

MINUTES of the meeting of the **BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held at 10.05 am on 10 October 2013 at Mytchett Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, Surrey, GU16 6DD.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting.

Hampshire County Council

Councillor Keith Chapman (Chairman)
Councillor John Bennison
Councillor Brian Gurden
Councillor Elaine Still

Surrey County Council

Mrs Linda Kemeny (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Colin Kemp
Mr Chris Pitt

Hampshire Districts:

Hart District Council

Councillor Simon Ambler
Councillor Jonathan Glen

Rushmoor Borough Council

Councillor David Welch
Councillor J H Marsh

Surrey Districts:

Guildford Borough Council

Councillor Gordon Jackson

Runnymede Borough Council

Councillor J M Edwards

Surrey Heath Borough Council

Councillor Paul Ilnicki

Woking Borough Council

Councillor K Davis

Special Interest Groups

Basingstoke Canal Society

Martin Leech
Mr P Riley

Natural England

Adam Wallace

29/13 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN [Item 1]

Councillor Keith Chapman was proposed by Councillor Elaine Still and seconded by Councillor Linda Kemeny to be appointed the Chairman for two years. The Committee unanimously voted to appoint Councillor Keith Chapman as the Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee.

RESOLVED: That

1. Councillor Keith Chapman be appointed as the Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee for two years.

30/13 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN [Item 2]

Councillor Linda Kemeny was proposed by Councillor Keith Chapman and seconded by Councillors Chris Pitt and Coline Kemp to be appointed the Vice-Chairman for two years. The Committee unanimously voted to appoint Councillor Linda Kemeny as the Vice-Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee.

The Chairman and Gareth Jones proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Linda Kemeny for her role as Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee over the last two years, and for the progress that had been made under her Chairmanship.

RESOLVED: That

1. Councillor Linda Kemeny be appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee for two years.

31/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 3]

Apologies were received from Ben Carasco.

32/13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 5 JUNE 2013 [Item 4]

The minutes of the meeting on 5 June 2013 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

33/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 5]

There were no declarations of interest.

34/13 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 6]

There were no questions or petitions.

35/13 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS MEMBERSHIP [Item 7]

Declarations of interest:

None.

Officers:

Victoria Lower, Committee Assistant

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. Elected Members of the Committee were provided with a copy of submissions by groups who wished to be co-opted onto the Joint Management Committee as advisory Special Interest Groups. A copy of this document is attached to the minutes for information.
2. Members discussed the need to engage with all interested user groups of the Basingstoke Canal to ensure their knowledge and passion was utilised to make the Canal a successful recreational facility in the area. The Chairman and Officers assured Members that groups were welcome to attend other forums and contact the Canal Authority prior to meetings to raise concerns. Additionally, before each meeting of the Committee there was a five minute public question time during which they could speak.
3. The Committee were informed that, in line with the Memorandum of Agreement, there were eight advisory positions available on the Committee but two were permanent seats for the Basingstoke Canal Society and one for Natural England. It was felt by Members that the membership should not be increased as it would lead to the meetings being ineffective.
4. The Chairman invited the groups who were present to speak about their interest in the Canal and their knowledge and experience. The Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club, Accessible Boating, Hart District Association of Parish & Town Councils, Inland Waterways Association and Residential Boat Owners Association spoke to the Committee reiterating their desire to be part of the Committee, as set out in their written submissions to the Committee.
5. The Chairman requested a ballot be taken, and that elected Members vote for up to five groups to join the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee as Special Interest Groups. Figures from the voting can be found attached to these minutes.

RESOLVED: That

1. The Joint Management Committee appoints Special Interest Groups for four year terms which run concurrent to County Council elections.
2. The membership of the Basingstoke Canal Society and Natural England be renewed for four years.
3. That the following five groups be appointed to the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee for four years, until the County Council elections in 2017:
 - a. Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club
 - b. Hart District Association of Parish & Town Councils
 - c. Inland Waterways Association
 - d. John Cale Canal Cruises

e. Residential Boat Owners Association

Recommendations:

1. That the Honorary Secretary contact those groups who were unsuccessful in being appointed to the Committee and invite them to attend alternative meetings and the Joint Management Committee meetings as a member of the public.
2. That the Committee consider the appointments of Special Interest Groups in May 2017.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee next steps:

The Committee review the appointments of Special Interest Groups in four years.

