



Memorandum of Understanding

January 2013

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Memorandum of Understanding
Relating to the Aims of the
MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANALS REGENERATION
PARTNERSHIP

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.

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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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