

LCRP MINUTES

LCRP Full Partnership Meeting

Date Tuesday 17th April
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) Cllr Chris Hogg **CH** (CCC) Peter Jones **LCT** (Lancaster Canal Trust), Cllr Nick Cotton **NC** (CCC) David Gibson **DG** (CCC) Tony Entwistle **TE** (CRT)

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

Apologies Robert Atkins **RA** (IWA National)
Mark McTigue **MM** (LCC)
Steve Higham **SH** (CRT),
Cllr Sue Sanderson **SS** (SLDC)
Cllr Alvin Finch **AF** (KTC)
Cllr Keith Iddon (Lancashire County Council)
Cllr Feeny Johnson (SLDC)

1. Introductions & Apologies

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

2. Previous Minutes and Actions

WH noted that the previous minutes included incorrect dates for the Trailboat Festival. DG noted the terminology regarding CCC's role in the Kendal to Natland improvements was incorrect. HM reassured that the online version of the minutes had amended both of these requests.

HM reported that all associated Highways England recommendations had not been actioned due to other priorities. NC noted that Highways England can support projects that provide alternative routes for cyclists from A Roads. He suggested that because the Towpath Trail does not relieve an A Road route it would be difficult for LCRP to make a case to Highways England.

ACTION HM: Confirm with Highways England officer and disregard additional development if appropriate.

3. LCRP Financial Overview

3.1 Funding Applications

HLF Result & Next Steps

Steve Higham was not present to update members. AS expressed frustration regarding the length of press release embargo. The group discussed the current clearance work at Stainton and questioned its timing regarding nesting birds. HM explained LCRP's involvement with the project is linked to the Activity Plan and engagement officer not the physical work at Stainton. HM asked members to support the recruitment of a Project Officer process. AS noted the importance of sustainability within the project going forwards so the community are able to stay engaged with the canal after the initial Project Officer funding has finished.

ACTION TE: Feedback comments to C&RT

ACTION HM: Share job description with members when live

Sport England Update

HM reported that the survey has attracted 408 responses to date and thanked all for sharing and completing. The link has been distributed across a wide local network including South Lakes Climate Action Group, Ramblers, Active Cumbria, LCT and IWA members and Kendal College. There was a discussion regarding the format of the survey, many felt it was frustrating and arbitrary. HM explained the purpose of the survey is to demonstrate that a new canal towpath will increase physical activity in the local area and was therefore trying to categorize respondents in terms of activity level. With this insight Sport England will be able to demonstrate size and nature (inc segments) of current and potential market. The Sport England consultant has completed the Desk based review of all participation and health insights as well as partner strategies to inform the wider context for the submission. HM also advised that due to HLF result, the application will bring all the projects together to create an extended Towpath Trail project which the Sport England funding will support, rather than create a one off Sport England project.

ACTION HM: Continue to support Kelly Gordon with the application

Fells & Dales LEADER update

HM reported that whilst collecting quotes for the Full LEADER Application (deadline 4th July) it became clear that a higher budget was required to install signage which would make a positive impact. After conversations with LEADER advisors, benches and welcome points will be removed from the full application. AS & HM recommended that benches and welcome points could be developed at a later date with localised community groups and sponsorship. The full application will request £15,000 towards brand guidelines and £35,000 for signage which will include map information. Due to C&RT restructure, an extension has also been agreed to gather the relevant C&RT detail as the Lead Applicant.

NC commented that an application of this kind would be welcomed by Fells and Dales but stressed the importance of emphasising the positive impact on the local economy including any jobs created.

ACTION HM: Continue to develop application in partnership with Steve Higham.

ERADF Hincaster Tunnel

AS led an overview of the ERADF briefing paper. A discussion about how the tunnel will be protected regarding its Scheduled Ancient Monument inscription followed and AS reassured members that the structure would not touch the side walls of the tunnel. NC has provided HM with a list of examples of tunnels in other areas and noted their popularity and differences regarding lighting solutions. AS agreed best practice from the network was required and advised that such level of detail will follow in the full application if the Expression of Interest is successful. WH asked if the application would reference full restoration, AS agreed it was important to remember our long-term vision of rewatering the canal to Kendal and HM will investigate the most appropriate way of including in the application if necessary.

ACTION HM: Continue to develop the EOI for July 4th. Consider how to present restoration information without jeopardizing funding opportunity.

Lancaster University

HM provided copies of report for all members and shared the thank you card from the participating students. HM reported how the report will be used in future applications and the group discussed the social media recommendation. DG noted how time intensive social media can be and CH commented on the urgency regarding responses. All agreed it was beneficial to now be linked with the university and might provide an opportunity for a student who wanted to gain some work experience.

NC questioned how this exercise helped to raise funding for the path improvements, HM and AS explained that whilst it did not directly contribute to path improvement it will help to promote the route when finished, provide context for new signage and interpretation and the exercise was not a huge expense to LCRP due to Lancaster University's client programme for third year marketing students.

AS noted Philip Garside's feedback which was shared with members prior to the meeting.

3.2 Project Management Funding

AS thanked all members who had contributed to the Project Management funding request to date including LCT, IWA, SLDC & CCC (for 2 years).

NC noted that CCC's contribution was not noted in the budget overview paper. AS apologised and explained that the confirmation had not been received when the report was written.

HM noted that presentations to CCC's local committee will be arranged.

AS noted that we still await responses from Lancaster City Council, Kendal Town Council and C&RT. CH noted that KTC's recommendation was for less funding due to Parish Poll expense but noted the opportunity to engage with new Councillors.