36/13 REVISED BUDGET 2013/14 AND FORWARD BUDGET 2014/15 [Item 8]

Declarations of interest:

None.

Officers:

Jane Lovett, Honorary Treasurer, Basingstoke Canal Authority

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Committee were provided with an update of the financial situation of the Canal Authority and anticipated situation of the Authority in the next financial year. It was noted that saving would need to be identified in both the current year and in 2014/2015 to balance the budget, and that an updated position would be presented to the Committee at its meeting in February.
2. Members queried the contribution of Surrey County Council and requested that if the contribution had gone down that it is stated clearly as such, rather than the Fibre Optic and cafe lease funds decreasing. Officers and Surrey County Councillors explained that they were in a time of severe budget restraints and that this decrease would only apply for 2013/14 financial year. Surrey further stated that it would continue to contribute revenue towards the canal, but also pointed out that Surrey is making substantial (£2m over four years) capital contributions plus the contribution to fund the feasibility for the Mytchett site which will generate substantial income.
3. The Committee additionally queried the contribution for Odiham Parish Council which stated £0. The Honorary Treasurer explained that the £0 related to the contributions due under the formula, although the budget did assume that the Parish would contribute. The Parish

Councils' representative reported that although it had not yet agreed its contribution to the Canal Authority, it was understood that they would continue to contribute.

4. Members suggested that a Business Sub-Group be created which would assist in making the Basingstoke Canal a more profitable and self-sustaining asset. Officers agreed to take this idea forward.
5. Members queried whether the budget allocated funds for dredging the canal as silt build up would cause the canal to become impassable in future. Officers confirmed that they would like to dredge sections of the canal; however the works budget was £100,000 per annum less than the Asset Management Plan recommended and that it was not allowing anything other than limited spot dredging to be carried out. Officers agreed to address this issue and update the Committee in due course.
6. The contributions from Surrey Heath Borough Council and Runnymede Borough Council were raised as a concern, though officers confirmed they had a meeting arranged to discuss the canal with senior officers from Surrey Heath. It was suggested by Members that Councillors should also attend this meeting.

RESOLVED: That

1. The revised budget for 2013/2014 be agreed.
2. The proposed forward budget for 2014/2015 be accepted.
3. The Committee urge all partner authorities to make their full contributions and to honour the agreed scale contributions for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

Recommendations:

1. That a Business Sub-Group be formed to utilise the business expertise of the Committee membership in order to make the Canal Authority a more profitable and sustainable facility.
2. That officers consider future dredging of the canal to ensure that it remains navigable in the future.

Actions/further information to be provided:

That officers consider appropriate approaches to further improve the Canal Authority's financial sustainability and profitability.

Committee next steps:

None.

37/13 STRATEGY DECISION PAPER [Item 9]

Declarations of interest:

None.

Officers:

James Taylor, Senior Countryside Management Officer, Surrey County Council

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The officer explained that the Strategy would replace the Strategic Plan and would set up the mission, vision, strategic priorities and key results measures for the Basingstoke Canal. The Strategy stated there were seven strategic priorities for the canal with Key Results Indicators to assist Members and senior officers in assessing the performance of the Canal Authority. There would be a dashboard of ten “broadbrush” Key Results Indicators which would be fed through officers measuring around 300 targets and goals in the operational level plans.
2. The aim of the Strategy was to assist in making the Basingstoke Canal increasingly self-supporting and would come into effect early next year. The Strategy would run for five years until 2019 though would be reviewed annually to ensure it remained current.
3. The Committee queried whether it was advisable to work towards an SSSI condition of good as it was understood it was not possible for the canal to achieve this. Officers stated that both owning authorities and the Canal Authority had a legal obligation to work towards improving the SSSI condition of the canal and that they were receiving expert advice on how best to achieve this whilst achieving the right balance of the number of boats allowed to pass along the canal. Officers also pointed out that the number of boat movements was below the limits imposed by the current Conservation Management Plan.
4. The representative from Natural England felt that the canal was a fantastic asset which should be utilised but that it was important that the wildlife was taken into consideration and conserved as it was a key part of the attraction of the canal.

