

# Agenda



## Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Joint Steering Group

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Date: Thursday, 31 August 2017

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Committee Room 1 - Civic Centre

To: Members of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canals Regeneration Steering Group

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| Item |  | Wards Affected |
|------|--|----------------|
| 1    | <u>Agenda - Cym</u> (Pages 3 - 4)  |                |
| 2    | <u>Apologies for Absence</u>   |                |
| 3    | <u>Minutes of the previous meeting</u> (Pages 5 - 8)<br>Minutes of the meeting of 20 October 2016.     |                |
| 4    | <u>Importance of Water to Canals/Implication of Legislative Changes</u><br>Presentation by CRT         |                |
| 5    | <u>Importance of Developing a Water Strategy</u><br>Presentation                                       |                |
| 6    | <u>Restoration Schemes Update (incorporating Community Engagement)</u>                                 |                |
| 7    | <u>Review of Memorandum of Understanding</u> (Pages 9 - 20)  |                |
| 8    | <u>Update from Individual Authorities</u>  |                |
| 9    | <u>Any Other Business</u><br>Discuss possible visit to restoration sites                               |                |
| 10   | <u>Future Meeting Dates</u><br>Suggested dates:<br>26 October 2017<br>22 February 2018<br>28 June 2018 |                |

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# Agenda

Grŵp Llywio'r Bartneriaeth Adfywio  
Camlesi Mynwy ac Aberhonddu

Dyddiad 31 Awst 2017

Amser 10yb

Lleoliad Ystafell Bwyllgor 1 – Y Ganolfan Ddinesig

At: Aelodau'r Grŵp Llywio Adfywiad Camlesi Mynwy ac Aberhonddu

## Eitem

### Rhan 1

- 1 Ymddiheuriadau dros Absenoldeb
- 2 Cofnodion y Cyfarfod Diwethaf
- 3 Pwysigrwydd Dŵr i Gamlesi / Goblygiadau Newidiadau Deddfwriaethol
- 4 Pwysigrwydd Datblygu Strategaeth Dŵr
- 5 Y Diweddaraaf ar Gynlluniau Adfer
- 6 Adolygu Memorandwm Dealltwriaeth
- 7 Diweddariad gan Awdurdodau Unigol
- 8 Unrhyw Fater Arall
- 9 Dyddiad y Cyfarfod Nesaf

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# Minutes



## Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Joint Steering Group

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Date: 20 October 2016

Time: 10.00 am

Present: Councillors J Richards (in the Chair), R Truman, (Newport CC), K James, T Williams (Caerphilly CBC), & S Ashley (Torfaen CBC), R Dommett, R Francis, W Mitchell (MBACT) & D Morgan (Glandŵr Cymru/ Canal River Trust)  
G Jones, H Carey (Torfaen CBC), C Bosley (Monmouthshire CC) & J Howells (Newport CC)

Apologies: Councillors D Mayer (Newport), D Edwards (Monmouthshire), A Lewis (Caerphilly), C Thomas (Torfaen) & J Holmes (Powys).  
B Illman (MBACT), A Stumpf (GC/CRT)  
A Dallimore (Caerphilly), K Francis (Powys) & M Tribbeck (Newport)

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As the host Council Councillor J Richards took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 **Agenda Page - Welsh**

2 **Apologies for Absence**

As noted above

3 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 14 April 2016 were submitted.

**Agreed:**

That the minutes of the meeting were recorded as a true record

**Matters Arising:**

**Item 2: Matters arising.** W Mitchell apologised for not yet having supplied the briefing note regarding Crindau to the Chair.

**Item 4: 2016 World Canal Conference (Inverness).** R Dommett had attended the conference with R Francis and both had been very impressed with what Scottish Waterways were doing. They engaged successfully with the community and were currently looking at working in a deprived area of Glasgow by pumping water uphill which would create a rainbow effect.

R Francis had been taken on a pre-conference tour and saw that the town of Falkirk and Grangemouth had benefitted immensely from the regeneration of the canal. During the first year following completion of the works approximately 2.5million visitors had visited the area. Because of its obvious success Councils in Scotland had got behind the regeneration in a big way. It was hoped that similar support could be given to the regeneration of the Mon&Brecon canal.

