LANCASTER CANAL REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP (LCRP)

LCRP MINUTES

LCRP Full Partnership Meeting

Date Tuesday 3rd July
Venue Greenlands Farm Village

Attendees

Chair Audrey Smith **AS**

Partner Members Robin Yates **RY** (LCT) Wendy Humphreys **WH** (IWA L&C) Ruth Leahy **RL** (SLDC) David Gibson **DG** (CCC)

LCRP Officer Helen Moriarty **HM** (LCRP)

Apologies Robert Atkins (IWA National)
Mark McTique (LCC)
Steve Higham (CRT),
Cllr Douglas Rathbone (KTC & SLDC)
Cllr Keith Iddon (Lancashire County Council)
Peter Jones (Lancaster Canal Trust)
Cllr Nick Cotton (CCC)
Chris Hogg (SLDC)

1. Introductions & Apologies

AS welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies highlighted above.

2. Previous Minutes and Actions

Previous minutes were accepted, HM noted outstanding actions were covered in the agenda.

3. LCRP Financial Overview

3.1 Funding Updates

- ***Heritage Lottery Funding***

  All expressed frustration regarding the delay of the formal announcement of this funding success. AS explained the context of the difficulties regarding current contractor issues and match funding delivery timescales. WH concluded that the outcome is in C&RT hands and asked that LCRP are kept informed of progress.

  Action AS : Ask C&RT to share updates

- ***Sport England***

  HM provided an overview regarding the Sport England funding options. Option A, improving the bridleway and towpath trail link is not progressing quickly due to Land Agent delays. HM suggested improvements at Stainton were put forward as an alternative project. HM requested partners input regarding a decision. The following actions were agreed after discussion.

  Action RL : Chase LSH involvement internally via SLDC Asset Manager
  Action HM : Confirm Landowner position via Land Agent by Wednesday 11th July
  Action HM : If negative pursue Stainton option by:
  - Confirming C&RT permission
  - Contacting CCC regarding quote & scheduling of works
  - Contacting Sport England consultant re above actions
  - Writing bio and partnership overview for report input.

- ***Fells & Dales LEADER***

  HM reported that this £50,000 application (for branding and signage) is now complete.

  Action HM : Submit applications and supporting documents together with signed agreements with RL's support.

- **RDPE Growth Programme**

  HM reported that the Expression of Interest for a Hincaster Tunnel boardwalk had been completed and submitted.

3.2 Project Management Funding

HM reported that three partners had outstanding contributions towards Project Management Funding.

- Lancaster City Council have agreed to support and would like to meet to consider the benefits to Lancaster

  Action HM: Set up LCC meeting / discussion.

- Kendal Town Council, HM is meeting with Cllr Rathbone on the 20th of July and will raise with him. AS recommended using the Bicentenary as a key motivator.

  Action HM: Check with Treasurer re £15,000 allocation and if £5,000 is remaining after Kendal to Natland contribution.

- **Canal and River Trust, AS commented on previous** commitment from the former Waterways Manager and will investigate an update.

  Action AS: Investigate payment of C&RT contribution.

3.3 Partnership Contributions

HM reported this as an outstanding action from the Project management Group meeting.

Action HM: Resend annual £250 partner contribution to LCC, C&RT, IWA and LCT.

3.4 Spend

HM provided an overview of recent invoices and reported a balance of £32,807. HM reiterated AS observation that £20,000 of this reserve is committed to the Kendal to Natland project.

4. Kendal to Natland Update

HM reported that the Land Agent, LSH, had been provided with all relevant information and had walked the route to gain further clarification. Initial contact has been made with the Landowner's agent who has asked for further information. HM together with DG's team have provided all relevant information and await a progress report from LSH. DG noted that because the Landowner has been named by the Land Agent permission for the Landowner to be involved has been granted which may prove useful if negotiations are lengthy. AS shared the idea of compensation limits based on a sliding scale to encourage speedier negotiations. HM confirmed this has been shared with LSH.

Action HM: Set up a meeting with LSH and AS for either 23rd, 25th or 27 of July.

RL reported that the MOU will be incorporated into the CCC Grant Transfer agreement of £120,000. DG reported that the CCC contribution of £20,000 is being utilised for staff time to develop this programme and £13,000 remains. DG preference is for it to remain as a staff contingency fund rather than a capital contribution.

Action HM & DG: Ensure scheme design is costed at no more than £120,000 inclusive of Burton Road access and from Natland Road to Hawes Lane access point.

Action DG: Understand the status of the drainage project at Burton Road and report back re its impact on access improvements.

HM reported discussions with Bridleway Associations who are keen to see Horse Riding allowed on the Towpath Trail. The group discussed the pros and cons and agreed to retain the restricted bridleway route noting that change to the restriction could be implemented in the future if required.

Action HM: Contact Bridget Pickthall re outcome of discussion.

HM reported a walking along the Hincaster Trailway and the suitability of the gates for the Towpath Trail. DG confirmed that CCC had installed Hincaster Gates and the Towpath Trail could have similar ones.

Action DG: Ensure the Kendal to Natland gates are the same design as Hincaster Trailway not current Bridleway spec provided.

5. Bicentenary Update

HM and WH reported that both had missed the last Bicentenary meeting due to date changes. No notes have been received to date. HM reported that Cllr Hogg is keen to secure Lanky exhibition at Kendal Museum and develop the Rosie and Jim connection.

Action HM: Task TE with Cllr Hogg meeting and actions and ask re outcome of Green Flag award.

Action AS: Clarify from within C&RT who is responsible for acknowledging and actioning bicentenary ideas.

6. PR & Communications Update

HM confirmed that the HLF announcement remains outstanding.

HM provided a brief overview of Roadshow Events, highlighting bridleway association interest and Holme's potential to adopt their section of canal.

Action HM: Speak to TE re contacting Holme group.

7. Member Updates

Lancaster Canal Trust reported that the first furlong is progressing well. Contractors will finish profiling and clearing the bed to prepare for laying the lining. All are taking advantage of good weather with three day work parties although with small number of volunteers, LCT are working with British Gas and other companies to co-ordinate corporate volunteer days. Completion target is October. The filming of Great Canal Journeys focused on the restoration project by filming the first furlong and the Waterwitch. Lancaster Canal Trust's AGM is on Tuesday 10th of July at 7.30pm in Over Kellett Village Hall, Paul Shaw will present restoration success stories from around the country.

Inland Waterways Association continue to co-ordinate the Trailboat festival for the Bicentenary with volunteer support for the events. The branch enjoyed a visit to Burscough Heritage Festival and arranged a joint letter pick with friends of Haslem Park in Preston, IWA, LCT and Lancashire Wildlife Trust. 13 bags of rubbish were cleared up to the millennium link. There is a Balsam Bash on the 21st July with the same group.

8. AOB

The group discussed low attendance and recommended the following:

Action HM: Share summary together with full minutes and ask members to think about preferences regarding involvement, venue, timings etc.

Action AS: Follow up with member phone calls at the end of July with a view to determining most suitable pattern of dates for future Exec meetings .

9. Dates of next meetings

- 14th August *(Project Management Group, Galgate)*
- 4th September *(Project Management Group, Galgate)*
- 9th October **- Full Executive Meeting (Greenlands Farm Village)**
- 6th November *(Project Management Group, Galgate)*
- 4th December *(Project Management Group, Galgate)*
- 8th January – **Full Executive Meeting** (Greenlands Farm Village)