RESOLVED: That

1. The Joint Management Committee approves and adopts the Strategy for a period of five years.

Recommendations:

1. Strategic Priority 1 includes the word ‘navigable’ and the wording of Strategic Priority 5 be reconsidered.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee next steps:

The Committee to review the Strategy annually to ensure it remains effective.

38/13 ADJUSTMENT FOR CHARGING FOR TRAIL BOATS [Item 10]

Declarations of interest:

None.

Officers:

Fiona Shipp, Canal Manager, Basingstoke Canal Authority

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Canal Manager explained that when the Committee agreed the scheme of boat charges at the February 2013 meeting there was no charge for people to bring trail boats onto the canal for one day only. Over the summer there had been a large demand for a one day licence so the Canal Authority were required to charge £3, the price for a non-powered boat, however it was felt this charge should be higher given the additional wear and tear caused by powered craft.
2. The Canal Manager informed the Committee that she had reviewed the charges on other canals and felt that £8 for a one day licence would be the most appropriate charge.
3. The Committee queried whether the public would always be charged the £15 retention fee for a one day licence. The Canal Manager explained that as it was a one off fee they would normally request it as the Canal Authority would then hold their documents for one year enabling the visitor to return without having to bring their documentation. It was felt that it was important to have a simple charging system though they would be flexible if it was felt necessary.
4. It was stated that the charges would be reviewed in future to ensure they remained competitive with other local canals.

RESOLVED: That

1. The Joint Management Committee approve the change in charge for trail boats to include a one day licence at £8/day.

Recommendations:

None.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee next steps:

The Committee to review the trail boat charges in future to ensure they remain competitive.

39/13 CAR PARK CHARGES [Item 11]

Declarations of interest:

None.

Officers:

Fiona Shipp, Canal Manager, Basingstoke Canal Authority

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Canal Manager explained that the Canal Authority and Hart District Council had received a number of complaints regarding the Reading Road car park in Fleet as there were a number of people parking for a full day which meant canal users were unable to park. It was believed that local businesses were using the car park for free.
2. Officers felt that a long term solution would be to implement parking charges to this car park which would make parking for a full day expensive, but inexpensive for short stay users to ensure canal visitors would be able to park.
3. Requesting a parking order amendment would cost around £6,000 so it was felt that it would be sensible to include all other canal car parks within Hart District at the same time, but it was stated that there was currently no intention to introduce charges in the more rural car park. It was felt by the Committee that it would make things easier and save on resources charges were it felt necessary at these car parks in the future. Officers suggested the next car park which could be considered is the Scotland Road Bridge car park which had similar issues as the Reading Road car park, however a separate report and an amendment would be required to Runnymede's off-street parking order for this car park.
4. Members suggested removing recommendation (e) in the report which provided a reference to a phased implementation of parking charges across other car parks in Hart, as it was felt unnecessary at these car parks at this time, and the Committee would sanction any change in this policy. Officers agreed that this reference could be removed.
5. Members queried if the Basingstoke Canal Society were doing work to the canal in the Reading Road area whether they would be required to pay to park their vehicle. Officers suggested that the Canal Society could be given a permit which would give their works vehicle free parking.
6. One suggestion was that it may be beneficial for the charges to be simplified to £1, £3 and £7; though it was suggested that as the ticket machines were able to take cash, card or Hart District Council smart cards this would not be necessary.

RESOLVED: That the Joint Management Committee

1. Approve and authorise the Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA) to collect the car parking fees at Reading Road Car Park in Fleet in

conjunction with Hart District Council on behalf of Hampshire County Council and expend the proceeds in maintaining the Canal.

2. Authorise the BCA to apply for a change to the parking order to include other Hart District sites – Barley Mow, Crookham Wharf and Colt Hill – to save costs at a later date should it be decided to extend parking charges, but that the introduction of any new charges would first be brought to the Joint Management Committee.
3. Authorise the BCA to set an appropriate scale of charging in conjunction with Hart District Council
4. Authorise the BCA to use their discretion in issuing season tickets and free permits to selected car park users.
5. Authorise the BCA to review car parking in other Districts / Boroughs and seek further authority to implement car park charging in those areas. This would include Farborough Road, Aldershot, Scotland Road Bridge Road, Woodham and The Canal Centre, Mytchett.

