



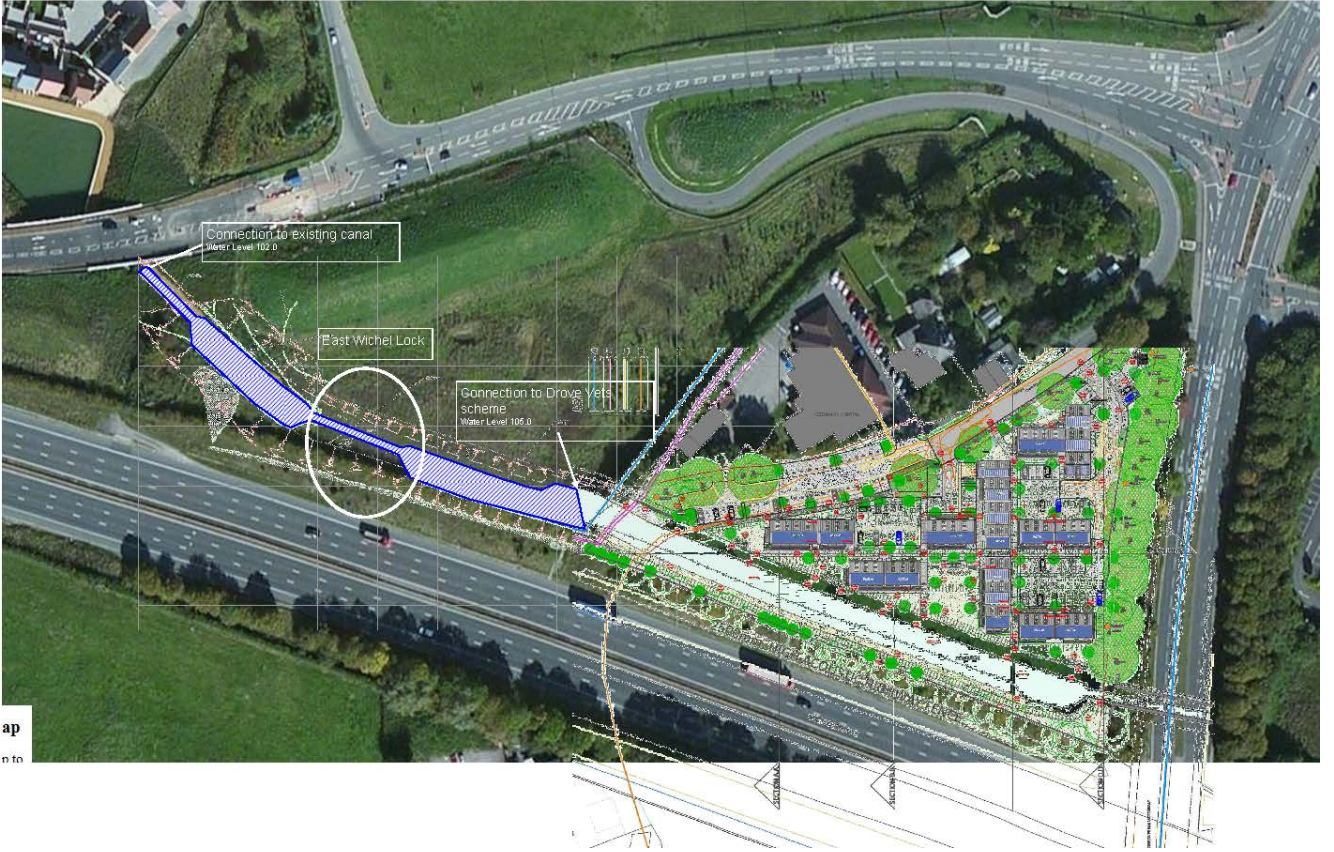
**MEETING Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm**

Swindon Borough Council Civic Centre Euclid Street Swindon SN1 2JH Committee Room 1

