



NOTES

Title	Notes from meeting to discuss canal issues with Parish Councils
Date	2 October 2014
Venue	Wilcot Village Hall
Attendees	Matthew Symonds (CRT), Cathy Clark (Pewsey PC), Wendy Tarver (Stanton St Bernard PC), Bryan Read (Stanton St Bernard PC), Dee Nix (Wilton and Huish PC), Roger Durie (Great Bedwyn Parish Council), Lee Woodstock (Boater), Savannah Northcliffe (Boater), Deborah Woodstock (Boater), Kay Wardle (Pewsey Wharf Boat Club), Gordon Heath (Pewsey Wharf Boat Club), Bob Naylor (Boater), Di Harris (Boater), Kate Weir (local resident), Chris Davies (local resident), Jane Davies (local resident), Chris Nightall (local resident), Dawn Wilson (Wilton and Huish PC/PCAP), Cardy Crebs (Boater), Marc Dyer (Boater), Craig Marsham (Boater), PC Teresa Herbert (Wiltshire Police), Ann May (Wilton and Huish PC), Pamela Smith (Boater)
Apologies	PC Richard Barratt, Susie Brew (PCAP), Jane Brown

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**

Matthew Symonds welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Actions from the meeting held on 19 May 2014:**
 - New CRT Canal Neighbourhood Maps to be circulated
The 'neighbourhood' maps are currently on hold as we work with boating organisation to review their feedbacks and comments.
 - CRT to provide an update on the Pewsey/Milkhouse Winter dredging and future plans for dredging on the east end of the K&A.
Response from Mark Stephens: There is no Pewsey Milkhouse Winter Dredging. Not sure what this refers to. We are doing bank protection works that has involved backfilling with dredged material. This work will be completed imminently. Dredging on the Long Pound remains in the National Dredging programme for 2016/17
 - Parish Councils to suggest specific locations where they believe short-stay VMs should be considered.
This item is on the agenda for discussion.
 - MS to speak to colleagues who handle permanent moorings to find out if there has been a consultation about moorings at Wilcot.
We're not aware of any consultation on permanent moorings at Wilcot.
 - Parish Councils to consider possible 'Quiet Zones' might help address issues of noise by the canal and to suggest specific locations.

This item is on the agenda for discussion.

MS to circulate the CRT towpath use consultation report

Towpath consultation questionnaire findings;

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/library/5242.pdf>. The Towpath Mooring Plan consultation – feedback report

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/library/7101-sharing-towpaths-consultation-final-summary-report-august-2014.pdf>

- MS to circulate details about ‘adopting a canal’
Details of how to adopt a canal can be found here
<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/adopt-a-canal>. To find out more about starting a canal adoption contact
volunteer@canalrivertrust.org.uk
- Waterway manager to respond to damage/potential damage to bank
Mark Stephens has reported these to the engineers to investigate. An update will be provided when available.

BR stated that he believed that CRT has a responsibility to provide parking for boaters it licenses to address the problem of parking on the verges at Stanton. MS explained that CRT does not have powers to manage parking on land that is not owned by CRT and that parking control is a local authority responsibility. MS clarified that although it is not within the Trust’s responsibility to provide parking for boaters or others, he would be willing to help facilitate a conversation between the owner of the land at Stanton where cars park to see if they are willing to offer some form of authorised parking.

Action: MS to speak with BR to make contact with the landowner.

It was suggested that the reason that boaters park in certain locations is linked to areas that they can moor and that if there were more dredging and cutting back of vegetation this would help boaters vary the places they moor and park their cars. MS explained that the Trust has this year invested an additional £2 million in dredging and vegetation cutting, but that there are always limits to the amount of funding available for this. The Trust knows this issue is important to boaters and assesses water depth along the canal to identify areas in need of dredging, but if boaters think there are specific areas that should be looked at they can pass this information to MS and he will ask for these to be investigated.

Action: all to pass specific locations re need for dredging or vegetation to be cut back to MS so these can be investigated.

3. Potential new short stay Visitor Mooring locations/Quiet zones

Visitor moorings - There was a discussion on whether there were any locations at Wilcot or elsewhere where short-stay visitor mooring should be considered. PS queried the CRT position on introducing new visitor moorings. MS confirmed that a national framework to provide guidance and standards for visitor moorings was in preparation. However, Richard Parry (CRT Chief Executive) has stated that if a local waterway is considering local changes to visitor moorings there must be clear consultation and/or evidence-gathering in each case. Any changes must be

considered against this criteria. Evidence of need could include factors such as the number of boats using a stretch of canal, whether there are local facilities or attractions. The meeting concluded that there is currently no demand for any new short-stay visitor moorings at Wilcot. It was suggested that the pub at Wilcot is an attraction that could be promoted better to canal users and boaters, for example the current pub sign is obscured by trees and in a poor condition, meaning that many boaters cannot see it.

