

## North West Regional Navigation Liaison Meeting.

Date : 01/10/15 ( 14:00 )

Venue : Navigation Rd., Northwich.

Attendees :

<u>Canal &amp; River Trust</u> Wendy Cappelle ( North Wales & Borders Waterway Manager) Chantelle Seaborn ( North West Waterway Manager) David Baldacchino ( Manchester & Pennines Waterway Manager)	<u>Inland Waterways Association</u> Steve Connolly – Manchester branch Michael Haig - Shrewsbury & North Wales (facilitating) Mike Carter - NW Region Chairman Alan Platt – Shrewsbury & North Wales
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### Notes from the meeting

#### Review of action items from previous meeting:

- New CRT website to be launched next week with improved search engine and revised layouts. It was noted that IWA NW region was not formally asked to review new site prior to release. - Action Complete.
- DB reported that the definition of a Restriction was any issue that causes navigational delays of less than 4hrs. Thus any navigational delays over 4hrs will be classed as a Stoppage. DB Action Complete
- Manchester Undercroft consultation. IWA objections were published on Manchester Planning website in July, MC action complete. **See item below.**
- Risk Assessment and Method Statements have been drafted on the use of portable floating platforms for offside vegetation clearance. MC Action Complete. **See item below**
- The winter maintenance schedule enclosed as attachment for current meeting, MC Action complete, **See item below.**
- Upper Peak Forest Canal, bridge 6 adoption requires to be clarified, see item below. **(SC action carried forward)**.
- Ring the Ring, project. See item below. Historic date of opening of complete Cheshire Ring to be clarified. **(Action MC to follow up with John Tackley)**
- CRT Wigan service block plans to be clarified, not discussed due to time constraints. **(CS Action, carried forward)**
- Logistics for Liverpool Link boat movements now finalised. MC & CS action complete.

#### Regional Consultations

Follow up consultation on Leeds & Liverpool Link changes will be carried out during Nov/Dec Initial feedback indicates potential problems with staffing resources to operate swing bridges. MC indicated that CRT budgets should be increased in line with the Liverpool's rising status as the primary CRT location nationally. **(Action MC to seek comments from Richard Parry, via Navcom)**

Marple Aqueduct fencing. Detailed plans not yet available. **(Action DB to monitor situation)**

Manchester Undercroft consultation – Planning permission has been obtained for fencing off the undercroft area overnight, the next step is for the LA is to obtain a Safety Protection Order which is valid for 3 years. IWAs opposition to this plan was reiterated, alternative plans based on investment in developments that remove barriers to the waterways in this area are IWAs preferred solution. MC encouraged CRT to 'think big' when considering the future of the canals in Manchester. The 'Discover Manchester's Wonderful Canals' initiative is a start but not enough, IWA will continue to lobby LA and developers to invest more resources to make Manchester a 'must see' waterways feature. In addition a suggestion for a CRT "welcome station" on the Rochdale 9 with IWA volunteer help or with towpath rangers etc. was considered. **(Action SC to lobby local councillors via. Local Branch and MC seek comments from Richard Parry, via Navcom)**

Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal; Prior to submitting a detailed planning application for the Middlewood site Scarborough Group stated that A restored canal is seen as central to the success of the development, providing a green corridor / focal area for residents. **(Action SC to invite MB&B Canal Soc. to compose restoration update/report for an IWA bulletin. )**

### Winter Maintenance Schedule 2015/16.

The North West Area winter maintenance schedule was discussed and agreed with the following caveats.

Weston Marsh Lock works schedule may change as surveys results come in. If any longer term stoppages are to be considered here the alternative route via Runcorn Docks will be established as an alternative. This location is also being considered as a suitable venue for a CRT Open Day **(Action WC to monitor and report)**

The planned long term stoppage (4 months) on non-CRT Bridgewater canal at Worsley will be the subject of a meeting between CRT and Peel Ports as soon as possible. The most effective way of publicising this stoppage via CRTs customer information systems/website is to be a crucial outcome of this meeting. **(Action BD & CS)**

### Dredging & Water Supply

Water retention on Wigan flight has continued to improve with the scheduled overnight lock ups and use of volunteer lock keepers.

BD reported that planned dredging on Huddersfield Canal (lock21W to 13W) will be full line/profile dredging not just spot dredging.

### Vegetation Clearance.

A copy of the Risk Assessment and Method Statement for use of floating platforms for offside veg clearance, drafted by MC, is to be released to CRT managers ( **Action MC**)

Guidelines for Hedge to 'Waters Edge' specification need to be reinforced with CRT contractors. It was noted that saplings more than 75mm dia. would not be cut by contractors, such 'saplings' will be the subject of a 'Tree Order' **(Action MC, SC & MH invite Local Branches to identify areas where 'waters edge' has not been cut.)**

### Events

Feedback from recent Leigh festival will be shared with the local authority, the water based features were fine, however issues with some areas of site (ownership and insurance) detracted from this event. **( Action CS )**

Plans for Leeds & Liverpool Bi-Centennial 2016 events are progressing via CRT hosted committee. **( Action CS to ensure progress reports continue as developments occur)**

IWA Liverpool Eldonian Canal Festival 2016 – IWA would like to thank the staff of CRT Wigan Office for their continuing support and fortitude in the ongoing logistical planning for this large event. Event details were distributed to all CRT managers. **( MC to supply site prep details to CRT NW Ops managers)**

Maesbury Marsh 2016 – Info. on this planned event to be supplied to WC **(action MH via. Local Branch)**

Northwich (Hathurst) river festival 2016 draft plans to be obtained from RWNS **(Action MC via, Local Branch)**

### User Forums

Feedback from User Group Forums although a valuable planning resource for CRT is becoming sparse due to recent poor turnouts. CRT & IWA will continue to consider options for increasing the appeal of these forums, e.g. advertised days for conference/surgeries etc.. **(Action All)**

### Volunteering & Projects.

Clarification on reporting volunteer hours to CRT was obtained. > Hours for any IWA members attending IWA workparties who are also registered as CRT volunteers will be individually identified in volunteer hours returns.

The schedule for works as part of the 'Ringing the Ring' project on Cheshire Ring needs to be presented as soon as possible. **(Action SC & MC)**

## Other Items

- Hurleston bottom lock – No further movement of lock walls has been detected, HNBC (nb Plover ) successful transit was monitored recently – CRT recognises that its tight but there are no plans for further scabbling works.
- Dee Lock developments stalled due to delays with EA flood relief works. The IWA tide gauge board has been purchased and assembled and is ready for installation as soon as EA works allow. **(Action MC to follow up with CRT engineering via. Local Branch)**
- “On the water” experience for CRT Partnership and staff members – After a very fruitful boat trip on the Ashton DB would like to follow up with more boat trips on Rochdale & Aston. Other areas have also had good on the water experiences.
- Trent & Mersey - Preston Brook > state of the track ( **CF to next meeting** )
- Recycling bins progress – CRT feedback indicates that the mix is not good, with some boaters failing to sort waste as required . **(Action MC to investigate via. Local Branches prior to submitting a report for the IWA bulletin)**
- Availability and state of Services at Autherley, Middlewich and Wigan continues to be an issue. Proposals for L&L Wigan services to be clarified **(CS Action) ( CF to next meeting)**

Next Meeting – 25/2/16 at Red Bull offices