Item	<u>Notes</u>	
<b>FdRP</b> <b>GS</b> <b>SA-B</b> <b>KO</b> <b>SP</b> <b>JT</b> <b>TW</b> <b>RW</b>	<p align="center">Attending</p> <p>Cllr Fleur de Rhé Philipe (Chairman)            Cllr Gary Sumner Swindon Borough Council            Sam Anderson-Brown Canal &amp; River Trust            Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council            Steve Petty Berryfield Residents Association            Jonathan Till Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust            Tim Wheeldon IWA            Russell Weymouth Swindon BC</p>	
1	<p><b>Apologies;</b> Rob Dean K&amp;A CT, Gavin Champion Cooper Tires, Peter Walker CRT, Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council; Cllr Chris Hodgson Cricklade TC; Lord Lansdowne; Richard Wiltshire Melksham TC</p>	
2	<p><b>Notes</b> from the last meeting 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (pre-circulated)- <b>were approved.</b></p>	
3	<p>Chairman's Announcements •            The Agenda has been slightly revised – Peter Walker CRT was now unavailable so Sam Anderson Brown would talk about CRT restructure  <b>Steve Petty</b> is now attending as a representative of Berryfield Residents Association            GDPR has meant that we have had to remove from our database (hopefully temporarily) contact information for some Partner Organisations notably EA, Vale White Horse DC, and Oxfordshire CC, Thames Water, Wiltshire College as their representatives did not respond.  <b>FdRP</b> welcomed Cllr <b>Gary Sumner</b> as the new representative from Swindon BC.</p>	
4	<p><b>Presentation – Canal &amp; River Trust &amp; Restoration</b>            Sam Anderson-Brown said that as Restoration Manager he reports to Peter Walker who is Head of Technical support. CRT has just reorganised from ten waterways to six regions with technical support being devolved from the current centralised teams. The role of Restoration manager remains national and advises on how CRT's resources are deployed on restoration projects. There are currently just under 100 restoration projects in the UK and CRT obviously prioritise projects where they have land ownership. Other factors are also taken into account in allocating CRT's finite resources including impact on local communities and the technical difficulties of the restoration. Third party restorations like the Wilts &amp; Berks (and Cotswolds) are recognised as having a high impact in a heavily populated area but would always be a lower priority than a CRT owned project. <b>RW</b> asked if there was a grant bidding process for funds or resources. <b>S A-B</b> replied that there was not such a process, funding was unlikely but it was more likely to be an allocation of scarce technical help.</p>	

	<p><b>FdRP</b> noted that the Wilts &amp; Berks &amp; Cotswold Canals combined with the Kennet &amp; Avon made a considerable impact in forming a Southern Canals Network. <b>S A-B</b> said that would be a factor in any assessment.</p> <p><b>JT</b> asked if CRT had been able to consider the WBCT request to waive the application fee for the Phase 1 marina project. <b>SA-B</b> said that he would make sure that there was a response as soon as possible.</p>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Projects update –</b></p> <p><b>Melksham Link KO</b> reported that the addendum to the Environment Statement had been submitted to Wiltshire Council planners. Responses were now awaited from consultees.</p> <p>The Phase 1 project for the marina is being assessed through Wiltshire Council’s pre-app process and is also being assessed by Canal &amp; River Trust as a new marina project. <b>FdRP</b> thought that the planning application would most likely go to the area planning committee.</p> <p><b>Pewsham JT</b> noted that this was part of a strategically important sections and included re-watered canal from Double Bridge to Pewsham Locks (the other major section is Royal Wootton Bassett to Swindon Wichelstowe). These sections are estimated to each cost in the order £10m to restore. Some early discussions are taking place on a scheme around Pewsham Locks and part of the old Chippenham arm.</p> <p><b>KO</b> noted that the WSO Partnership strategy document was last revised in 2015 and needs to be updated.</p> <p><b>Studley Grange –</b> Towpath Opening is scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> July – please note the date – further details are to follow.</p> <p><b>Swindon Wichelstowe</b> Extensive works going on in Middle Wichel (Canalside) where the canal is expected to be completed in the autumn. Other major construction projects include the new secondary school and the Hall &amp; Woodhouse canalside pub. <b>GS</b> said he had recently had a trip on Dragonfly and the view from the canal of all the new works is very impressive. It was good to note the commitment from Swindon BC to the project in the commissioning of £10m’s of canal infrastructure. <b>KO</b> said that two WBCT Trustees had recently met a Director of Barratt Homes who said that as joint venture partners they were fully committed to the canal scheme. <b>GS</b> wanted to confirm which sections of canal were owned/maintained by WBCT. <b>RW</b> reported that the East Wichel section of the canal was operated and maintained under a licence arrangement with Swindon BC which is now due for review. <b>RW</b> said that as part of the S106 agreement for Wichelstowe it would be necessary to look at transfer of ownership of the canal either by lease or freehold transfer. Other sections were operated without any formal agreement. <b>KO</b> noted that the East Wichel canal major infrastructure was owned and maintained by Swindon BC. Last year an agreement in principle has been reached for Swindon BC to transfer ownership of the canal to WBCT subject to a number of conditions being met by both parties. <b>RW and KO</b> will hold further meeting with property services/planning to progress this issue.</p> <p><b>East Wichel KO</b> and WBCT engineers are working on plan to cost a ‘stilling test’ on the canal (in sections) to determine where the leaks are occurring.</p> <p><b>East Wichel Canal Extension</b></p> <p><b>KO</b> outlined plans for a WBCT project (East Wichel Lock) to link the existing canal to a new development at the Drove Vets (see drawing at the end of these notes)</p>	<p><b>KO</b></p> <p><b>KO RW</b></p>

