needs to be a balance.</i> These comments will be incorporated into any further consultation response.</p>	

6	<p>Canal & River Trust Restoration /IWA Restoration Hub S A-B outlined the change internally of restoration being moved from the Enterprise team to Assets Management to more closely align the requirements of restoration (engineering ecology etc). The IWA Restoration Hub provided further fantastic support for restoration groups and perhaps should be more closely involved in this Partnership. (Note the next Restoration Workshop is scheduled for Sat April 14th)</p>	
7	<p>Partners Reports and Issues RW said that development plans for the sports hub at Moredon in Swindon were progressing and that the canal route would provide footpath access and therefore if there was a way of jointly working on the scheme this would be an ideal opportunity. KO Reported that there would be some changes in his role and the way work was done with WBCT. He would become less involved in directly working the WBCT Executive and concentrate on current work like project planning applications etc and more importantly to pick up work on the Towpath Challenge. KO also reported that a new Charity had been set up called Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust. Its stated aims were very similar to WBCT. It would be useful to know if any Partners are approached by this Trust</p>	
8	<p>WBCT AGM including Studley Grange Site Visit is on Saturday 21st October from 10.30am .Details site https://www.wbct.org.uk/the-trust/about-us/304-annual-general-meeting-2017-documents</p>	
9	<p>Date and time and location of next meeting : WBCT have requested change to first Thursday of the relevant month Proposed Dates for 2017/18 : 2017:7th December at Monkton Park Chippenham 2018: 1st March; 7th June; 6th September; 6th December</p>	



MEETING Thursday 7th December at 3pm

Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER Bewley Room

Item	NOTES	
	Attending	
FdRP	Cllr Fleur de Rhé Philipe (Chairman)	
RWi	Cllr Wayne Crabbe Swindon Borough Council	
WCr	Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council	
RB	Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council	
RD	Rob Dean Kennet & Avon Canal Trust	
KO	Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council	
JT	Jonathan Till Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	
TW	Tim Wheeldon IWA	
RWe	Russell Weymouth Swindon BC	
1	Apologies; Sam Anderson-Brown (CRT), Peter Walker (CRT), Roderick Bluh Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, Lord Lansdowne (President) James Cleeton Sustrans, Cllr Steve Petty Melksham Without PC Peter Walker CRT, Colin Goodhind MCAP, Sian Thomas Sustrans, Mark Evans Canal & River Trust	
2	Notes from the last meeting 5th October 2017 (pre-circulated) were agreed.	
3	Chairman's Announcements CRT Restoration- Peter Walker National Infrastructure Services Manager has offered to give a presentation on CRT Restoration Strategy. It was agreed to invite him to the June 2018 meeting.	KO
4	Projects update – JT gave an update on Wilts & Berks Canal Trust reorganisation. WBCT has now a Board of Trustees to set policy and look after governance. New Trustees were appointed in Oct 2017. This year celebrated the 40 th anniversary of WBCT and the recent AGM welcomed some special guests including at least one of the founding members. There was an opportunity for all to visit Studley Grange. To enhance WBCT's communication with members there will be a quarterly forum. The first one will be held at the Peterborough Arms on Jan 16 th 2018 and future ones may be on Facebook live. WBCT's new Trustees include Gordon Olsen and Neil Croucher. Sheila Wade has also left the Executive to join the BoT. IWA has appointed Sue Cooper as their representative. The WSO Partnership also could appoint a Trustee. FdRP suggested this was an item for the next meeting. JT said that Canal & River Trust could also appoint a Trustee under the new constitution. The Executive responsibility areas now separated delivery functions from support functions. The core delivery functions include land acquisition and restoration and commercial activities to support these. A new area of responsibility is 'Canal Usage' which includes maintenance and creation of destinations. The final area for the Executive is Community Involvement	KO

which includes contact and liaison with outside organisations. **JT** said that this reorganisation is now nearly complete and he would be pleased to give full details to the next Partnership meeting. Emphasis is currently being put on financial control including setting and monitoring of an annual budget with project managers having budget responsibility.

Melksham Link

KO said that to complete the work requested by Environment Agency, WBCT needed to commission further reports by a consultant. At the previous Partnership meeting it had been indicated that the delay was because of lack of funds. **JT** said that he thought following the WBCT Executive meeting later that day that the work should be able to progress subject to a funding source being confirmed.

RD asked if all the EA issues had been resolved. **KO** said that the new consultant's report was intended to address all the issues raised by EA at the meeting held with WBCT earlier in the year.

RW asked how this related to the phased delivery of the project. **JT** said that these discussions related only to the WBCT planning application. The phased delivery of the scheme would be subject to separate planning applications.

Pewsham No further update as any progress is still delayed awaiting results of HSE investigation. **FdRP** asked if there was any indication when the investigations will be concluded. **JT** said that the WBCT lawyers had said that it could take another 1-2 years. **TW** was concerned that the situation had effectively stopped all restoration. **JT** said that 3rd party works were easier to progress. The unknown factors included a possible prosecution and the potential of a fine.

