

Nottingham Canal Improvement Partnership Steering Group Meeting

Notes of virtual meeting held on 6th November 2020

Present:

Phil Mulligan – Canal & River Trust, Regional Director (Chair)
Andrea Jones – Coca Cola, Customer Logistics Manager
Ben Dalley – Nottingham Castle Marina, Manager
Craig Sharples – Browne Jacobson Solicitors, Senior Information Specialist
David Pearson – East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, Director of Partnerships
Gerry Mulvaney – Nottingham Narrowboat Project, Chair of Trustees
Jerry Major – Wilmott Dixon, Principal Framework Manager
Joe Valentine – Canal & River Trust, Boating & Customer Services (note taker)
Joh Bates – Farrer Huxley, Director
John McLaughlin – Brewin Dolphin, Assistant Director
Jules Sebelin – Nottingham Community & Voluntary Service, Acting CEO
Lee Walker – Nottingham Project, Director
Lilian Greenwood – Labour MP, Nottingham South
Linný Beaumont – Canal & River Trust, Partnerships and Community Engagement Manager
Lucy Stamford – Nottingham BID, BID Manager
Matt Wilby – Coca Cola, Customer Service Manager
Mike Siebert – Nottingham Park Residents Association, Chairman
Nicholas Hibberd – Nottingham City Council, Regeneration Team Leader
Paul Seddon – Nottingham City Council, Director Planning & Regeneration
Rob Harrison – Harris Lamb Property Consultancy, Principal Ecologist
Sam Harris – NTU Labour Society, President
Sara Blair-Manning – Nottingham Castle, CEO
Scott Miller – Canal & River Trust, Business and Corporate Engagement Partner
Simon Bristow – Nottingham Project, Creative Lead
Simone Codrington – Wilmott Dixon, Sustainability Manager
Steve Marwood – Environment Agency, Sustainable Growth Manager
Thomas Humphries – Nottingham City Council, Walking & Cycling Infrastructure
Tom Huffsmith – Island Quarter, Senior Project Manager
Tony Papkiewicz – Nottingham City Council, Senior Neighbourhood Operational Manager

Apologies:

Cllr Angharad Roberts, Laura Marsden – Nottingham City Council, Nick Burns – Nottinghamshire Police, Prof Kevin Shakesheff – University of Nottingham

1. Welcome & Introductions

Phil Mulligan - Welcomed everyone to the meeting. Phil introduced the work of Trust and the benefits the waterway can bring to the city; highlighting that the Nottingham & Beeston Canal has just secured Green Flag status. The canal is currently an underutilised and undervalued resource, and it is great to see so many people showing an interest in

the partnership as we now have an opportunity to put it in its rightful place at the heart of the city. All participants introduce themselves.

2. Terms of Reference

Linny Beaumont – Introduced the draft Terms of Reference for the Steering group, which were sent out in advance of the meeting. Linny explained that:

- Have attempted to keep the terms of reference concise.
- Current attendance too large to be the steering group, but we do want a wide representation. Going forward will ask for one representative from each organisation.
- Steering group should be decision makers who can agree the priorities and steer direction, along with unlocking funding and progressing ideas.
- Will use subgroups to deliver on these priorities.
- ToR includes ideas membership to ensure representation from the community, businesses and across sectors.
- Plan to hold a steering group every other month, with subgroups meeting in between.

Comments:

Paul Seddon agreed Steering Group needs to avoid being too unwieldy. We need to be clear if we are focussing on the whole of the Nottingham & Beeston Canal or just a specific part and to be aware that this sits in a larger strategic context; currently the steering group assembled is very Nottingham centric. With so much development along the canal, the steering group could drive project maximisation and potentially take a role in resolving any conflicts that may arise.

Phil Mulligan confirmed we are focussing on the whole length of the canal; Green flag was awarded to the whole length and we see this as one unit. We do need to think about larger strategic links. The group's remit does not cover conflict resolution, but to identify issues and allow stakeholders to reach conclusions.

