



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

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

Item	Notes																								
	Attending																								
<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																								
<b>KO</b>	Ken Oliver Wiltshire Council																								
<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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Cricklade Town	Cllr Chris																								

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.

**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.

#### **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

**KO**

**KO**

	<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 <b>KO</b> 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>	