	<p><b>M4 Crossing.</b>  All parties were agreed that an urgent meeting was needed at an appropriate level with Department for Transport. <b>GS</b> was concerned that Wichelstowe infrastructure was not delayed and was also concerned about funding. <b>KO</b> said he would be pleased to discuss the possibilities in a separate meeting with <b>GS</b> and noted that Canal &amp; River Trust had advised that promoters of the scheme (SBC) could apply to a DfT fund. <b>JT</b> said WBCT considered this issue so fundamental that if the crossing could not be delivered with the road scheme the existence of the project is threatened. <b>RW</b> asked if there was any indication of cost. <b>KO</b> said that an FoI request to SBC from WBCT had given access to a consultants report that indicated an additional £3.9m – however this included other infrastructure. <b>KO</b> noted that it was very regrettable that WBCT had not been invited to participate in the consultants report and that it had to be obtained through an FoI request. <b>KO</b> further noted that the exclusion of WBCT from such discussions had probably led to the problems now seen at East Wichel.</p> <p><b>Swindon New Eastern Villages</b>  <b>KO</b> said that WBCT was actively working with Swindon BC on a revised route for the canal following modification of the route for the Southern Connector road. It is intended that WBCT apply for a separate planning consent for the canal in parallel with the SCR application</p> <p><b>Vale of White Horse Local Plan Pt 2 Examination in Public</b> is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> September for the Canal Policy.</p> <p><b>Questions and updates</b>  <b>GS</b> noted that he was currently having discussions about the proposed revision to the planning application at Bradbury Park/Commonhead which was seeking to change employment land to residential. <b>KO</b> said there were still unresolved issues regarding the width being allowed for the canal,</p>	
6	<p><b>Partners Reports and Issues</b> not covered elsewhere.  <b>KO</b> reported two scheduled meetings  The first with Natural England to discuss if it might be possible to use Coate Water again for water supply to the canal bearing in mind the SSSI status of the site.  The second meeting is to see if the canal project can be part of the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership to integrate the canal restoration into other work planned for the area.  <b>GS</b> re-emphasised that SBC are under extreme pressure to deliver schemes and while wanting to add more canal it was essential that funding was not lost.  <b>S A-B</b> suggested it might be advantageous to talk to Jane Campbell from the Bedford Milton Keynes Trust who were also have issues with the A421 crossing.</p>	
7	<p><b>Date and time and location of next meeting :</b>  2018 proposed dates 27<sup>th</sup> September (revised date); 6<sup>th</sup> December at Monkton Park Chippenham</p>	



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**MEETING Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm**

