

## **IWA Submission**

I am authorised by the National Chairman, Les Etheridge, and the Head of the National Navigation Committee, Gren Messham, to express the Association's interest in being re-appointed to a place on the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee.

The IWA was established to restore Britain's canals from dereliction in 1947, holding one of its first boat rallies at Woking when intrepid boaters travelled with tarpaulins to allow the locks to fill and getting very muddy was the norm. Since then the IWA has continued to support the Basingstoke Canal with technical assistance from their civil engineer, practical help in form of the Waterways Recovery Group who have assisted with major and minor projects along the canal, and finance to support the back pumping projects.

At a national level the IWA provides the secretariat for the All Party Waterways Parliamentary group and has close contacts with the Canal and River Trust and Environment Agency. The local branch of the IWA serves an area from the south coast to Reading and Newbury, which provides useful links to a variety of waterway authorities and a unique insight into the management of individual waterways. A number of these are also in transition to become part of the CRT network.

I serve on the local branch of the IWA and have been the south eastern representative on the navigation committee for four years and have been proposed as the regional chairman, with effect from September 30th 2017. These roles give me links to good nationwide networks with access to varied expertise which could be useful to the Basingstoke Canal.

I grew up a quarter of a mile from the Basingstoke Canal in Knaphill and have canoed/kayaked along its length many times. I moved to Ash Vale to be close to the canal and have continued to enjoy the towpath and navigation. Until recently I was a director of the Basingstoke Canal Society and still help the sales stand at village fairs.

I think that my contacts with the national waterways and organisations could be useful to the JMC as it seeks to safeguard the future of the Basingstoke Canal.

Verna Smith

July 25<sup>th</sup> 2017

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