

## North West Regional Navigation Liaison Meeting.

Date : 23/4/15 ( 10:00 )

Venue : Waterside House, Wigan

Attendees :

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

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

- Feedback on effectiveness of CRT web site provided by MC - Poor search and internal links, e.g. Anderton Lift. WC reported that the CRT web site was under review with a new style due for release shortly. ( **Action WC** to report on progress and release plans.)
- Definition of Stoppage v Restriction in terms of hrs impact continues to be under review – (**Action DB.**)
- Improved publicity concerning CRT open days - DB action complete.
- Encouraging boaters to report issues using CRT contact points, email (enquiries@) and telephone (03030). MC action complete.
- Green flag status update for Macclesfield Canal, formal assessment due 21<sup>st</sup> May – SC Action complete.
- Ringing the ring project ( see agenda item below)

#### Consultations

Recent consultations on Leeds & Liverpool Link; Marple Aqueduct; Mooring Sales and Licence T&Cs completed. IWA have requested that longer lead times and wider community audiences be considered to ensure more effective responses.

Manchester Undercroft consultation – The formal Manchester City Council consultation has not yet been opened. There was concern that IWAs response to this consultation, which was submitted in Jan 2014, may be overlooked. IWA are still not able to find an MCC open consultation on this matter, thus are relying on CRT to express IWAs views at the various meetings with MCC. **Action DB**

#### Winter Maintenance Schedule 2015/16.

The schedule for consultation on winter maintenance schedule was discussed. Phase 1 of this consultation will open in early May. **Action MC to review and report**

#### Dredging & Water Supply

Dredging scheduled on Lancaster prior to Trail Boat festival.

Spot dredging (pinch points) planned for Weaver, Leeds & Liverpool and Huddersfield.

Earlier proposals to improve water supply for Pennine waterways using boreholes has come to nothing.

Water retention on Wigan flight has improved with targeted overnight lock ups and use of volunteer lockkeepers.

#### Vegetation Clearance.

Annual programme started in March. Wildlife nesting period allows for 6 cuts on all towpaths and 12 at locks annually.

Two successful offside clearance volunteer tasks were completed on Macclesfield Canal and Shropshire Union Wirral line. Risk Assessment and Method Statements are currently being drafted on the use of portable floating platforms.

**Action MC**

#### User Forums

Feedback from User Group Forums continues to be a valuable planning resource for CRT.

## Volunteering.

The success of CRT volunteer lock keepers recruitment was recognised.

Overall, CRT operations staff have adapted well to the coordination and use of volunteers in their day to day work. However, expectations and communications still need to be improved.

Task to clear floating pennywort on Upper Peak Forest Canal (bridge 6 adoption ) require clarification. (**Action DB & SC**).

The 'Ringing the Ring' project on Cheshire Ring is progressing as survey data is collected. It was suggested that work could start at specific areas before the complete survey results are collated. Historic date of opening of complete Cheshire Ring (Rochdale 9) to be clarified. (**Action SC & DB**)

## Other Items

- Hurleston bottom lock – No movement of lock walls has been detected, however boats continue to get stuck occasionally. Thus a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of scabbling may need to be considered.
- Winding capability North and South of Bollington will be improved by dredging and improved signage.
- 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**)
- 2016 Leeds & Liverpool bicentennial discussed – IWA will work with CRT and other partners to organise a IWA 2016 waterways festival on the Leeda & Liverpool at Eldonian Village. Logistics for Liverpool Link boat movements need to be clarified as soon as possible. **Action MC & CS** .
- Opportunities to use of volunteers to provide 'on the water' experience for Partnership and Staff members will be sought.
- Dee Lock developments progressing alongside scheduled EA flood relief works.

Next Meeting – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October at Red Bull offices