#### 4 **Funding Update**

In previous meetings G Jones had outlined the European funding bid for the M&B Canal Adventure Triangle which was part of a wider bid Visit Wales project across Wales. £2m funding had been approved by WEFO and Visit Wales but £1.5m match funding would be required from Welsh Government (WG). A meeting had taken place recently at Welsh Government but no decision had been made as WG wanted more information on the benefits of the project. Project partners are compiling additional information for the business case and hope to have the match funding request considered by early next year. A lot of projects throughout Wales have been approved with only the canal and one other being subject to more scrutiny. There have been cuts to the WG regeneration budget and therefore there is a need for them to be more stringent.

It is hoped that the 'Overview Strategy', also on today's agenda, will show the Welsh Government of the partnership approach to the regeneration of the canal being progressed between the 5 authorities, MBACT and Canals & River Trust in order that they will buy into the project.

MBACT had been invited to bid for £20k from the South Wales branch of Inland Waterways. They were also applying for small grants to continue with the Waterworks project.

W Mitchell reported that funds had also been forthcoming from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority which would be put towards the refurbishment of the community boat, which hopefully should be in the water by Spring 2017.

#### 5 **Waterworks Volunteer Restoration & Training Project**

This presentation was made by R Dommett and H Carey.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxKU8DGg0sk>

The Waterworks project, a partnership between Torfaen CBC and MBACT, started in 1999 and involved working with volunteers, the local community, training organisations and local schools. Funding is coming to an end so further funds are now being sought to carry on work. To date 6 locks have been restored, the work has been carried out by over 270 volunteers who have worked over 7000 volunteer days. A lot of the volunteers are young people 'not in education, employment or training' (NEETS) and the experience they receive can be credited towards NVQ qualifications. Over 70% of the volunteers had moved onto a positive outcome following their work at the project.

The project has been runner up in the Education & Learning category of the Living Waterways Awards and had also been finalists in the World Canal Conference Guardian award and Leadership award.

The potential of developing links with the Canal College training project in Scotland are being explored by the project team.

R Dommett advised that an ideal scenario would be for the Mon&Brecon Canal to work in partnership with canals across Europe. A team from Midi Canal, Southern France had participated in one of the Mon Brecon Canalathons resulting in them staging their own Canalathon this year in Toulouse. MBACT hoped it would be possible to twin with them.

The Chair thanked H Carey and R Dommett for the presentation which was well received.

#### 6 **M&B Canal Regeneration Overview Strategy (Consultation Draft)**

G Jones presented this item.

Despite the Memorandum of Understanding being signed by all parties in the Mon Brecon Steering Group no overarching plan or strategy had been drawn up of the work the group hoped to carry out to the canal. He had therefore prepared a draft overview strategy for comment and possibly future adoption by the group.

Welsh Government had requested an overview of the regeneration and he believed that a joint strategy could be used as part of the action plan for regeneration of the canal and would aid any funding bids. The strategy could also be used as a short succinct document to engage various groups and communities if it was made into an A4 glossy document for distribution.

G Jones recognised that whilst the total figure quoted (£85m) was a large one it did refer to the regeneration of the whole canal which could be delivered in a series of work packages over 10 years.

The strategy reflected the fact that the regeneration would be a model of sustainable development embodying the principles of the Well Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 and would result in creating an iconic visitor destination to bring the best return of investment to Wales. It will deliver cross-cutting outcomes through a collaborative approach contributing to Welsh Government policy and legislation related to employment, tackling deprivation, education and training, health, tourism transport, heritage and environment.

A lengthy discussion ensued including references to Section 106 monies and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Whilst it was agreed by all parties that a joint strategy would be of benefit to the steering group the decision was taken to bring the item back to the next meeting after the various parties had discussed the document with their relevant departments as there would be costs involved to produce the final copy of the strategy.

**Agreed:**

That the group record its thanks to G Jones for compiling all the details for a very informative document.

That each authority consider the draft strategy further and the item be brought back to the next meeting.

## **7 Update from Individual Authorities**

### **I. Caerphilly County Borough Council**

Alun Griffiths Contractors Ltd was awarded the contract for Phase 2 Ponywaun lining and aqueduct works. The work would comprise of repairs to the aqueduct which is a listed structure and relining of a section of the canal. Work started on 31 August 2016 and it was hoped that it would be completed by February 2017.

Aqueduct refurbishment to brickwork and masonry is ongoing with areas now rebuilt.

Once this is completed there will be 1.5 kilometres of navigable canal from Darran bridge to Cwmcarn.

The binding layer is now complete and preparation works are ongoing for installation of a mass concrete slab at the invert and adjacent beams for the liner with the section of the canal on Pontywaun Rd. Weed cutting will take place on the lower section in Pontywaun. It is hoped that boats will be back on the canal next Spring.