Recommendations:

None.

Actions/ further information to be provided:

None.

Committee next steps:

The Joint Management Committee to review further implementation of car parking charges and additional car parks if deemed necessary and appropriate.

40/13 CANAL SIGNAGE REPORT [Item 12]

Declarations of interest:

None.

Officers:

Fiona Shipp, Canal Manager, Basingstoke Canal Authority

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Canal Manager explained that the Committee had previously stated that it was necessary for the Canal to have a consistent image along the canal and that the Canal Authority were now working with Greenhouse Graphics on signage.
2. Officers and designers were in the process of creating a Branding document which detail the materials and overall look of signage for the canal. This document would enable the Canal Authority to commission consistent signage as and when funding was available in future years.

3. The Committee were provided with two overall designs and were requested to vote on which one to take on as the basis of all signs. The Committee voted five in favour of the balance beam design and 13 in favour of the swirl design.
4. Members requested that all signs include an image of a boat to ensure the connection to boating remains throughout. Additionally, they suggested that the signs were an opportunity to recognise the partnerships, and that in each area the Borough / District and Parish Council logos should be included along with the Basingstoke Canal Society logo as appropriate.
5. The Committee thanked the Canal Manager for her work in progressing this issue and looked forward to seeing future developments.

RESOLVED: That

1. The Committee endorse the design with the swirl to be the basis of future signage.

Recommendations:

1. That officers discuss with Boroughs / Districts and Parish Councils regarding their logos featuring on signage in their respective areas.

Actions / further information to be provided:

The Committee be provided with the Canal Branding report.

Committee next steps:

The Committee consider the Canal Branding report as its next meeting in February 2014.

41/13 BRIDGE MANAGEMENT REPORT [Item 13]

Declarations of interest:

None.

Officers:

James Taylor, Senior Countryside Management Officer, Surrey County Council

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Committee were provided with a short history of the canal and the liability of the County Councils to maintain the bridges over the canal, along with the condition of the bridges at the last condition assessment in 2010.

2. The Committee were informed that the County Councils were mainly liable for the bridges as Highways Authorities rather than as owners of the canal, rail bridges were the responsibility of Network Rail, and, there was a question over the liability of private bridges. In addition the County Councils were liable for bridges which they had erected since they took over ownership of the canal.
3. At the last condition assessment the bridges were deemed to be in fair condition, and to bring them up to a good condition the cost of works would be £226,000 for Surrey County Council and £41,700 for Hampshire County Council. These works, it was stated, were being undertaken and the discrepancy appears to be down to a difference in interpretation of 'good condition'. Surrey County Council estimates were for bringing the bridges up to 'as new' standard while Hampshire County Council were working towards a serviceable standard for the bridges.
4. The Committee thanked the Senior Countryside Management Officer for an interesting and informative report.

Recommendations:

That the report be noted.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee next steps:

None.

42/13 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT [Item 14]

Declarations of interest:

None.

Officers:

James Taylor, Senior Countryside Management Officer, Surrey County Council

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Committee were informed that the Memorandum of Agreement was last reviewed in October 2008 and the Committee, as its last meeting in June 2013, had requested that officers consider amendments to this document. A draft version of the Memorandum of Agreement had been created and was considered by the Joint Advisory Group, however it was felt that further work was needed and so it was now out to consultation.
2. Members queried whether the membership of elected Members would be considered within the amendments as it was felt the Committee

was too large and there was duplication. The Chairman stated that at this time the mechanics of the Memorandum of Agreement would be considered only as any change to the membership would need the agreement of all the riparian authorities. The Chairman confirmed, however, that the membership of the Committee would be considered in the future.

Recommendations:

That the report be noted.

Actions/further information to be provided:

That the Committee be provided with suggested amendments to the Memorandum of Agreement at its next meeting in February 2014.

Committee next steps:

The Committee to consider suggested amendments to the Memorandum of Agreement in February 2014.

43/13 WATER STRATEGY UPDATE [Item 15]

Declarations of interest:

None.

