



MINUTES OF USER GROUP MEETING

HELD IN THE FALKIRK WHEEL VISITOR CENTRE CONFERENCE ROOM

ON WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2006
17.30 hours – 19.30 hours

Representing British Waterways:

Ronnie Simpson, Leisure Development Manager, British Waterways Scotland
Norrie Courts, Property and Development Manager, British Waterways Scotland
Leigh Brookes, Travel Trade Administrator, The Falkirk Wheel Visitor Centre

Guest Speakers

Christopher Breslin, Strategic Planner, British Waterways Scotland & ISIS Waterside Regeneration
Brian McGraw, Glasgow City Council – Development & Regeneration Services
Wayland Pope, Director - ISIS Waterside Regeneration

Chairman

Richard Millar, Service & Business Development Manager,
British Waterways Scotland

1.0 Welcome

A welcome to the meeting was given and a short presentation was given at approximately 6 p.m.

2.0 Apologies

The intimated apologies were as follows:

Professor John Hume OBE, Chairman, Lowland Canals User Group
Anna & David Innes, Cramond Boat Club
Dr Iain Campbell
Finola Meikle
Ronnie Bamberry, Linlithgow Tours
Elinor Milne, Seagull Trust, Falkirk
Hamish Leal, Capercaillie Cruisers
David MacDonald
Fiona Willis, IWAAC
Pete Simpson, Zazou Cruises
John Ellis, Fisheries Manager - South, British Waterways

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting Matters Arising & Introduction

This presentation given as a result of Action 7.2.1 Lowland Canals User Group Meeting at the Grange Manor Hotel on 29 October 2005. This meeting and presentation specifically given to keep The Lowland Canals User Group informed of developments.

4.0 Spiers Wharf Update

Christopher Breslin

A very informative presentation of the latest proposals for the Glasgow Canal Regeneration Project was given by Christopher Breslin (BW & ISIS) and copies can be borrowed at the Lowland Canals Office by contacting Marion Paterson.

4.1. Questions and Comments

- Opening Question If Commonwealth Games come to Glasgow will the canal join River Clyde?
- Brian McGraw GCC are considering redevelopment of Sighthill or Dalmarnock for a games village if Glasgow wins the bid. These are deprived areas with poor quality housing which require redevelopment. A decision on the Games location will not be taken until 2007. If Sighthill is redeveloped there could be an option to extend the canal into this area if funding is available.
- Guthrie Hutton South Spiers Wharf will obscure North Spiers Wharf. There is 19th century architecture in this district and what is proposed is disappointing. Why develop this site first?
- Chris Breslin Spiers Wharf is close to city centre – the New Rotterdam Wharf and Dundas proposals are the first of a series of canal regeneration proposals for the canal corridor. We also want to utilise the areas with existing development and imminent development for safe mooring locations.
- Question Why not Port Dundas?
- Wayland Pope Port Dundas is years away from being developed and therefore some time away from being able to provide safe moorings. We need to develop along the canal to ensure general safety and provide secure moorings in conjunction with development.
- Brian McGraw GCC support the idea to provide in the short term a boating destination / mooring location at Speirs Wharf with a view to further attractions being provided in Port Dundas in the longer term. A sense of ownership of each place is required. We need to be able to manage people on and off the site. We are hoping that we can create a safe and vibrant canal-side community. Currently residents express that this is an isolated area and don't like walking in this area.
- W Pope Historic Scotland have also backed the design of the proposals as have GCC's City Design Advisor.
- Gordon Daly Is it not possible to have a lower less imposing structure of a building?
- Wayland Pope The structure is as small as is possible. We require the size to allow for parking underneath the building. The depth of the site informs the depth of the building which also mirrors the building on the opposite side of the canal. The building has also been designed to meet the roof level of Speirs Wharf opposite – again in conjunction with discussions with Historic Scotland and GCC.
- Brian McGraw Glasgow City Council have been at all design meetings. We backed the fact that all external issues were considered. Design ethos is that cars should be out of sight – parking underneath and should not dominate the development.
- Bev Schofield The design of buildings are not complimenting Spiers Wharf. No account of the area's historic atmosphere has been taken into account? And when will we find out about Port Dundas?
- Wayland Pope Concerning the design of the buildings – we consulted residents but ultimately we are regenerating and this is a high spec of materials and design. Concerning Port Dundas - There are

Brian McGraw	infrastructure and utility restrictions concerning the Port Dundas area – I am not sure of timescale. This is a long term joint venture. Concerning Port Dundas – the redevelopment in Port Dundas will be at least two years further down the line. Glasgow always changes and is characterised by diversity in architecture. Part of Glasgow’s charm is that there are different kinds of architecture round each corner.
Robert Wayland Pope	Does Scottish Executive give money for these projects. They support everything that BW is doing and certain canal walls in the Port Dundas area have been fixed already with Scottish Exec funding. They are aware of the order in which we do these things – i.e. invest in infrastructure to support future development.
Bill Purves	Bill noted the topography of Spiers Wharf and that developments should all rise up to the canal.
Colin Galloway Wayland Pope	Will you consider pitched roof instead of flat roof? We consider that a flat roof is an appropriate solution and that it is part of the overall modern statement that the building makes.

4.2. No Actions Recorded from this Meeting.

5.0 Next Meetings

Date of next meeting: Saturday 25 March 2006
Time: 9.30 a.m. for 10 a.m. start
Venue: Grange Manor Hotel, Grangemouth

For your information – Dates for your Diary
User Group Meetings all at
The Grange Manor Hotel and all starting at 10 a.m.
Saturday 25 March 2006
Saturday 28 October 2006
Saturday 24 March 2007
Saturday 27 October 2007

The Scottish Boat Show & Outdoor Leisure Festival 2006
will be 19th – 21st May 2006
Telephone Richard Davies on 01324 677810 for more information

11.0. FOR YOUR INFORMATION -
actions recorded/MP/February 2005
For ease of reference – items are numbered
.0 – presentation
.1 – Questions & Comments
.2 – Actions