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

Item	Notes																								
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<b>FdRP</b>	Cllr Fleur de Rhé Philipe (Chairman)																								
<b>RWi</b>	Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council																								
<b>JA</b>	John Allen Cotswold Canals Trust																								
<b>RBI</b>	Rod Bluh Wilts & Berks Canal Trust																								
<b>RBr</b>	Richard Broadhead Wiltshire Council																								
<b>RD</b>	Rob Dean K&A Canal Trust																								
<b>SM</b>	Stuart Malaure Environment Agency																								
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<b>SP</b>	Steve Petty Berryfield Residents Association + Melksham Chamber																								
<b>RW</b>	Russell Weymouth Swindon BC																								
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Lord Lansdowne, Tim Wheeldon IWA , Cllr Gary Sumner Swindon BC, James Cleeton Sustrans, Colin Brown Oxfordshire CC, Sam Anderson-Brown Canal & River Trust, Jonathan Till Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, Colin Goodhind Melksham CAP																								
<b>2</b>	<b>Notes from the last meeting June 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 (pre-circulated) were Agreed</b>																								
<b>3</b>	<b>Chairman's Announcements</b> <b>FdRP said</b> Lord Lansdowne is recovering from an operation and hopes to attend the next meeting and that we wished him a speedy recovery. <b>FdRP</b> welcomed new representatives who had not attended before.																								
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Project Officer Report-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on membership</li> </ul> <p>KO reported that all organisations that had previously indicated that they had wished to be members of the Partnership had been contacted. The following is a list indicating where we had received confirmation of a specific contact who had agreed to receive information:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organisation</th> <th>Member Representative</th> <th>Officer Representative</th> <th>Info also sent to</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Oxfordshire County Council</td> <td>Cllr Yvonne Constance(tbc)</td> <td>Chris Brown (Flood Risk Management) James Blockley Paul Harris</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Swindon Borough Council</td> <td>Cllr Gary Sumner</td> <td>Russell Weymouth</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vale of White Horse District Council</td> <td>Cllr Roger Cox (Leader)</td> <td>TBC</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wiltshire Council</td> <td>Cllr Fleur de Rhé Philipe</td> <td>Ken Oliver Richard Broadhead</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cricklade Town</td> <td>Cllr Chris</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Organisation	Member Representative	Officer Representative	Info also sent to	Oxfordshire County Council	Cllr Yvonne Constance(tbc)	Chris Brown (Flood Risk Management) James Blockley Paul Harris		Swindon Borough Council	Cllr Gary Sumner	Russell Weymouth		Vale of White Horse District Council	Cllr Roger Cox (Leader)	TBC		Wiltshire Council	Cllr Fleur de Rhé Philipe	Ken Oliver Richard Broadhead		Cricklade Town	Cllr Chris		
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Council	Hodgson		
Melksham Town Council	Cllr Richard Wiltshire		Town Clerk
Melksham Without Parish Council	Cllr Nick Holder		Parish Clerk
Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council	Cllr Paul Heapy		
Berryfield Residents Association		Steve Petty	
British Canoeing		Kevin East	
Canal & River Trust		Sam Anderson Brown Peter Walker	
Cooper Tires		Gavin Champion	
Cotswold Canals Trust	Jon Allan		
Environment Agency		Stuart Malaure (Upper Thames Catchment Coordinator)	
Inland Waterways Association		Tim Wheeldon	Neil Edwards (CE)
Kennet & Avon Canal Trust	Rob Dean (Chairman)		
Melksham Chamber		Phil McMullen	
Natural England		Roger Griffin	
Sustrans		Tbc	
Thames Valley CC			
Thames Water		Lesley Tait	
Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	Rod Bluh (Chairman)	Jonathan Till (CE)	Administrator

**KO** noted that a number of these contacts had indicated that they may not be able to attend meetings but wished to be kept informed of updates.

**A Restoration Strategy for the Completion and Future Development of the Wilts & Berks Canal**

The draft 2018 revision of this document had been circulated to members of the Partnership. **KO** asked that any amendments should be sent by **15<sup>th</sup> November 2018** so a finalised version of the document could be sent out and submitted to the next meeting in December for discussion and approval.

5

**Projects update –**

**Melksham Link KO** reported that WBCT team were working with their consultants Black & Veatch to answer the latest questions raised by EA. **KO** also noted that this was a lengthy process as it involved submission via the Wiltshire Council case officer to EA and then waiting for a response.

**RD** asked if the issues raised had a common theme. **KO** said that mainly the outstanding issues were concerned with the River Avon. After further discussion **KO** agreed to send further information to **SM** to try to involve the Bristol Avon Catchment Coordinator Heather Barker. **KO** also will send further information to Wiltshire Council's Head of Planning about the current discussions between WBCT and consultants Black & Veatch. This work is attempting to address the latest issues identified by EA. **RB** noted the continuing urgency to get the planning application resolved. **FdRP** wondered if finances permitted to have a further 'paid for' meeting between WBCT & EA and if **SM** could ensure that the correct EA officers attended. **SP** asked about the separate Phase 1 scheme to build the marina and how that was progressing. **RB** said that it had stalled for different reasons as Canal & River Trust had decided they needed to treat the application as another potential development on the K&A and were not prepared to waive their commercial rules and fees. Currently the developer is not keen to pursue this action while WBCT try to resolve matters with CRT. **KO** also noted that CRT is intending to produce some further policy procedures for connection of third party waterways like the Wilts & Berks to their network. Until there was clarity on a potential connection agreement to the K&A this will also prevent any progress.

**KO**

**Pewsham RB** said there was nothing further to report.

**Studley Grange RB** reported a successful opening ceremony on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**RW** wondered if there was full time access for visitors. **RB** confirmed the towpath was fully open.