Officers:

Martin Leech, Basingstoke Canal Society

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Committee were provided with an update on the work of the Water Strategy Group. In the last year there had been an increase in the amount of water being back-pumped at Woodham, surveys had been completed to find appropriate locations for boreholes and the first project by students from Southampton University had been completed, which volunteers and officers were very pleased with. The report included a water balance model showing the levels of incoming and outgoing water in the canal, and confirming that there was a daily shortage of around three million litres a day during the dry months.
2. The Water Strategy Group had put forward another project to Southampton University for students to build upon the work already undertaken and answer resolved questions posed by the first group of students. This would principally look at the way water was managed to see if the current methods could be substantiated through science. Volunteers and officers were waiting to hear if any students would be undertaking the project.
3. The Group were in the process of investigating loss of water at Whitewater aqueduct and the effect of silt in the canal in the Hampshire pound. Furthermore, together with officers they were

looking at potential reservoirs along the canal and the effective use of boreholes.

4. It was important that a new abstraction licence was obtained from the Environment Agency for the back-pumping schemes as the current licence would expire in 2015.

Recommendations:

None.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee next steps:

None.

44/13 CANAL CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE [Item 16]

Declarations of interest:

None.

Officers:

Lisa Creaye-Griffin, Countryside Group Manager, Surrey County Council

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Canal Centre was crucial to the economic well being of the canal; being the only large area of land associated with the canal suitable for visitor use. Further to previous reports made to Committee, Surrey County Council was in the process of appointing a consultant to undertake detailed feasibility studies, draw up plans and accurate costings in preparation to a planning application.
2. Six companies had been asked to tender, with three tenders having been received. Officers had interviewed two of the consultants with the third due to be interviewed on 17 October.
3. Design work was due to be completed by early spring 2014, with a view to a planning application for the proposed re-design being made shortly after.

Recommendations:

None.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee next steps:

The Committee to be provided with an update on the Canal Centre redevelopment at a future meeting.

45/13 CANAL MANAGER'S UPDATE [Item 17]

Declarations of interest:

None.

Officers:

Fiona Shipp, Canal Manager, Basingstoke Canal Authority

Key points raised during discussion:

1. The Canal Manger provided an overview of the work completed by the Basingstoke Canal Authority. She informed the Committee that the canal had been open throughout the summer, which is only the second time in twenty years, with over 100 boats – 66 of which were new visitors – passing along the canal.
2. Officers were continuing to work with Hampshire engineers for a way forward at the Dogmersfield landslip and they would keep the Committee informed of any developments.
3. Boats were booked in to be on the canal over the winter though closures were planned as three sets of gates would be replaced along the canal. Locks were being cleaned, weeded and painted by volunteers which was improving the image of the canal. Campsite bookings were being taken for next year's Farnborough Air Show, but despite no air show during 2013 bookings had been successful.
4. The Committee were informed that the dredger had been fixed and was already back working in the canal and that the Canal Society's work on the weed cutter was almost complete.
5. The Canal Manager informed the Committee that officers were reinvesting in 200m of mooring outside the Canal Centre which was anticipated to bring in around £30,000 per year.
6. Meetings had been held with many Boroughs and Districts to discuss the canal and the importance of their contributions. Additionally meetings had been arranged with user groups to ensure they were engaged with the work of the Canal Authority and their concerns were being heard.
7. Commercial fishermen had been contracted to fish in the canal to catch the invasive non-native North-American Signal Crayfish which were burrowing into the sides of the canal causing leaks and instability and creating safety concerns. It was anticipated that they had caught in the region of one tonne of crayfish and were continuing to fish. Officers were removing independent crayfish fishing licences as it was felt commercial fishing was more effective and did not cost the Canal Authority due to a agreement to be paid by the crayfish they caught.

8. Members queried whether the Canal Authority had been in contact with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF); as they were opening new offices in Woking beside the canal and were keen to meet and engage with the local community. The Canal Manager confirmed she had not been contacted however she would contact them and try to arrange a meeting. The Canal Society stated they had had a meeting with the WWF and that they were keen to work with them.