### **II. Monmouthshire County Council**

No specific works reported. MCC highlighted that Goytre Hall wood which is owned by the authority would soon be closed. Boulders and a barrier system would be installed, the barrier would however still allow the Canals Trust access. MCC have discussed with the Canals Trust the possible take-over of their car park which could offer a strategic loops and links connection for the canal. D Morgan to raise the issue again with Andrew Stumpf.

### III. **Newport City Council**

Following completion of the final tranche of works at Fourteen Locks, the Council continues to manage and maintain the Newport stretch of the Mon and Brecon Canal.

The Council's Regeneration team would welcome a meeting with members of the MABCT in order to discuss their concerns around development in the area of the proposed Crindau Marina and identify any ways in which they can assist bringing forward the scheme; however it must be pointed out that the Marina proposal was rejected from Newport's LDP by the Inspector because of the lack of certainty around the development. The Council cannot therefore withhold permission for any other schemes in the area on the grounds that they might prejudice a redevelopment proposal which does not exist.

### IV. **MBACT**

Welsh Water had renewed the penstock at Manor Road which had released water into the Newport section of the canal which had dried out over the summer. Caerphilly are now looking at installing their own penstock.

MBACT had taken over the running of the 14 Locks café from Newport City Council and it was proving very successful. They would be looking to Newport City Council for future grants for the 14 Locks Visitor Centre.

### V. **Torfaen County Borough Council**

The funding for the Waterworks project will soon end so other avenues of funding are being investigated.

With regard to the Adventure Triangle Torfaen were now looking at developing the programme of works in more detail.

### VI. **Canal & River Trust**

The Winter programme of works (spanning November to March) had been compiled.

The canal would be relined between bridges 115 to 116. An Open Day is scheduled for 28 January 2017 when the public would be invited to walk in the bed of the canal.

D Morgan had visited the Lime Kilns at Llangattock where some artists had carried out lime burning. This was a trial run in readiness for another lime burning which would be streamed live direct to Cardiff as part of a contemporary art festival

## 8 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 26 January 2017 which Torfaen agreed to host.

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance and input into the meeting.





## **Memorandum of Understanding**

**January 2013**

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# Memorandum of Understanding

Relating to the Aims of the

## MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANALS REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

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### 1 Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding records the working arrangements for:

The future development of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canals.

### 2 Ownership

The owning authorities' boundaries through which the canal is constructed are:

- Glandŵr Cymru the Canal & River Trust in Wales  
Brecon to centre of stream below Solomons Bridge, Griffithstown, Cwmbran
- Torfaen County Borough Council  
Centre of stream below Solomons Bridge, Griffithstown, Cwmbran to Three Mile Point, Llantarnam, Cwmbran
- Newport City Council  
Three Mile Point Llantarnam, Cwmbran to Harry Roberts Bridge, Pontymister
- Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Harry Roberts Bridge, Pontymister to Cwmcarn

### 3 Partners

In pursuance of their common aim of protecting, restoring and enhancing the contribution made by the historic canal system and associated waterway structures to local communities and in promoting the canal's sustainability including their recreational use, this Memorandum of Understanding is made by the following local authorities and organisations –

**In alphabetical order:**

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority ♦ Glandŵr Cymru the Canal & River Trust in Wales ♦ Caerphilly County Borough Council ♦ Natural Resources Wales ♦ Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust ♦ Newport City Council ♦ Monmouthshire County Council ♦ Powys County Council ♦ Torfaen County Borough Council ♦ Islwyn Canal Association

## 4 Objectives

The partners will work in accordance with the following purposes and principles:

- To secure the currently navigable sections of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal including its structures and water supply.
- To determine, promote and secure the economic, environmental and social benefits accruing from the full restoration of the canals to navigation.
- To investigate and promote the development of Marinas along the route of the canals in particular the development of a Marina on the Crindau Pill at Newport to service both coastal and inland designed craft.
- To encourage local employment and training opportunities through the development of leisure, recreational and social inclusion schemes on the canals.
- To investigate options for the on-going Ownership / Management of the present disused length of canal, from Pontymoile Basin to the City of Newport and from Cwmcarn to the City of Newport when restoration is complete and until a sustainable income achieved.

