



MINUTES

Title Iron Trunk Aqueduct
Date 23rd November 2011
Venue The Town Hall, Wolverton
Attendees As attached

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions MG
 - i. MG welcomed those present and invited people to introduce themselves

2. Funding JC

JC gave an overview of the funding sources, totalling c £375k. BW senior management had required a contingency plan for completing the painting works in the unlikely event that all foreseen risks occurred. Consequently some of the other items would then have to be scaled back.

3. Programme
 - i. Overview

JS said leak-reduction and south embankment cleaning works were likely to begin before Christmas, with the remainder beginning in January. RH expressed concern that he couldn't take bookings whilst the stoppage was in place (4th January – 9th March). JS said that this had been notified to all customers several months ago. BW would hope not to need it, but this depended on the outcome of the pre-Christmas leak reduction and would obviously seek to keep any closure as brief as possible.
 - ii. Approvals

Scheduled Monument Consent granted very quickly; awaiting Environment Agency agreement for gas pipe removal, planning application for interpretation boards to be submitted
 - iii. Gas pipe

To be removed by BW contractor in January, subject to acceptance of the method statement by the gas utility and formal confirmation that they will meet the total cost

4. Interpretation

i. Interpretation programme

SD explained that Red Kite Environment was producing a series of new interpretive panels for the Iron Trunk and the immediate surrounding area: 2 replacement panels (one at the Iron Trunk and one by the river), 2 new panels, (one beside the 'viewing platform' and one beside the historic pumping engine) plus 2 taster panels in the two car parks (a panel at each 'end' - at Cosgrove and Wolverton) and metal tactile rubbing points on some of the existing wooden totems beside seats. She will be working with Brian Collings to develop the text, which will also be circulated to the Partnership for comment. At draft and final stage of production. Sarah showed early concept design mock-ups of the larger panels and the car park panels and explained that the large panels will all have a similar format with two sections common to all panels (an introduction to the Iron Trunk and a map) and 4 site specific elements (a central character with small drawings of the other three characters on the main panels, a children's corner and a contemporary story). Each character will also have an audio piece, which will be available to download from the internet. Depending upon the school's programme the characters may also have a download voiced by children.

ii. Education

SD is meeting Cosgrove Primary and Radcliffe Secondary school staff this afternoon. Peter Ralley, film maker & audio technician will work with both schools to develop film and photography projects which will be used for the launch as well as delivering relevant additional elements to the curriculum for the schools. Cosgrove will produce a series of interactive resources on DVD and these can also be available on the internet. Radcliffe – Gifted Y8 students will undertake a film / photography project which may also feed into Cosgrove work. Slated Row school have expressed an interest in making a scale model of the iron Trunk in their grounds. The artwork for the panels will be available for the schools to use, where appropriate.

iii. Museums

SD said artwork and research materials produced during the production of the panel and the schools projects could possibly be developed for temporary pull-up displays and these could be provided to the two museums, for the duration of the works. DH asked if a more permanent display could be provided. SD to discuss, but mindful of the finite budget.

5. Circular walks team
 - i. Design

JC said the 5 walks had been devised by the team, led by MK Parks Trust, using existing public paths, plus 2 cycle routes. These had been tested by volunteers, who had identified suitable locations for waymarkers, as well as cleaning existing signs.
 - ii. Signage

Radcliffe School Y8 students are designing a logo for the project. Y10 will select the top 5 designs before Christmas and JC will circulate to this group for comment. The winning scheme may well be 'polished' by a professional designer. It will be used on the waymarker discs. Posts to be supplied for by the two Rights of Way teams and then painted / installed by Community Payback offenders
 - iii. Leaflet

JC explained he was seeking funding as this is extra to the project. MG offered £250 from his budget and suggested the other two ward councillors be invited to do the same. Cosgrove Parish had declined to contribute. AW increased his original offer of £1,000 by £500. An application is to be made to the Town Council for £1,000. HW is to approach the Wolverton Steering Group and Wolverton Alliance. MG suggested we increase the budget and include a print run.
6. Cosgrove Lock
 - i. Car park

Buckingham Canal Society had spent 3 days cutting back vegetation and painting railings etc, about 30 volunteer days in total. South Northants Council has offered £5k towards filling-in potholes and generally improving the surface
 - ii. Towpath

Unfortunately the cost of improvements was greater than the modest budget held by NCC. BW is making a contribution and NCC revisiting other funding sources
 - iii. Brown signs

NCC generously funding c£4k worth of brown tourist signs from the A508 to Cosgrove Lock, to be installed towards the end of the financial year
7. Open Day plans
 - i. JC said this was likely to happen on a Sunday in early February, subject to the contractor's programme. He outlined possible activities: guided walks, led by MKPT volunteers maybe including Health Walks participants, volunteer photographs displayed – either in pub (and Cosgrove Hotel)

or Wolverton Town Council building, children's' activities, including scavenger hunt, courtesy of Julie Dawes. Also opportunity to recruit 'rover rangers' – perhaps potential "Friends of", an historical interpreter. Both MK Parks Trust & NCC have mobile units which could be used. Howard Yates (Carts and Crafts) has been invited to attend, in costume with his horse. It was also suggested we might get an historical boat and possibly Cosgrove Narrowboats.

- ii. Buckingham Canal Soc offered to attend with a stall / display
- iii. JC was asked if there was sufficient car parking available, if the event was very popular.

8. AOB

i. Canal & River Trust

JC stated that BW would become the Canal & Rover Trust from April next year and showed a copy of the new logo.

ii. Communications

JC said there had been articles in the Milton Keynes Citizen and MK News about the funding from WREN. ITV Anglia had contacted BW to ask about start date for the works. HW offered to help with communications and will contact BW's Sarah Rudy

HW

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 4th January 2012 @ 10am
Milton Keynes Museum, MK12 5EL (tbc)

Attendees

Mike Galloway	MIK Councillor (chair)
James Clifton	British Waterways
Jayne Slaughter	British Waterways
Sarah Douglas	Red Kite Environment (interpretation consultant)
Vernon Draper	Buckingham Canal Society
Athina Beckett	Buckingham Canal Society & IWA MK branch
Geoff Wood	IWA Northamptonshire branch
Richard Hyde	Cosgrove Narrowboat Co
David Henderson	Canal Museum, Stoke Bruerne
Ron West	Old Wolverton Residents' Association
Alan Holmes	MK Council
Helen Wright	Wolverton Steering Group
Mandy Lumb	South Northants Council
Allen Walker	Northamptonshire County Council

Apologies

Sarah Rudy	British Waterways
Graham Wort	church warden, Cosgrove
A G Hickie	Chair, Cosgrove Parish Council
Brian Taylor	Cosgrove Park
Liz Behrens	Cosgrove Primary School
Dominic Milner	Environment Agency
Janet Irons	Wolverton Councillor
Andy Burton	MK Council
Carol Hewison	MK Council
Phil Bowsher	MK Parks Trust
Briony Serginson	MK Parks Trust
Jennifer Sherrey	Northamptonshire County Council
Mark Viggars	Places for People
Cathy Holoway	Radcliffe School
Jenny Dibsall	Waterway Chaplain, Salvation Army