**M4 Crossing RB** recapped the situation and reported that WBCT had recently (via Robert Buckland MP) received a letter from Department for Transport refusing a meeting with the Minister as DfT considered this was an issue to be resolved by the LEP and the Local Authority [Letter is circulated with these notes]. **KO** suggested that WBCT urgently need to write to the Chairman of the LEP. **RW** noted there will be a huge positive impact on the Middle Wichel (Canalside) area when the current works are completed including the new waterside pub and the new housing. **RW** was concerned that at national level there did not seem to be a view about this major infrastructure project. Bearing in mind the critical time scale indicated, there seemed to be an existing risk of the project delivery timescale slipping. **FdRP** thought the wording of the letter suggested an opportunity to open a further discussion with the LEP. **RWi** suggested that the LEP should be made aware of the gains afforded by K&A restoration. After further discussion it was agreed that WBCT needed to collate some further facts then present the case to the LEP. It was agreed that **KO** would also brief Tim Martienssen. **RWi** asked how things were progressing on getting the canal into the town centre. **RB** said that there were continuing discussions which were looking more positive. **JA** asked if the tunnel required planning consent as Cotswold Canals Trust members had been very effective in using the planning system to effectively lobby the Local Authority. **KO** said that the tunnel was being built under an existing consent. **RB** also noted that Highways England have indicated that authorising a second major disruption for a separate canal tunnel may not be viewed favourably.

**KO**

#### **Swindon Wichelstowe**

**Canalside KO** reported that major works continue on the de-watered canal including lining a section of the bed. It was hoped that the works

	<p>would complete early in 2019 with the canal operational after that in time for the opening of the new pub. <b>RW</b> noted that Swindon BC were still looking to resolve how the canal will be managed in the long term and what role WBCT would have.</p> <p><b>East Wichel SM</b> asked if the leaks in the canal had been resolved. <b>KO</b> said that the specification had been agreed for investigation into the leaks by damming sections and filling with water (stilling tests) to see which sections leaked, however it was proving very difficult to find a suitable contractor to quote for the work. <b>KO</b> further noted that because of exceptionally low water level, a fish rescue had been proposed during the dry summer but in the end had not been required. Further discussions with EA will be required to find a suitable source to pump the water into the canal to carry out the stilling test.</p> <p><b>Swindon New Eastern Villages.</b> <b>KO</b> said that a revised route had been agreed for the canal to integrate with the proposed southern connector road. WBCT would shortly be submitting a pre-app to Swindon BC.</p> <p><b>Dauntsey Lock Visitor Centre (Peterborough Arms)</b> <b>RB</b> said that WBCT have now found a tenant for the Peterborough Arms which should be opening mid October. As a result there is an urgent programme under way to procure and install two temporary buildings at the rear of the pub to house the WBCT office and community room.</p>	
6	<p><b>Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust FdRP</b> informed members that a new Trust had been formed and launched with similar aims and objectives to restore the Wilts &amp; Berks Canal.</p> <p>There was a full discussion about this and members <b>Agreed</b> that it was generally unhelpful and confusing to have two Trust pursuing the same aims and that KO was authorised to offer to meet WWRT to understand their intentions.</p>	
7	<p><b>WBCT AGM October 13<sup>th</sup></b> Old Mill Hall, School Lane, Grove, Wantage, Oxon OX12 7LB. Site visits from 10 am. AGM at 2pm . All are welcome.</p>	
8	<p><b>Partners Reports and Issues</b></p> <p><b>KO</b> noted that he now attended Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and that Wiltshire Council is starting the review of its Local Plan.</p> <p><b>RW</b> said that in order to progress the towpath project at Moredon (old canal route to the south of Nova Hreod School) – this is part of a new proposed sports complex at Moredon- ecologists are looking at how to remove a large badger sett that is active in the old canal line.</p>	
9	<p><b>Date and time and location of next meeting :</b> 6<sup>th</sup> December 3pm at Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham</p>	