Action: Parish council to contact the pub landlord and see if they can improve visibility of the pub to canal users.

Quiet zones - The meeting discussed Quiet Zones and whether there were any locations at Wilcot or elsewhere that may benefit from becoming 'Quiet Zones'. MS explained that 'Quiet Zones' are advisory and that CRT have no powers to enforce against those who ignore them. On the K&A two 'Quiet Zones' have been introduced where the canal is very close to residential properties, where there have been reports of noise nuisance from canal users. Ensuring that there is space available to moor close by but outside of the zone is also considered, so that boaters who may make more noise have somewhere to tie up. CM asked whether general towpath winter mooring permits (GYWMPs) can be used in Quiet Zones. MS clarified that as long as Quiet Zones are not inside the areas excluded from GTWMPs then boaters can moor there, however they would be requested to follow the 'Quiet Zone' guidance and keep noise to a minimum. There was general agreement that 'Quiet Zones' were a good idea in some locations and could benefit local residents and boaters. It was agreed that a 'Quiet Zone' in Wilcot village may be a good idea. MS confirmed that CRT to introduce a Quiet Zones they would want support from the local community, so support from the parish council would be sought before implementing any new zone.

Action: MS to circulate a map of Wilcot with options for a Quiet Zone for discussion with the group and the parish council..

Action: MS to circulate examples of the guidance given to boaters on signage in the existing Quiet Zones.

4. **Considerate Boating leaflet**

MS circulated the Considerate Boating for the east end of the K&A leaflet That has been adapted from the leaflet produced for the west end. The contact details have been amended for local authority and police contacts covering the east end of the canal. The leaflet will be printed and provided to hire boat operators and others to distribute. It was requested that the leaflet be available electronically so it could be put on the PCAP website.

Action: MS to circulate leaflets when available and provide PCAP with an electronic version of the final leaflet..

5. **Fire safety boat check project/funding bid**

MS and DW explained that for various reasons that the funding application to the Wiltshire Police Crime Commissioner fund to support additional fire safety boat

checks had been ineligible for this fund. However, another fund (the Gannet Foundation) has been identified and the application made submitted to this fund. We are awaiting the outcome of this fund. This application was highlighted as a good partnership approach as it has been made by K&A Canal Trust with support from PCAP, CRT, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue. MS stated that other ideas for joint funding bids would be welcome. PS said that boaters would be happy to provide supporting letters for similar funding applications in future. There was generally positive feedback on the work the police and fire & rescue service have been doing along the canal.

Action: MS/DW to keep the group informed of progress with the application

Action: All welcome to suggest other ideas for funding bids and potential funders would be welcomed

6. **Any other business**

Update on K&A Local Plan (between Bath and Foxhangers). MS reported that the 12 month local plan is almost half way through. A three month report on boat sightings was published in August (covering May – July) and a second report for the period August – October will be published next month. These are/will be posted on the CRT website here www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/kamooring . MS reported that some boaters are now receiving enforcement action for not following the local plan. It was suggested that some boaters are receiving enforcement letters even though they are moving. MS clarified that CRT uses its boat sighting data to identify if boats appear not to be following the local plan they will receive letters, but if boaters believe this to be incorrect and have their own record that show they have moved in accordance with the local plan then they should contact the enforcement officer if they.

An incident was reported involving an angler taking part in a match whose rods were blocking the towpath was reported. The angler had refused to move his rods, these were then accidentally damaged by a dog. The angler then attempted to seek damages from the dog's owner. The incident has now been resolved and the local angling club had been supportive in this case where the angler had been at fault for blocking the towpath, but how much effort does CRT make to communicate to Anglers about being considerate of others and not blocking the towpath? MS confirmed that we do communicate with angling clubs about this and that licenses with these clubs do include clauses about not blocking the towpath. We will investigate incidents if these are reported and we also have angling bailiffs to help ensure anglers follow the guidance. There is also an angling representative on the K&A Waterways Partnership. The new Towpath policy will be targeting all users to ensure they are considerate of each other's needs. There was a discussion on facilities, such as toilets, water points, refuse points etc that are available for anglers and other canal users.

Action: MS will clarify what the license arrangements for angling matches states in relation to toilet provision.

Action: MS will add services and facilities to the agenda of the next meeting so the group can see where existing ones are and discuss if there is a need for additional

locations.

7. Next meeting

MS proposed the next meeting will be held in April or May.

PS suggested that people could bring cakes to the next meeting and that part of the meeting could be an informal opportunity for boaters and local residents to know one another. MS suggested that if the next meeting begins at 5.30pm the first 30-45 minutes could be a social with tea and cake.

Action: MS to will circulate some possible dates for the next meeting.