



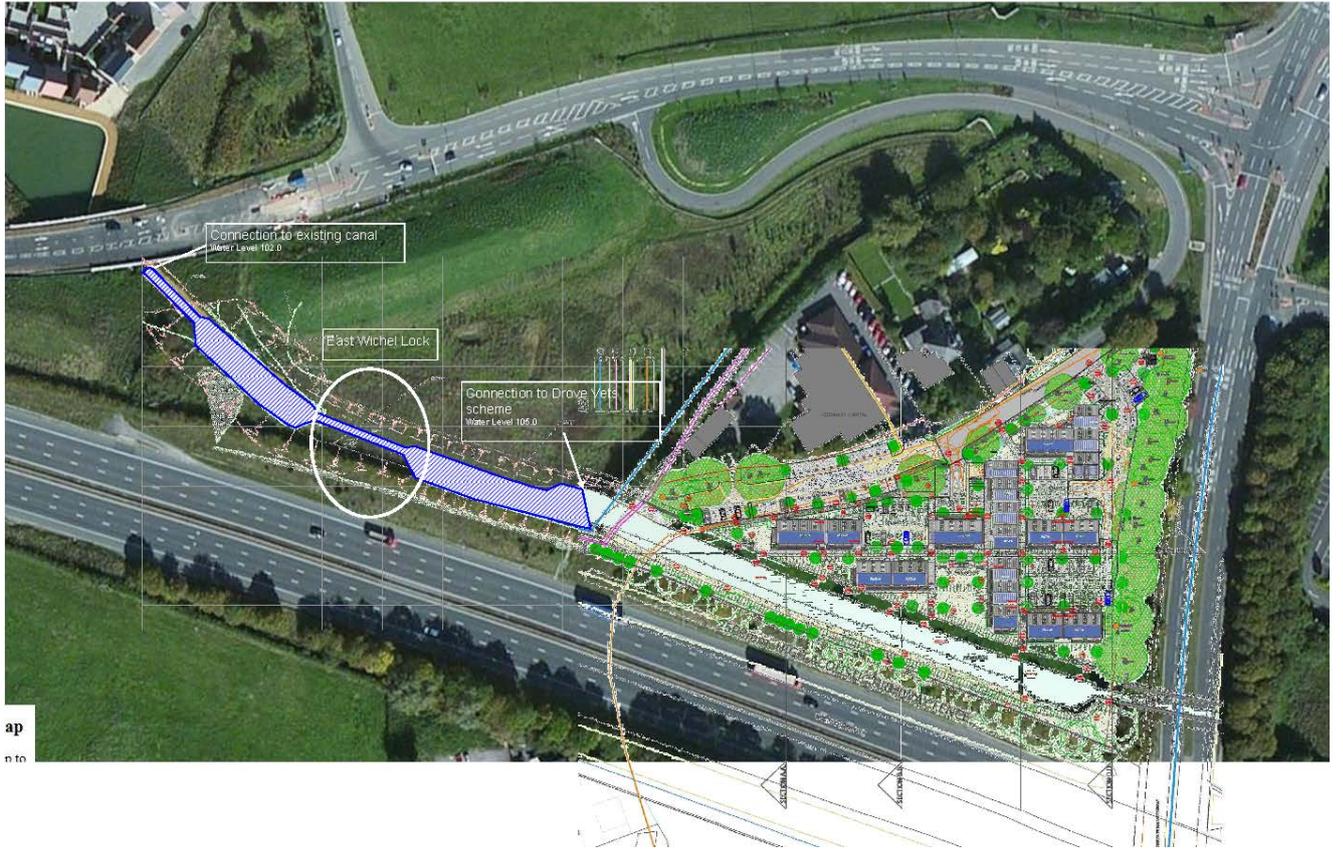
## MEETING Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm

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 style="text-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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