**MEETING Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm**

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

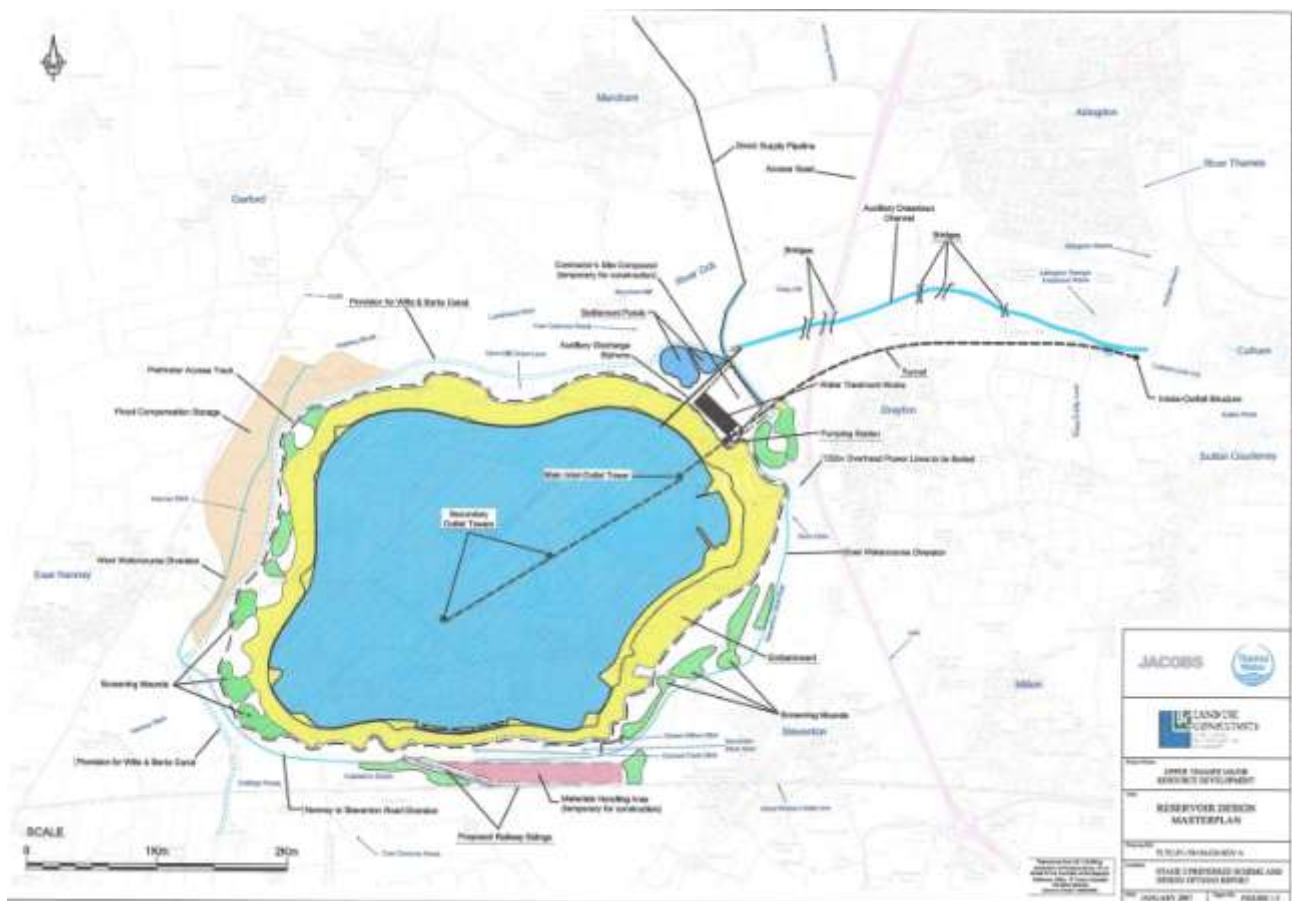
Item	<u>Notes</u>	
<b>LL</b> <b>FdRP</b> <b>RWi</b> <b>S-AB</b> <b>JA</b> <b>KO</b> <b>CS</b> <b>JT</b> <b>TW</b> <b>RW</b>	<p align="center">Attending</p> <p>Lord Lansdowne (President)            Cllr Fleur de Rhé Philipe (Chairman)            Cllr Richard Wiltshire Melksham Town Council            Sam Anderson Brown Canal River Trust            John Allen Cotswold Canals Trust            Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council            Chris Sims K&amp;A Canal Trust            Jonathan Till Wilts &amp; Berks Canal Trust            Tim Wheeldon IWA            Russell Weymouth Swindon BC</p>	
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<p align="center"><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Notes from the last meeting</b> Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September (pre-circulated) were <b>approved</b>.</p>	
<p align="center"><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Chairman's Announcements FdRP</b> welcomed new members and thanked Rob Dean (who has now stood down as Chairman KACT) for his support over many years.</p> <p><b>FdRP</b> also announced that after 17 years Lord Lansdowne is retiring as President of the Partnership and is 'irreplaceable'. <b>FdRP</b> Thanked Lord Lansdowne for all the work he had done over the years and in particular for hosting wonderful events at Bowood House.</p> <p><b>LL</b> thanked Fleur for her kind words and said he had done what he could to help since 2001 and was pleased to have seen the progress made in that time. He said he is a keen supporter of the project because the restored canal opened up public access particularly via the towpath to a green space which is so important in this 'crowded island' to give all communities a sense of well being. As a parting thought <b>LL</b> said that he thought the most challenging part of the project is to deal with the issue of the historic route that directly affected the current owner's land and homes. <b>LL</b> was not in favour of compulsory purchase and therefore having a plan for contentious sections of the canal is essential. He went on to say it had been a pleasure to meet so many interesting people from the project over the years and wanted to thank John Laverick in particular for his kind wishes. <b>TW</b> said that he would like to respond by looking at the example of the Somerset Coal Canal where as a landowner he could confirm that by the right attitude during negotiations it was unusual if a deal could not be made that was satisfactory to both parties. <b>LL</b> said he was particularly concerned about areas where the historic line directly affected people's</p>	