## 5 Stages of the Partnership Process

The parties agree that the Partnership comprises the following stages:

- Endorsement of Working Group.
- Endorsement of Member Steering Group.
- The Working Group to present and agree a working and funding programme to secure the objectives outlined above, including investigation and restoration actions with members of the Steering Group. Such a programme to be subject to periodic review.
- Recommendations and Findings of the Member Steering Group in support of the objectives above to be reported and recommended for adoption in the Local Authorities and other Partner's policy documents and consultations including :-

Local Development Plan, Unitary Development Plan, Supplementary Planning Guidance, Corporate Plan, Development Briefs, Community Strategy, Transportation Strategy, City Region proposals and responses to Welsh Government consultations including those relating to planning, sustainability, heritage, tourism, regeneration, economic development, European funding etc.

- Any partner wishing to withdraw from the Partnership must give one month's notice in writing prior to a Member Steering Group meeting.

## **6 Officer Working Group: Constitution**

**6.1** Membership nominated by each of the partners referred to in Section 3.

### **6.2 Frequency of Meetings:**

The Officer Working Group shall normally meet bi-monthly or more frequently if the volume or urgency of business should require it.

### **6.3 Appointment of Chairperson:**

The first business of the first meeting of the Officer Working Group in any calendar year shall be to appoint a Chairperson who shall serve until the first meeting of the next following year.

The Officer Working Group may if it so decides also appoint a Vice Chairperson. If the Chairperson is not present at a meeting the Vice Chairman (if appointed) shall preside, and if neither are present the Officer Working Group shall appoint one of the Officer Working Group Representatives present to preside.

### **6.4 Administrative Support:**

The Officer Working Group shall make such arrangements for secretarial and administrative support as it considers necessary.

### **6.5 Procedures:**

The Officer Working Group shall determine its own procedure for the conduct of its business.

## **7 Member Steering Group: Constitution**

### **7.1 Core Membership:**

The core voting membership of the Member Steering Group shall comprise:

Three elected member representatives nominated by each of the authorities listed below who own sections of the canal.

Glandŵr Cymru the Canal & River Trust in Wales ♦ Caerphilly County Borough Council Newport City Council ♦ Torfaen County Borough Council

Two representative nominated by each of the following authorities and organisations listed below.

Brecon Beacons National Parks Authority ♦ Natural Resources Wales Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust ♦ Powys County Council Monmouthshire County Council ♦ Islwyn Canal Association

### **7.2 Steering Group Members:**

Members of the Steering Group shall serve in that capacity until their nomination becomes nullified or is revoked by the nominating authority by which he or she was appointed or on death or resignation or becoming disqualified or ceasing to be a member of the Council whichever happens first.

**7.3 Co-opted Membership:**

The Members Steering Group may co-opt to its membership in an advisory capacity, for such period as it may determine, representatives of any other local authorities or organisations with an interest in the proposal to restore the Canal but members co-opted under this paragraph shall not have a right to vote at meetings of the Members Steering Group.

**7.4 Substitution of Membership:**

A core member or a co-opted member who is unable to attend a meeting of the Members Steering Group may nominate a substitute to attend that meeting in his or her place, subject to the substitute being a nominee of the local authority or organisation who nominated that core member or co-opted member. The nomination of a substitute shall be valid only for the particular meeting for which it was made.

**7.5 Other Attendance:**

Core members and co-opted members may be accompanied to meetings by other representatives of their authorities. The role of the representative shall be as an advisor only and will not have a voting right.

**7.6 Voting:**

The Members Steering Group will seek to reach decisions on its business by consensus. Where a vote is necessary, decisions shall be by a simple majority of the core members present and voting at the meeting. The Chairperson shall not have a second or casting vote. Decisions taken by the Members Steering Group will be for the purpose of advice and/or recommendation to the parties concerned and will not be binding on them.

**7.7 Quorum:**

A quorum of the group should comprise of at least three of the core members of the partnership who are in attendance.

**7.8 Frequency of Meetings:**

That the Steering Group normally meet a minimum of three times a year or more frequently if the volume or urgency of the business should require it.

**7.9 Appointment of Chairperson:**

That the Steering Group appoint a Chair annually. The Chair shall preside at meetings of the Steering Group. In the absence of the Chair, if the Steering Group has appointed Deputy Chair, he or she shall preside. In the absence of the Chair or any appointed deputy, the group will appoint a Chair from within its members on the day.

**7.10 Administrative Support:**

The Members Steering Group shall make such arrangements for Secretarial and Administrative support as it considers necessary.

**7.11 Procedure:**

The Members Steering Group shall determine its own procedure for the conduct of its business.

## **8 The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canals Regeneration Partnership: Terms of Reference**

### **8.1 Primary Function:**

To make the case for and win to sure the currently navigable sections and the restoration and reopening of the disused length and to identify and develop the economic, social and environmental opportunities in a coordinated manner along the total length of the canal corridor of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canals including the Crumlin Arm and the development and connection with a coastal marina on the Crindau.