Lilian Greenwood MP emphasised that the Terms of reference should identify that we want those who enjoy the canal to reflect the diversity of the city. Danger that some communities are not included. Also, other councils involved along the length of the canal, should be involved.

Linny Beaumont confirmed that Cllr Roberts and other local councillors are supporting to get further residents/community groups involved. NCVS can also help to ensure we are more representative on steering group and subgroups. We will also ensure we invite stakeholders along the whole length.

Ben Dalley highlighted that Nottingham Castle Marina has over 200 boating customers, so could seek representation from that community.

Gerry Mulvaney added that The Nottingham Narrowboat Project run trips with many organisations from different parts of the city, as well as people from diverse ethnic backgrounds and ages who will be interested in the project.

ACTIONS:

• Further comments on terms of reference to be sent via email to Scott Miller	ALL
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• Details of additional people to be invited to steering group/sub-groups to Scott	ALL
• Linny to update TOR - to be sent out with notes of meeting	LB

3. Farrer Huxley Feasibility Study Ideas

Joh Bates, Farrer Huxley Landscape Architects presented a feasibility study report which analyses the Nottingham & Beeston Canal in terms of opportunities. See attached slide deck.

4. Current Projects and Ideas

Linny Beaumont ran through the current projects and activities currently happening in Nottingham:

- **Ongoing maintenance** of the canal corridor, in partnership with Nottingham City Council
- **Capital projects** such as lighting, access improvements, towpath widening are in development in partnership with Nottingham City Council through Transforming Cities and European funding secured by the council.
- **Biodiversity** – reed beds, bulb and wildflower planting has started, but there is much more to do.
- **Volunteering** opportunities such as vegetation management and litter picking, corporate volunteering and partner groups are already happening although a lot has been on hold due to Covid.
- **Wellbeing activities** currently on hold due to lockdown, but we have an opportunity in the next six months to plan for the future and work with communities to understand their needs. **Isolation to Inclusion** is an EU funded project that will pay for a 30 hr community engagement worker to co-design wellbeing activities with local people to help them feel less isolated within Nottingham.
- **Campaigns** such as Stay Kind, Slow Down and Plastics Challenge provide opportunities for partners to join together to champion messages.

Lots already going on that can be enhanced and built upon; including future project ideas:

- **Wall art/street art/community art activities** – We are working with Cllr Robert and Cllr Webster as well as Nottingham Business Improvement District & The Nottingham Project to start to scope out this exciting project. Have identified funding sources and some sites, will require a partnership approach – would like to have a sub-group taking this project forward.

Other key projects which we feel would benefit from subgroups include:

- **Signage, wayfinding, interpretation**
- **Biodiversity and greening**
- **Pop up stalls/markets**
- **Community engagement and co-design** to ensure that local people have a key role in implementing the vision
- **Shared campaigns and communication** – we have over 100 people outside the steering group who want to be part of the wider partnership that we need to communicate with. Will have a page on the Canal & River Trust website for the

partnership but will also need to use social media and partners existing networks to champion the work of the partnership and join together for campaigns.

Discussion:

Tony Papkiewicz raised concerns over the street art project, would like consideration given to maintenance of the street art after the completion of the project. **Lee Walker** highlighted that it is important that there is a process to manage the street art once it is installed but the best way to do this is to get the quality right and be brave and own the project. We have some of the best street artists in the country and we should start the project from a place of acceptance. Can be a huge positive and could generate tourism. **Linn** will share some photographs of a Leicester street art project which has recently been completed. **Sara Blair-Manning** suggested we need more diversity within the steering group to help create an exciting scene within Nottingham. **Jules Sebelin** agreed there is a mechanism to bring together diverse community organisations that could be brought in to contribute to the project. **Sam Harris** agreed diversity is key, have seen this be successful in Birmingham; need to engage with communities that do not necessarily have a direct access to the canal. **Paul Seddon** – this is an opportunity for the group to be braver around street art. This could help to reduce ongoing costs of removing unwanted graffiti. Two projects that we should engage with in Nottingham: **College public realm project** – working with skateboarding community to use a space under the tram line in a different way and **Broadmarsh Cliff Line project** – inviting artists to enliven a dull area a stone's throw from the canal. Also important to engage with Nottingham College and the schools.

