

Attendance: Joy Squires (Chair for first section) Graham Fowler (subsequent Chair), David Ritchie, Alan Gordon, Ken Moller, Dan Daye, Suzanne Byrne (CRT), Peter Moorhouse, Jane Moorhouse, , PCSO Linda Pawley, Matthew Jenkins, Ivan Smith, David Wheeler (Chairman Worc-Birm & Droitwich Canal Society (WBDCS)) Dennis Pike, M.E.Jenkins, Geraldine Lowman, Peter Middleton, Paul Manley, Adam Scott (minutes).

Apologies Julie-May Adams, Paul Brohan, Michael Anderson

1. **Introduction** Those present introduced themselves. A special welcome to the three reps from St Pauls Hostel (Geraldine, Peter and Paul) and to David and Dennis from WBDCS.
2. **2015 Festival plans.** Graham confirmed discussions on 200th anniversary with WB&DCS. A weekend at Lansdowne Park in June 2015 (12th-14th) was preferred, plus possible exhibitions at the Commandery and Tudor House. Ivan confirmed that this could be strongly linked with Arboretum Residents Assoc, and Joy thought that this might include activities along Wolverton Rd, subject to temp. street closure, and the community gardens. There is potentially a long canal frontage as the objective is to attract many narrow boats for the weekend.

David explained how DCS had experience at organising festivals, including music stage, stalls, food, beer tent, marquees/gazebos and all logistics. They were a registered charity and had public liability coverage. The event would be free to the local community, small charge to canal boats, and all would be underwritten by the society. They would appoint a site manager to arrange and oversee the event.

- It was agreed
1. Joy would make the initial approach to the City Council for the land
 2. A site visit to be arranged for David and WBDCS colleagues by Graham.
 3. A small working group (incl.ARA) to be set up to progress – lead by Graham

3. Matters arising from 3 Sept meeting:

- a. On policing issues, Linda said that the Canalwatch scheme was only just going but she would tell PC Slaymaker about Alan's role as link.
- b. No progress yet on the steel obstruction sticking up from the gravel towpath opposite Perdiswell. Suzanne promised to chase.
- c. No progress yet on the 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 a letter be sent. The group were unhappy about this.
- d. Ivan asked for an urgent discussion about the outstanding benches – funding had been agreed by the ARA and WCG, the Police were supportive and there was no reason except CRT bureaucracy over adoption and unnecessary charges stopping it. A design had been agreed (from Paul Brohan). The sites were where previous benches had stood. The meeting wanted him to proceed to purchase and install. Suzanne agreed to

make sure there were answers by the next meeting, and he should hold off until then (NB subsequent concern expressed over recycled plastic seats)

- e. The local history canal walk was excellent and was attended by 12 people and could be repeated
- 4. **Signboards.** Jane was thanked for the excellent funding application which had been made (and was circulated) for two new noticeboards. The outcome was awaited soon, and details would follow. WBDCS was offering to help maintain information, to adopt them. Local history info was an important feature. Peter added that he was in touch with the site manager of the new St Georges lane housing site and a meeting was to be set up to discuss possible art work. He had also been in touch with Dan Pitt.
- 5. **Cecilia** This was available on November 14th and it was agreed a trip should be arranged for a day cruise from Alvechurch, with a minii-bus (or lifts) to be arranged from Worcester. Alan has now given details of a mini-bus. The narrow-boat can take 12 people, and 9 have confirmed so there will be room for others. Peter Middleton has helmsman experience.
- 6. **Volunteering update** the last weekend had some extra work done on vegetation clearance and graffiti removal, led by Jane. It was felt best to tackle a stretch at time, doing what is needed. Good fun and a chance to meet others, all welcome! Next session 25th October. St Paul's outlined their weekly sessions, meeting 10.00 Monday at Lock 4, Blockhouse. Graham will attend, all others welcome. CRT to co-ordinate and support volunteer effort.
- 7. **Marketing and communications** a)Ivan offered a free “pop-up” banner, for promoting the Group. Needs new art work, Matt agreed to lead with appropriate support. b) Adam agreed to arrange leaflet distribution over next few months. c) ARA “Flavours of the Arboretum” event on Saturday 18th October 6-9 pm, to be used to promote WCG, Adam and any others to attend. d) WBDCS monthly meeting evening of first Tuesday in each month at Alvechurch. All welcome. Also have a look at the “58” monthly magazine, and the web site.
- 8. **Treasurer’s report** £780.27 plus £15 cash in hand. £10 donation received from Phil Pegler, gratefully received, letter of thanks to be sent plus invite to Cecilia.
- 9. **AOB** Regional AGM of CRT to be held in Gloucester on 22 October. Adam to try and attend.
List of WCG officers to be sent to Suzanne
- 10. **Next meetings – Tuesday 11 November, 7.15 at Guildhall. Then Tuesday 9th December.**
Also the next litterpick and volunteer session on 25th October at 10.00

Action Plan 2014/15 for Worcester Canal Group			
Title	Detail	Comments	Action
Wildlife Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake an ecological/wildlife survey Make recommendations for future management Produce information that can be used in a display on an open day etc, or leaflet 	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"> Vegetation removal and pruning in September Future sessions to look at stretches for comprehensive work Bench installation asap 	Monthly Saturday morning sessions to coincide with litterpicks. Meet at Lansdowne Park 10.00 pm, and CRT will provide van and equipment.	Ongoing
Mileposts	Get sandstone posts carved and installed at appropriate locations along canal. 3 to be located in City. Good 200 th anniversary project.	Needs location plotting from CRT maps. Dennis Pike (from WBDCS) has posts and information	Three to be in place by June 2015
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"> An event at Lansdowne Park on 12-14 June 2015 to be arranged, with support of WB&DCS. Tudor House/Commandery to be asked to arrange an exhibition Sidbury highway banners to celebrate canal 	Fun, games, food and beer tent, celebration of the canal, and attract new interest	Liaison with Council/ARA/ Lead by WB&DCS. Working group to be set asap after site visit
Cecilia or Pamela May boats	Trip on 14 November. Bus from Worcester	12 allowed on board. Experience helmsman required, Peter Middleton volunteered	Graham/Adam
Local History tour COMPLETE	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 officer	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	
Developing Worcester Canal Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep expanding membership/circulation list • Distribute leaflets in local shops etc. • New poster to be produced (dog bin sticker?) • More press releases and networking 	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	Jane/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	?