	<p>homes. <b>FdRP</b> thought that the slow approach would eventually win hearts and minds. <b>CS</b> said that although purists might object, the aim was to get from Semington to Abingdon and really all that was required was a technically feasible route, which may need to deviate from the historic line. <b>LL</b> said the canal was a different proposition to Sustrans projects for example, as the canal was constrained by topography. <b>LL</b> said despite this issue he was fully behind the project. <b>FdRP</b> then once again thanked Lord Lansdowne and presented him with a frame containing a collection of pictures of key projects over the years that he has been President.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p><b>Project Officer Report-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Thames Water proposals for Abingdon reservoir</li> </ul> <p>KO reported that Thames Water had revised their latest Water Resources Management Plan and for a number of reasons a major change is the inclusion of the reservoir at Abingdon. A meeting had been held recently with Thames Water and they had confirmed that the proposal at present was likely to be the scheme 'moth balled' in 2010. A layout of the proposed reservoir is shown at the end of these notes and this shows the significant impact on the canal project by delivery of a large amount of the eastern section of the Wilts &amp; Berks Canal. To meet the requirements of the WRMP the reservoir needs to be completed by 2037. Building time is 10 years and with a 5 year design and pre construction period, work will need to commence in the next few years. To progress, the WRMP will probably have to be examined at a public enquiry and then needs to be approved by the Secretary of State- this process could take 2 or more years from now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership</li> </ul> <p>KO noted that he had been in discussion with the BACP as the restoration of the Wilts &amp; Berks canal and in particular the Melksham Link would have a major impact in the catchment. A article about the Melksham Link will be submitted for their March 2019 newsletter and hopefully with this new connection with the BACP further support can be gained for the river improvement works.</p> <p>Further information at <a href="https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/bristolavon/">https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/bristolavon/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A Restoration Strategy for the Completion and Future Development of the Wilts &amp; Berks Canal-</i></li> </ul> <p>Discussion and approval is deferred to March 2019 meeting</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p><b>Projects update –</b></p> <p><b>Melksham Link- Planning application.</b> KO reported that work by consultants had been authorised by WBCT and the further information requires by EA would be submitted to planners in January. KO had continued discussion with senior directors at Wiltshire to see if the Authority could find any further ways to assist progress.</p> <p><b>Pewsham</b></p> <p>JT said WBCT while continuing restoration plans was looking at making the site a visitor destination and is currently working with landowners and Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team (WOLT) to create activities on the site. Ways of creating access and parking are currently being discussed to allow for more immediate use of the area above Top Lock.</p>	

	<p><b>Swindon Wichelstowe</b></p> <p><b>Canalside- KO</b> outlined progress with the canal and new public house which is due to open in February. <b>RW</b> described the further design of the centre and said this would be a showcase for canal restoration in Swindon.</p> <p><b>East Wichel-</b> A technical plan for investigation of the canal leak is about to be approved and work is hope to start early in 2019. One of the crucial lessons learnt is that there was no ‘stilling test’ requirement for the canal construction and this now being included in all current works. As a first step to the investigation the fish are be remove and relocated.</p> <p><b>M4 Crossing KO</b> is still trying set up a meeting with Highways England to discuss next steps if a separate canal culvert is the only likely solution.</p> <p><b>Swindon New Eastern Villages-</b> WBCT engineers are working with SBC and there consultants (Atkins) to try to evolve an integrated design for the canal and the southern connector road. WBCT intend to submit a planning application for the canal as a parallel process to the SCR application.</p> <p><b>Dauntsey Lock Visitor Centre (Peterborough Arms) JT</b> was delighted to announce that the Peterborough Arms was now open and is being run by tenants. Office accommodation for WBCT is being moved to temporary buildings at the rear of the pub.</p> <p>Questions and updates</p> <p><b>Canal &amp; River Trust SA-B</b> outlined the continuing re-alignment of management to reflect changes from ten waterway units to six regional teams. <b>KO</b> asked if the CRT restoration strategy document had been approved. <b>S A-B</b> said it was currently waiting for approval for CRT Executive. He noted that when approved this would not be a public document and essentially focussed on CRT restoration projects. Where 3<sup>rd</sup> party waterways were involved the strategy would be shared with relevant restoration groups. The document sets out the strategy in each regional area and will advises the Regional Director of what resources could be made available. The document is obviously a snapshot in time and the intention was to revisit the strategy if local situations changed – ie funding etc. <b>RWi</b> asked if the strategy took account of the leisure benefits of the restoration, <b>S A-B</b> said it fully reflected Canal &amp; River Trust health and well being agenda</p> <p><b>KO</b> asked if there had been any progress with developing an agreement for connection of the Wilts &amp; Berks (Melksham Link) to the Kennet &amp; Avon. After discussion it was agreed that it would be better progressed outside the meeting.</p>	
6	<p><b>Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust</b></p> <p>The notes of the meeting held with Chairman of WWRT had been circulated to Partnership members and are appended to these notes. After much discussion it was <b>Agreed</b> that <b>KO</b> would approach WWRT to invite them to send a representative to attend the next Partnership meeting in March before deciding whether to formally invite WWRT to join.</p>	
7	<p><b>Partners Reports and Issues</b></p> <p><b>RWi</b> asked if Semington Parish Council had indicated if they wish to join responded. <b>KO</b> apologised that this was an outstanding action.</p>	

