

NOTES ON JOINT CRT/IWA NAVIGATION MEETING 26 FEB 2016 at 2pm

At CRT Red Bull Office

Attendees: Wendy Capelle, Chantelle Seaborn, David Baldacchino – CRT Managers, Sally Budd - CRT Region Engineer, Mike Haig, Steve Connolly, Alan Platt – IWA, Nick Culliford – AWCC (by invitation)

Apologies: Mike Carter – IWA

MH opened by saying that IWA Lancs & Cumbria hoped to send a representative to future meetings and introducing NC as a representative of IWA-affiliated organisation AWCC.

Service Points recycling facilities - WC said this was trial in NW&B and she would check if it would continue next year. It was agreed that boater education was a problem, especially as councils did not operate the same system domestically. IWA agreed to publicise the facilities, and MH asked if the scheme was confined only to NW&B or would be found elsewhere on the network. WC undertook to respond. CRT said there was a general problem with fly tipping. **ACTION - WC**

Bridgewater - The new regime introduced by Peter Parkinson of Peel/Bridgewater Canal Co could be taken as unduly restricting, but the idea was rather to restrict overstaying rather than to prevent genuine transits eg to the June Eldonian Festival. NC was concerned about CRT enforcement on Bridgewater licence holders. Mike C with IWA nationally needed to help clarify the position with Peel. **ACTION - MC**

Winter Maintenance - on schedule – (we now have the consultation timetable for 16/17)

Manchester Undercroft - There could be an apparent contradiction between the Undercroft Gating proposals and the 'Discover Manchester Canals' initiative. DB said at present the consultation on the former was being reviewed by the council. IWA had formally objected but SC accepted the reality is what CRT propose. To encourage usage of the area, DB said there was some money for moorings on the Ashton, signage, a temporary office/welcome station, which could be a boat, and volunteer lock keepers on the Rochdale 9. DB said he would welcome IWA volunteers manning a welcome station or acting as volunteer rangers, especially on the Rochdale Nine.

Storm Damage - DB gave a run down on the significant storm damage on the Rochdale & Huddersfield and that repairs needed to be assessed etc. Best estimate was Sowerby - Hebden Bridge could be open by Easter with HB to Br 14 by summer, but external funding etc was needed.

User Groups - CRT would like to know what users wanted from these workshops; it was agreed UGMs needed to be cost effective and flexible.

CRT/IWA Workboat Scheme - The option of using volunteers to assist with work boat movements , now that these were being centralised was discussed.

Services - CS said Wigan office was relocating to the opposite side of the canal with a loss of the moorings and facilities there. The old issue of waste disposal in Middlewich and at Autherley was raised.

Winding Hole Survey - IWA had produced a national audit of winding holes and the NW Region part of this, including recommendations for additional winding holes, was tabled by MH. Subsequent discussion revealed some immediate discrepancies between winding holes on IWA's list and those on CRT's asset register. It was agreed that a mutually agreed list was necessary and that further joint work was needed to reconcile IWA's audit and CRT's asset register. ACTION – MC & IWA to coordinate with CRT waterway managers

Events - There were major events planned for the L&L bicentenary and CRT and IWA were working together re Eldonian; specifically, SC assured AP that a temporary permit for the Liverpool Docks trip boat to access the area for the weekend should be feasible, as CRT had no suitable boat or funding available. The staffing of swing bridges in Liverpool was essential, and to cope with disgruntled road users, this should be CRT staff rather than volunteers. Electronic signage should help.

'Ringing the ring' - SC and CS discussed the heritage implications and the general rule seems to be that with historic stone copings the holes for rings must be behind the copings, whereas for concrete the copings could be drilled, but a heritage assessment will be needed for all cases.

It was agreed there should be future meetings, which would benefit from Mike C's availability. **In the meantime, it was agreed to hold the next meeting on Tuesday 17 May 2016 at 1pm at CRT's new Wigan office.**