ACTIONS:

• Details of additional initiatives/people to link with to be sent to Scott	ALL
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5. Proposed Subgroups

Phil Mulligan - Ran through the seven proposed subgroups:

- Street Art
- Volunteering
- Active Communities
- Communications
- Biodiversity
- Access, Signage and Way Finding
- Popup markets and events

Discussions:

Wellbeing:

John McLaughlin – Is it worth having a specific wellbeing subgroup? Corporates are probably more willing to engage with wellbeing activities for their employees now due to the events of the last year.

Lucy Stanford – At Nottingham BID we run a series of wellbeing schemes for employees in the city. We could work on a specific corporate wellbeing subgroup together. **Joh**

Bates – When creating the feasibility study, Farrer Huxley looked at wellbeing signage separately. Examples include signage to indicate distance walked or run. Could tie into social prescribing.

Tom Huffsmith – Groups within the city that run cycle centres as well as Sustrans that could be useful when engaging with the local community. Could take part in active communities subgroup.

Gerry Mulvaney – Within the NNP we have done a lot of work on wellbeing and have measured our outcomes around the health and wellbeing of people that use the project. We have a lot of data on wellbeing outcomes. Happy to contribute this to the project.

Paul Seddon – We need to be very careful about terms and word used. Wellbeing may mean a lot to us but could turn off certain groups within local communities. We need to be careful on the titles of the subgroups to ensure the widest possible engagement. **Phil Mulligan** – One of the subgroups is communications, they will be responsible for addressing this point.

Geography:

Jerry Major – Will we break down the area into bit sized chunks? Possibly look at local champions? Can we build more legacy by looking at skills and employment we can share we others? Can we engage with schools, communities and a wider diversity of people, creating career opportunities?

Phil Mulligan – Great idea to link activities with skills training. Already doing a bit of this through volunteering with people like Skill Mill but this could be built more explicitly into the project.

Ben Dalley – Regarding Jerry’s comments about splitting into areas, we need to maintain continuity across the whole canal.

Other ideas:

Steve Marwood – Is there an opportunity for a group around innovation and technology? Could be an opportunity to include universities and colleges in the project. Lot of new green finance models and investment models are looking for transformative approaches and new technology. What can the project do to tap into that funding?

Nicholas Hibberd – Any opportunities around development, redundant buildings?

Phil Mulligan – Excellent point, there are some potential sites that could be developed>

Will have to look if a subgroup could contribute. **Linnay Beaumont** – Have identified some empty units under Juries Inn that are suitable for community art exhibition space, pop up’s etc. Could bring area to life and could be part of pop up market/events subgroup.

Sara Blair-Manning – Potential to join the communications and the wayfinding and signage groups together?

Ben Dalley – Anything we can do to attract festivals to the area? **Phil Mulligan** – Suggests this could sit with the popup markets and events subgroup.

ACTIONS:

• Attendees to confirm which subgroup they want to join/lead – email Scott	ALL
• Scott to finalise groups and share with steering group members	Scott
• Scott/Joe to agree dates and send calendar invites to subgroup meetings in Dec	Joe/Scott

6. Next steps and AOB

Phil Mulligan – confirmed next steps:

- Notes of meeting and amended terms of reference to be shared.

- Members to contact Scott Miller with suggestions for membership of the subgroups /partnership/steering group
- Additional members invited to join subgroups/steering groups.
- Subgroups to meet in December – Joe/Scott to send calendar invites and agree dates
- NCIP section to be added to the Canal & River Trust website.
- Communication with wider partnership via email and through website.

7. Date of next meeting

Friday 22nd January 14:00 – 15:30 via TEAMS