### **8.2 Secondary Function:**

In order to achieve the primary objective to explore the strategic importance and vision for the canal corridors including :-

- Protect and restore the built and social heritage of the canals.
- Conserve and enhance the natural heritage and landscape of the canals.
- Extend physical and intellectual access to a wider community of interest.
- Create local hubs and/or a major heritage attraction.
- Provide or act as a catalyst for local employment and training opportunities.
- Promote the use of the canal corridor as a walking and cycling route.
- Promote the use of the canal corridor as an education resource.

## **9 Reporting Function**

To make reports and recommendations to each partner authority, agency or organisation as required.

## 10 Status of this Memorandum

Nothing in this document is intended to create any legally binding relationship between the partners nor form a Partnership at Law.

**Signed for and on behalf of**

**Signed for and on behalf of**

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### **Aims and Objectives of Partner Organisation**

#### **Glandŵr Cymru Canal & River Trust**

The navigable length of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canals which Glandŵr Cymru the Canal & River Trust in Wales owns and is responsible for lies between Brecon and the centre of the stream below Solomon's Bridge, Griffithstown, Cwmbran. This existing navigation is owned and managed by a Charitable Trust which cares for 2000 miles of canals and navigable rivers in Wales and England.

Canal & Rives Trust manages its canals and rivers as one network with common policies across England and Wales to ensure resources area allocated where they are most needed and most effective. This All Wales Partnership and local Partnership helps to ensure Wales' and local needs are adequately reflected. Our aim to inspire people to connect with our canals and rivers so that we have the sustainable and evolving canal and river network that is seen as a national treasure and is accessible to and cherished by all.

In respect of this Memorandum the relevant objectives are to:

- Ensure our canals (and rivers) are open, accessible and safe
- Inspire more people to enjoy the canals (and rivers) and support our work
- Earn financial security for our canals (and rivers)
- Minimise the impact we make on scarce resources
- Do everything we can to deliver on our charitable objectives

The charitable trust works with a broad range of public, private and voluntary sector partners to ensure we can meet objectives. Although the southern section of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canals is outside the charitable trusts ownership its interest is in the strategic potential of the canal as a whole to Wales.

Canal & River Trust has an established track record in major restorations, economic regeneration and managing significant water space across the UK and may have the capacity to offer consultancy advice to enable other partners to benefit from that expertise and experience.

#### **The Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust**

The Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust is a registered charity, established in 1984 the aims of the Trust are to promote improvement and maintenance of the navigable canal from Brecon to Five Locks, Pontnewydd; Sustainable regeneration of the canal from Five Locks, Pontnewydd to the City of Newport and from Newport to Cwmcarn; Greater awareness of the economic benefit to all within the local communities and businesses through social inclusion, tourism and leisure activities; Education and interpretation through displays and presentations of the culture and history of the canal and its people.

## **Caerphilly County Borough Council**

The Council's current policy towards the section of the Crumlin Arm under its control may be described as follows:-

- (i) Not to fill in any of the canal.
- (ii) To undertake measures to improve its safety and drainage.
- (iii) To work with others on improvements to the canal.

During 2004 the Council prepared a Canal Corridor Study, this Study was reported to Council Cabinet in March 2005. It is likely that a revision of the Authority's current policy on the canal will result from the Council's consideration of findings of the Canal Corridor Study.

## **Monmouthshire & Brecon Canals Steering Group**

### **Elected Members List**

#### Caerphilly County Borough Council

Cllr K James  
Cllr T Williams  
Cllr A Lewis (Reserve)

#### Monmouthshire County Council

County Cllr M Hickman

#### Powys County Council

Cllr J C Holmes  
Ceri James, Marketing Services Officer

#### Newport City Council

Cllr K Critchley  
Cllr D Mayer  
Cllr J Richards

#### Torfaen County Borough Council

Cllr C Thomas  
Cllr G Smith  
Cllr S Ashley

#### Glandŵr Cymru Canal & River Trust

Andrew Stumpf - Regeneration Manager Wales & West  
David Morgan - Regeneration Manager  
Glenn Miller - European Funding Manager

#### Brecon Beacons National Parks

Martin Buckel  
Ruth Coulthard, Visitor Services Manager

#### Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust

Mr B Illman - Chairman  
Mr W Mitchell - Vice President  
Mr R Dommett MBE - Regeneration Manager

#### Islwyn Canal Association

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