

# Worcester Canal Group

## Notes of meeting 3 September 2014, Asda meeting room

### Attendance

Graham Fowler (Chair), Julie-May Adams, Alan Gordon, Ken Moller, Dan Daye, Suzanne Byrne (CRT), Peter Moorhouse, Jane Moorhouse, Adam Scott.

**Apologies** Joy Squires, Matthew Jenkins, Ivan Smith, Alan Sumnall (CRT).

1. **Notes of meeting** on 6<sup>th</sup> August accepted as true record.
2. **Matters arising:**
  - a. On policing issues, a further incident was referred to and concern expressed. It was agreed that Adam would speak to the police about this, and also introduce PCSO Slaymaker to Alan Gordon who was prepared to get more involved.
  - b. Dan updated the meeting about the steel obstruction sticking up from the gravel towpath opposite Perdiswell. CRT had told him it was an integral part of the structure, the end of a steel pile retaining the canal and had to be left. They undertook to backfill the towpath surface to remove the hazard.
3. **Worcester-Birmingham and Droitwich Canal Society.** Julie-May told the group about recent discussion on 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary with WB&DCS. A weekend at Lansdowne Park in June 2015 (12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>) was preferred, plus possible exhibitions at the Commandery and Tudor House. Liaison with Museums Service required.  
Dennis Pike from the society will come to the group, and the "Cecilia" boat is available for a day trip, if booked. More details to follow in action list.
4. A collapsing brick parapet on the bridge over the entrance to the Lowesmoor viaduct was reported. This was apparently due to a vehicle strike. Suzanne understood that the repair was in hand, and she asked that any similar concerns could be reported in via 0303 040 4040.

5. Alan Sumnall from CRT gave his apologies, but had sent in a list of basic maintenance tasks which had been agreed, items which volunteers could do with support, tools and advice from CRT. These were access points improvements, minor brickwork repairs, signage, vegetation removal and pruning, minor tow path repairs, graffiti removal, as well as the bench installation and lock gate painting that had already been discussed. Graham added a suggestion of installing mileposts. To commence this, the Saturday litterpicks would be extended, to add the extra tasks. Suzanne and Julie-May were going to check where the offer of a reclaimed timber bench from CRT was – there is still demand and some money from ARA for this.
  
6. **Next meeting – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 at Asda.** (It was felt that the room was more productive with less distractions). **Also the next litterpick on 27<sup>th</sup> September at 10.00 – vegetation removal as well.**

<b>Action Plan 2014/15 for Worcester Canal Group</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Action</b>
Wildlife Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake an ecological/wildlife survey</li> <li>• Make recommendations for future management</li> <li>• Produce information that can be used in a display on an open day etc, or leaflet</li> </ul>	Useful way of getting people involved. May have cost to pay Worcs Wildlife Trust or equivalent	Julie- May to approach Worc Wildlife Trust
Volunteer Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation removal and pruning in September</li> <li>• Graffiti removal in October</li> <li>• Towpath repairs in November</li> <li>• Bench installation asap</li> </ul>	Monthly Saturday morning sessions to coincide with litterpicks.  Meet at Lansdowne Park 10.00 pm, and CRT will provide van and equipment.	Jane Moorhouse to co-ordinate first session on 27 Sept. Adam to send out invites and press release.
Mileposts	Get sandstone posts carved and installed at appropriate locations along canal. Good 200 <sup>th</sup> anniversary project.	Needs location plotting from CRT maps. Dennis Pike (from WBDCS) has posts and information	Graham, Dennis Pike and Suzanne to liaise
Reeds – cutting back and rubbish removal	CRT will be bringing in reed cutting machinery in the close season and will inform WCG so Dan (and others?) can collect rubbish that appears.	Awaiting timescale	CRT and Dan
200 Year Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An event at Lansdowne Park on 12-14 June 2015 to be arranged, with support of WB&amp;DCS.</li> <li>• Tudor House/Commandery to be asked to arrange an exhibition</li> <li>• Sidbury highway banners to celebrate canal</li> </ul>	Fun, games, food and beer tent, celebration of the canal, and attract new interest	Liaison with Council/ARA/WB&DCS Lead?
Cecilia or Pamela May boats	Get this boat down in October, before close season, or spring 2015 for a few cruises along the canal.	How many allowed on board? Who's at the helm?	Graham
Local History tour	Agreed that Sheena Payne-Lunn, Historic Environment Record Officer from Worcester City Council will lead a walk on 19 Sept	Details to follow in invite to members	Graham/Adam

University Connections	Links for volunteering, recreation and study	Liaison with University admissions officier	Julie-May
Art connections	Various ongoing projects from County Council. Membership of Worcester Arts Council. Potential mural and public art projects. WCG logo.	Peter Moorhouse offered his experience	Adam to brief him
Developing Worcester Canal Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep expanding membership/circulation list</li> <li>• Distribute leaflets in local shops etc.</li> <li>• New poster to be produced (dog bin sticker?)</li> <li>• More press releases and networking</li> </ul>	Need a publicity effort. All ideas welcome! A special sub-group would be good	Everyone. Adam to do press releases.
Canal Community Notice Board	A notice board for the Canal Group publicity (Lansdowne Park and/or Diglis)	Get funding from the council, like other parks	Adam/Matt/Joy
Duck food	Encourage public to use quality poultry food for ducks, not just old bread	Idea borrowed from swan food on the river	?