Studley Grange site is hoped to open in 2018 when the linking path across adjacent Biffa site is completed. **JT** confirmed that this project was also being considered for approval by WBCT Executive. **JT** said that he hoped that the section could open in the spring.

Swindon

KO reported continuing monthly liaison meetings with both Wichelstowe and New Eastern Villages project teams.

RW reported that following a Cabinet decision Forward Swindon was being more closely aligned to Swindon BC but being kept as a separate organisation and was being led by Simon Bridgen.

Wichelstowe

Preliminary works on the canal in Canalside have now been completed and a contractor has been appointed for the main work to commence in January 2018. **RWe** noted that there has been a few tree issues with the first contract which had now been resolved.

East Wichel **KO** said that following extensive discussion at the last meeting he and Russell had met to discuss next steps. The issue when simplified is the need to understand why water leaks from this section and to find a solution to whatever the problem is. **KO** is approaching CRT to seek their 'technical guidance'. It is likely that this will involve filling the canal in sections (bunds required) and then carrying out a 'stilling test' to see where water is leaking (using tracer dyes or similar). **RWe** said that a suitable methodology and associated costs were now important in

	<p>reviewing the Section 106 agreements for the proposed Joint Venture Company for Wichelstowe.</p> <p>Motorway Crossing</p> <p>WBCT continue to seek to persuade Swindon BC to consider a dual road and canal crossing under the M4. <i>A full discussion of the issues and constraints took place.</i> KO concluded by saying that it would be unfortunate if two members of this Partnership (WBCT and Swindon BC) ended up in a 'fight' in the national arena.</p> <p>New Eastern Villages</p> <p>KO reported that the planning enquiry for the application at Lotmead had concluded and the Inspector's report was expected March/April 2018. The WBCT team had made a robust presentation about the deliverability of the canal and flooding issues. RWe reported that the NEV project manager had now confirmed that following the latest submission from WBCT regarding flooding SBC's consultants had concluded that there was no material change in the situation and therefore no further work will be carried out on this commission. WCr said that many of the issues would be easier to deal with if more of the canal was completed within Swindon. KO said that the current infrastructure discussion for the NEV is the route of the Southern Connector Road. A new route has just been published and WBCT and Swindon BC teams now need to confirm the adjacent route of the canal. The intention is that WBCT will submit a parallel planning application for the canal next summer provided that information for the road scheme is shared. TW asked if the route of the canal in the NEV was fixed. KO said that a indicative route was protected in the Local Plan but as in this case detailed design criteria would define the fixed line.</p> <p>Thames Crossing Cricklade</p> <p>KO reported that he was attending meetings of the Upper Thames Partnership where he had made a presentation about the Wilts & Berks Canal</p> <p>Grove – Stockham development</p> <p>No further update</p>	
5	<p>VWHDC Local Plan Part 2 final consultation has now concluded. KO submitted response on behalf of the Partnership in support of the Canal Policy</p>	
6	<p>Partners Reports and Issues not covered elsewhere</p> <p>TW asked if there was anything further to report about the Wessex Waterways Trust as it was concerning that a rival group had been set up. JT noted that the named Trustees had in one way or another become disaffected with existing restoration groups (including WBCT). He personally did not think their operation has enough resources to tackle anything other than very small scale projects. If they contributed to the overall restoration then their efforts would be welcomed.</p> <p>RWe noted that at Moredon SBC were proceeding with a new sports hub and that to connect to the Western Flyer cycle route a link was being planned most likely using the route of the canal towpath and therefore there may be an opportunity to look at a joint project with WBCT on this section adjacent to Nova Hreod school</p> <p>RWi noted that the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan was progressing and was keen to integrate some of the Masterplanning aspects of the Melksham Link. JT said that the Melksham Link Masterplan relied on housing based on an exception to the Local Plan. FdRP noted that</p>	

	<p>Wiltshire & Swindon Councils were currently consulting on the first stages of the next Local Plan.</p> <p>KO reported that he had now started some initial work on picking up on the Towpath Challenge project.</p> <p>RD said that following up on the earlier discussions he had concluded that getting the canal restored in Swindon was a critical part of the project without which the rest would not progress. JT said WBCT regarded the Royal Wootton Bassett to Swindon section as a top priority. WCr was concerned about the routing of the canal along the M4 and thought that even at this late stage some consideration should be given about the location of the crossing. KO offered to have a separate discussion with him on this subject.</p>	
7	<p>Date and time and location of next meeting :</p> <p>1st March 2018 at Monkton Park Chippenham</p> <p>2018 proposed dates: 7th June (note at Swindon BC Civic Offices);</p> <p>6th September; 6th December</p>	