



**British
Waterways
Scotland**

MINUTES

Title	British Waterways Scotland Group - Public Meeting
Date	1 March 2007
Venue	Linlithgow Union Canal Society Tea Room, Linlithgow
Attendees	BWSG - Campbell Christie (Chair); Robin Evans; George Fleming; Guthrie Hutton; Eva McCracken; Kenneth MacKenzie; Rod Michie; Sandra Purves; James Simpson; Duncan Sutherland. BWS – Steve Dunlop; David Lamont ; Richard Millar; Nicola Christie (minutes)
Apologies	Susan Achmatowicz; Tony Hales; Richard Milham.

Other Attendees: See Appendix 1

Introduction & Purpose of Meeting

Campbell Christie, Chairman of the British Waterways Scotland Group (BWSG) opened the meeting. CC gave a brief overview of the concept of the British Waterways Scotland Group - a non-statutory Group established in September 2000, following the formation of the Scottish Parliament. The Group meets several times a year in areas where the canals have an impact on the community. This gives people with an interest in the canals the opportunity to come along and join the discussions. It was noted that the Salt Water/Fresh Water Group meeting conflicted with this meeting and that this would be avoided in future.

CC introduced Karen Moore of The Waterways Trust for Scotland (TWTS) who gave an overview of their current initiatives including Feet First, Falkirk – a pilot walking programme for schools with trained walk leaders; Action Outdoors – a facility at Polmont to provide water activities on the canal. TWTS were also implementing an Arts Programme to place artwork at The Falkirk Wheel as well as have a Green Scene launch at Auchinstarry and an arts facilitator involved with the **Stay Away From the Edge** programme involving schools in Glasgow and Wester Hailes located close to the canal.

CC introduced Stewart Liddle who advised the meeting of the work of the Linlithgow Union Canal Society (LUCS), a voluntary society with c500 members. LUCS provided a boat trip and museum visit for children which had received good feedback. As the current facilities did not meet demand, LUCS had successfully bid for lottery funding to build a purpose built education centre which was awaiting a building warrant prior to construction.

CC thanked Karen Moore and Stewart Liddle and introduced the other members of the panel - Steve Dunlop, Director British Waterways Scotland, David Lamont, General Manager for Scotland

and Robin Evans, Chief Executive of British Waterways and opened the meeting to questions.

Ann Street on behalf of Ronnie Rusack referred to the lack of dredging on the Union Canal as part of the Millennium Link.

BWS advised that dredging at Philipston/Harrison Park was scheduled for this year. A hydro survey had been undertaken during the winter to inform BWS of silt build ups. If there were other specific locations of concern, BWS would like to hear about them to incorporate into the dredging programme if possible.

Ann Street of SIWA enquired whether there were plans for more moorings on the Union Canal to address the waiting list for moorings. pontoons take up navigation. BWS should look at moorings at the canal – side.

BWS want to understand the demand for moorings and market research is to be undertaken to be able to assess the moorings capacity required. The Lowlands office would be able to provide information on available moorings and any queries should be directed to the Lowlands office.

Donald MacKinnon of the Forth & Clyde Canal Society commented on the landing stages across the length of the Forth & Clyde being too small.

BWS would follow up with Donald on this issue.

Ian Street on behalf of Gordon Daly asked about the boat friendliness of the Helix project

The submission to the Heritage Lottery fund for the Helix project was at the preparation stage. Community involvement was key and roadshows were planned over the next 2-3 months which would provide an opportunity to consult with boaters.

Karen Hunt enquired as to whether BWS has any proposals for dry dock facilities on the Union Canal and do BWS envisage the public being able to use the dry dock facilities at the Falkirk Wheel.

BWS would respond to Karen Hunt direct on this issue.

Robert Welsh of the Forth and Clyde Canal Society raised a concern regarding the de-regulation of red diesel.

RE confirmed that there had been substantial lobbying to government regarding red diesel but that the change was being driven by the Europe Union and that a change would have to happen.

Tom Wilson of RYFC asked what the published draft levels will be on the Forth & Clyde this year as he has concerns of the impact of raising the summit pound. He has a race to Orkney in June using the Forth & Clyde so needs assurances from BWS that the draft will not be an issue.

BWS would clarify the position regarding the water-level on the Forth & Clyde canal.

Andy Devenport Edinburgh Canal Society stated there was an issue with problem boaters burning noxious fumes on board boats on the canal. This had been the subject of a complaint from Merchiston Community Council

BWS to check legislation and investigate what can be done to prevent repetition.

Details of the Thomas Telford Conference at the Royal Society of Edinburgh on the 2 July 2007 were noted and anyone interested was invited to register for this conference.

CC closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their contributions.

[The next British Waterways Scotland Group Meeting and Public Meeting will take place on 25 October 2007. The details of the venue would be confirmed on the BWS website www.britishwaterways.co.uk/scotland] **to be confirmed**

Issued by: Nicola Christie

Appendix 1

Name	From
Tom Wilson	RFYC
Jack Thompson	LCC
S. McCourt	Individual
Derek McDonald	Edinburgh Canal Society
Gordon Daly	RYA (until 13.45)
Jayden Thrush	Sustrans
Anne-Marie Campbell	Sustrans
Mike Vickers	LUCS
John Aitken	LUCS
Ronnie Bamberry	Linlithgow Tours and Pride & Passion

Kelso Riddell	Scottish Canoe Association and Forth Canoe Club
Alyson Stevens	Auchinstarry
Bev Schofield	Glasgow - Piccadillo
K. Moore	TWTS
Ken Denver	LUCS
George MacAngus	Forth and Clyde Canal Society
Peter Lamont	Individual
John Watt	Edinburgh Canal Society
Anne Street	SIWA
B. Braithwaite	LUCS
Tricia McLuckie	ECS
Ian Campbell	ECS
Stewart Liddle	LUCS
Donald MacKinnon	Forth and Clyde Canal Society
Walter Martin	Forth and Clyde Canal Society
Robert Welsh	Forth and Clyde Canal Society
A. Devenport	Edinburgh Canal Society
Amanda Ruffles	The Waterways Trust
Ronnie Rusack	Seagull Trust
Guthrie Hutton	British Waterways Scotland Group/ FCCS
Iain Street	Br_19-40, LUCS, SIWACK
Nuala Lonie	LUCS
Jim Lonie	LUCS
Ken Grant	ECS

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