Recommendations:

1. The Canal Manager to arrange a meeting with officers from the WWF based in Woking.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee next steps:

None.

46/13 CANAL SOCIETY UPDATE [Item 18]

Declarations of interest:

None.

Officers:

Philip Riley, Basingstoke Canal Society

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Basingstoke Canal Society provided an update on the progress of the Waterways Recovery Group which was a group of volunteers who dedicated a week working on the canal.
2. The Canal Society had undertaken work on the weedcutter and it was hoped that it would be back in service by the end of October to clear the build up of floating weed.
3. It was felt by the Canal Society that more work was needed to be done to promote the Canal as a visitor destination by Boroughs and Districts as many did not mention the Basingstoke Canal within their promotional materials on recreational facilities. The Canal Society requested that Members raise this within their Boroughs and Districts.

Recommendations:

1. That Members of the Committee request the Basingstoke Canal feature in future publications, on recreational facilities, produced by their respective Councils.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee next steps:

None.

47/13 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING [Item 19]

The following future meeting dates were noted by the Committee.

Thursday 27 February 2014

Thursday 26 June 2014

Meeting ended at: 12.30 pm

Chairman

**Expressions of interest to join the Basingstoke Canal JMC
as a Special Interest Group**

Accessible Boating – John Ranson

As Accessible Boating, we undertake a unique role on the canal by providing narrow boat cruising facilities for people with mobility issues. The special designs of our boats means that people who would not be able to use the canal at all under normal conditions, have a fantastic chance to enjoy this wonderful facility. Much of our work is with local charities and homes plus various agencies. We are flexible in our operation, offering a choice of self drive, skippered, day hire and holiday bookings. Consequently, we look at the canal from many different angles of operation and we are keen to do all we can to work closely with other interested parties to develop the use of the canal and to safeguard it's future operations in a sustainable manner.

Association of Inland Navigation Authorities/National Trust River Wey – John Gibson

As Navigation Manager for the National Trust River Wey & Godalming Navigations I have 15 years direct experience operating and managing an historic river navigation that connects directly with the Basingstoke Canal.

Currently I am Vice Chairman of the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities and previously served six years for the Environment Agency's Thames Region Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee.

I have over 25 years experience working in Countryside and Recreation Management with previous roles with the Forestry Commission and local authorities. I would hope to use my experience to positively support the work of the committee and that of the Basingstoke Canal Authority.

Basingstoke Canal Angler's Association – Dave Harper

I am the current Chair of the Basingstoke Canal Angler's Association but have many years background in angling administration at club, regional and national level. Prior to the National Federation of Anglers being subsumed into the Angling Trust, I was the Regional Director for London and the South East as was also delegate to the Fisheries and Conservation Trust (FACT) who were the enabling body to bring most of the various angling factions together.

As an angling coach I have been responsible for introducing a large number of people to the sport and have also run a number of major competitions both for my club and on behalf of other organisations.

Being fully retired I have more availability to attend meetings than most.

Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club – Liz Murnaghan

The Canoe Club was formed in 1979 and was initially based in Fleet. In 2003 it moved to the canal centre at Mytchett and it's membership has grown considerably. Currently it provides paddlesport activity year round on the canal for its 300+ members, this varies from fun, family sessions in the summer to rigorous structured training up to 5 times a week for elite athletes. We have been successful at

producing athletes for Team GB in a number of kayaking disciplines, (and their success publicises the canal at national level.). Our coaches too have received recognition at Regional and National level for the work they do.

In addition to the club members, over 150 young people who are members of local Scout and Guide groups were introduced to canoeing by BCCC this year. Our events attract other paddlers and their families to the canal. We are keen to see the canal maintained as a navigation and for the recreational opportunities that the canal offers to be developed.

Bat Group – Paul Hope

I was a ranger on the canal for 16 yrs so know it well. My PhD was on the hibernating bat population at Greywell Tunnel. I have been monitoring bats on the canal using bat boxes at a number of sites for a number of years. I am presently writing a bat management plan for the canal.

Hart District Association of Parish & Town Councils - Alastair Clark

The Hart District Association of Parish & Town Councils (HDAPTC) comprises representatives from all twenty one Parish and Town Councils within the District of Hart. The member Parishes are also members of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC).