ACTION HM: Arrange presentations to both CCC Local Committee and Kendal Town Council's Management Committee.

3.3 Partnership Contributions

AS explained the background of the annual £250 partner contribution to cover room hire and expenses which will now be issued at the beginning of each financial year for payment by June. HM confirmed that all partner invoices had been sent.

ACTION HM: Update spreadsheet as contributions are received.

3.4 Spend & Balance

AS provided context to the current balance: several sums are already ring-fenced for specific projects and are not available for revenue spending and therefore LCRP's true balance is actually a modest figure which justifies the recent ask to members for Project Management contributions.

4. Kendal to Natland Update (HM)

RL provided an update regarding the SLDC grant transfer. IWA have signed the transfer agreement however a resubmission is required due to a printing error. Considering the purchase order has been arranged AS recommended tasking the Land Agent. HM noted that the new Land Agent is Tony Blendall. SLDC have created a draft version of an agreement and CCC will consider both the transfer agreement and LCRP's Memorandum of Understanding together.

ACTION HM: Arrange meeting with Land Agent to start project.

ACTION RL: Continue to liaise with legal and both CCC and IWA to progress transfer of funds.

HM asked if the Burton Road meeting between SLDC and CC had taken place. RL and DG confirmed it was next week and the purpose was for CCC to provide SLDC with support regarding their management plan with a view to progress both the chicane project and required drainage works.

HM commented that 'Wheels for all' had recently secured funding and stressed the importance of the Burton Road approach in making the Towpath Trail accessible to all from Kendal Town centre.

5. Bicentenary Update

TE provided an overview of the Bicentenary planning to date.

HM reported that Light Up Lancaster are keen to commission Oliver East in 2018 and would like to develop a greater canal presence in 2019 for the Bicentenary.

HM noted that she had been invited to sit on a Kendal sub group but was conscious of limited availability to commit to such a group. AS expressed the view that it was an inappropriate use of HM's limited time and all recommended feeding info and recommendations into sub group by e-mail and attending the quarterly meetings.

CH suggested several possible links for Kendal including Kendal Museum of Lakeland Life and Industry Links, Torchlight, Lakes Alive, Rosie and Jim links and Arts Council opportunities.

ACTION HM: Meet with RL and CH to gather ideas for Kendal event, share with TE when ready. Continue to attend quarterly meetings.

6. PR & Communications Update

HM shared Towpath Trail Roadshow dates and venues as follows:

- 30th April at Kendal Tap
- 8th May at The Strickland Arms
- 16th May at Holme, venue TBC
- 30th May at Canal Turn, Carnforth
- 31st May in Lancaster, venue TBC

These dates will be included in the Newsletter, together with the GDPR sign up form and HLF announcement.

HM also reported that press releases regarding the Lancaster University project, Ramblers donation, IWA grant support will be drafted in the coming months and that copies of The Lanky will be available for sale in Lancaster TIC soon.

ACTION HM: Promote Towpath Trail Roadshow

ACTION HM: Work with Lynn Peglar to organise press releases

7. AOB / Member Updates

A] AS shared the value of inviting participation from non-board member experts as demonstrated by IWA member and marketing expert Philip Garside re the Lancaster University Presentation. There was agreement from members that future sub groups should be set up to benefit from expertise when required, for example the Fells and Dales project could require a marketing group to help shape the brand Guidelines. It was felt that this was particularly beneficial considering how time pressured all members are.

ACTION HM: Set up sub groups and ask for recommendations when required.

B] WH spoke about progress organising the Trail Boat Festival at Country Fest for 2019 and that together with LCT they will have presence at the festival this year.

ACTION HM: Promote County Fest link at Roadshow events

C] RY provided an update regarding the first furlong and the support from IWA's WRG two –week camp. Progress was delayed due to poor weather but sections were lined and blocked and many lessons learnt to carry forward to LCT work parties. A draft volunteer programme is in development. LCT aim to reconnect by October to link with completion of CRT work at Stainton Aqueduct.. WH shared the Block Appeal and social dates of 4th June at Guys Thatched Hamlet, details of both on LCT's website.

D] NC provided an overview of Gooseholme Bridge progress. The bridge was damaged in storm Desmond and links to the Towpath Trail by creating access to Kendal from Gooseholme which is a more attractive starting point than the waste disposal site. Current timescales are for the bridge to reopen this summer. HM commented that it was a good catalyst to organise cycling permission on Gooseholme to enable continuous riverside cycle access.

E] RL updated members regarding two new car parks in Kendal. The Snow Club at Canal Head now offers £1 all day parking and is mainly used for commuters which may allow future weekend parking for Towpath Trail users. Additionally a plan is in development to create parking off Parkside Road. All agreed LCRP should comment on the proposal to ensure the trail is highlighted where possible.

F] RY advised contact from company filming Great Canal Journeys – pre-filming visit planned for later this week

G] LCRP have nominated OE for Living Waterway awards

ACTION HM: Comment of Parkside Road proposal.

8. Dates of next meetings

- 8th May (*Project Management Group, Galgate*)
- 5th June (*Project Management Group, Galgate*)
- 3rd July – **Full Executive Meeting**, Venue TBC – nb change of date
- 7th August (*Project Management Group, Galgate*)
- 4th September (*Project Management Group, Galgate*)
- 9th October - **Full Executive Meeting**, Venue TBC
- 6th November (*Project Management Group, Galgate*)
- 4th December (*Project Management Group, Galgate*)
- 8th January – **Full Executive Meeting**, Venue TBC