	<p><b>S-AB</b> reminded all that the national restoration conference was taking place on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and the topic will be fundraising.</p> <p><b>RW</b> reported that the project at Moredon is going ahead in partnership with British Cycling and would use the towpath route of the canal to connect to the wider cycle network SBC will be bidding for funding for this project but <b>RW</b> also noted there were difficult issues to overcome with a large badger sett.</p> <p>There is further funding being made available for Mouldon Hill and it would be sensible to put in a bid for further canal works. <b>FdRP</b> said that the Partnership would happily write a letter of support.</p>	<b>KO</b>
8	<p><b>Date and time and location of next meeting :</b>          Dates for 2019 at Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham          7<sup>th</sup> March: 6<sup>th</sup> June: 5<sup>th</sup> September : 5<sup>th</sup> December</p>	

Thames Water proposal for Reservoir



## **Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 at Wiltshire Council Offices Monkton Park Chippenham**

Ken Oliver (KO) Partnership Officer for Wiltshire Swindon & Oxfordshire Canal Partnership

Luke Walker (LW) Chairman/Trustee Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust (WWRT)

### **Background**

The Partnership had been made aware of the formation of WWRT as a registered charity with aims identical to those of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust (WBCT). Following discussion at the September meeting of the Partnership KO had been asked to meet with WWRT to get a better understanding of why a WWRT had been formed and what the intentions of WWRT are regarding canal restoration.

### **Summary of points discussed**

LW : WWRT was formed after he left WBCT as he had a fundamental disagreement with their policy of not allowing work on land where there was not an immediate written commitment from the landowner to allow public access LW had decided that a constructive thing he could do to progress the restoration of the canal was to form a separate organisation to work in a complementary and non-competitive way to the WBCT.

KO asked if LW could supply any documentation on this issue particularly related to the public benefit requirement – Luke agreed to do so (now done).

KO said that the Partners may find it confusing to have two registered Charities with the same aims working on the same restoration project .

LW said that the aim of WWRT was to complement the work of WBCT and to carry out projects where WBCT could not or would not work.

LW also confirmed that WWRT was intending to work on specific structures rather than sections of the canal.

LW said that WWRT was intending to work at:

Latton Basin

3 sites at Foxham

Dauntsey and was also interested to know if it could work at Jubilee Junction

KO noted that the change of plans by Thames Water to reconsider the Abingdon reservoir would affect the viability of any work now at Jubilee Junction and that in terms of maintenance there was specific guidance on habitat management which Martin Buckland would share. Luke agreed to follow-up with Martin.

KO also asked because of the proximity to the Peterborough Arms how WWRT would manage the relationship with WBCT when working at Dauntsey.

KO asked about the set up of WWRT

LW said that there were 3 Trustees at present and about 10-12 active officers. There were 40-50 members.

WWRT is a corporate member of IWA but as yet IWA has not appointed a Trustee as they are seeking clarity (from the respective Chairs) on how the two Trusts would work together. Luke has responded to Neil Edwards at IWA and agreed to share that response with KO. KO noted that the WSO Partnership would most likely seek similar assurances from the two parties.

LW said they were applying for A4A funding for maintenance tools and would be willing to share this resource with WBCT.

LW said that WWRT would like to join the Partnership but was not in a financial position to contribute to Officer funding.

KO said that when these meeting notes were agreed they would be forwarded to the Partnership Chairman (Cllr. Fleur de Rhe Philipe) for further consideration.

A general discussion took place about other projects including Swindon, Melksham and the Dunnington Aqueduct.