One third of our member Councils have the Basingstoke Canal passing through their area and have thus been described as “Riparian Parishes”. The District of Hart comprises in excess of 36,000 dwellings approximately half of which are situated within the Riparian Parishes.

For the last four or five years the Riparian Parishes, together with a couple of others, have made regular annual contributions (loosely based on dwelling numbers) towards the Basingstoke Canal thus providing a total partner contribution in excess of £32,500 p.a. HDAPTC has also provided a representative to regularly attend BCA JMC meetings and at other times to liaise with both the County Council and Canal staff to assist with the promotion of the canal and disseminate information to Parish Councillors and our residents.

Inland Waterway Association – Gareth Jones

As you know IWA, of which I am the local chairman, is currently an advisory member of the JMC of the Basingstoke Canal Authority. These posts are being reviewed and the IWA would wish to continue in the role.

The IWA was founded in 1948 to ensure that as much of the then commercial waterways were retained primarily for future leisure boating. As well as representing boaters including residential and continuous cruisers IWA has a heritage, education, engineering, training and primarily through the Waterways Recovery Group a restoration role. As a registered charity its main role is campaigning and education but it has facilitated large scale funding and labour for a number of restoration projects. It also is a waterways owner, the Chelmer and Blackwater, and provides trustees for the new Canal and River Trust with whom it played an active role with National Government at inception and has an ongoing written understanding. It therefore can bring a broad range of skills to this advisory role.

While now a long time ago it nearly became the owner of the canal it has played an active role in restoration, encouraging usage particularly navigation both owner and hirer, water supply, specific projects, providing small scale seed grants, governance and economics. It is sympathetic to the broad range of users of a waterway. Nationally IWA has over 16,000 members and locally some 1,200.

John Cale Canal Cruises – John Cale

I do feel it is essential to have commercial representation so that our concerns & interests are put forward at this level. It will also enable boat operators to understand the concerns & requirements of other parties on the canal. I look forward to being involved in a positive way through the JMC.

Residential Boat Owners Association – Julia Jacs

With our concern for the welfare of the Basingstoke Canal as a navigation and for the local houseboat residents, RBOA remain enthusiastic and keen to be involved in the work of the JMC, having been regular attendees and contributors for over 4 years.

As a national organisation of 50 years standing, our excellent working/advisory relationships with waterway authorities, including EA, DEFRA, PLA (currently drafting an MoU) and CRT (with whom we have an MoU) will, I believe, be useful in helping with future changes in Canal Ownership.

We are most willing, if requested, to share our meeting reports, regardless of membership, with all local houseboat residents, and keep them informed, and, if appropriate, to voice their concerns to the meetings, indeed we would welcome such interest, because RBOA seek to protect and improve life-afloat for all residential boat owners.

I love the canal on which I have lived for 26 years, and, as a member of BCS and the RBOA Local Representative, I am intent on continuing my regular attendance and would want to contribute to the JMC meetings.

CRT: Canal and River Trust

PLA: Port of London Authority

EA: Environment Agency

DEFRA: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

RBOA: Residential Boat Owners Association

MoU: Memorandum of Understanding

BCS: Basingstoke Canal Society

Woking Cycle Users Group – Norman Johns

With the WCUG committee I did a lot of work to promote cycling and cycle routes into and across the town centre when Woking Cycle Town was flavour of the month, we still try to promote cycling and run introductory cycle outings each month for those seeking to gain experience. I am also a ranger with Sustrans and work with volunteers to keep the Woking cycle routes open and safe.

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**Results of the election of Special Interest Groups
10 October 2013**

Group	Number of votes
Accessible Boating	7
Association of Inland Navigation Authorities	7
Basingstoke Canal Angler's Association	1
Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club	11
Bat Group	1
Hart District Association of Parish & Town Councils	11
Inland Waterways Association	14
John Cale Canal Cruises	8
Residential Boat Owners Association	9
Woking Cycle Users Group	6

The following groups have been appointed to the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee for a term of four years until May 2017 to run concurrent with County Council elections.

Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club
Hart District Association of Parish & Town Councils
Inland Waterways Association
John Cale Canal Cruises
Residential Boat Owners Association

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