

USER GROUP MINUTES

Title: LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL USER GROUP FORUM
Date: 29TH MARCH 2006
Venue: BRITISH WATERWAYS WIGAN OFFICE

	Debbie Lumb opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Presentations by the Management Team covering Estates, Operations and Service topics	Actions / comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issues were raised with problems relating to vehicles coming over bridges with weight limits. Cannot compromise heritage structures and it is very costly to carry out strengthening works. ▪ Motor bike accessing the towpath at Scarisbrick. This is a health and safety problem. BW advised that if possible, any photographic evidence should to be supplied to local area supervisor. Needs to be logged with the police when witnessed so that they acknowledge it as an anti-social behaviour incident. ▪ Ongoing problems relating to dog fouling near to Red Lion. BW will look into the provision of dog bins in the area; however this is reliant on local council agreeing to empty the bins free of charge ▪ Alan Carter to be asked about wooded area at Scarisbrick near Mersey boat Club. Re: ownership & plans. ▪ Liverpool Link – request made to make sure that tunnels are lit properly. Comments passed to the design team. ▪ Scarisbrick Bridge – estates team to liaise with local council about weight restrictions on the bridge. ▪ BW looking into potential mooring site in Litherland. These will not be located outside of BW base but may be outside the new development near Tesco. ▪ Complaint that notes from the last meeting were not complete. Accepted by BW ▪ Comments were made that the winter Stoppage Programme was scheduled to run longer than in the past. Locks re-opening later, usually around 10th March. Stoppage programme available on request from BW from around mid September ▪ Plank Lane – Investigating the structural problems at present hopeful to have open by Easter arranging travel through passages. This re-opened on 13th June 2006 ▪ Assisted passage for Wigan locks – reviewing the possibility of having a temporary team of waterway rangers based in the area to assist with the locks and other customer service issues. This will be dependant on sourcing the required funds. 	<p>AC</p> <p>JG</p> <p>AC</p>



- There is a common perception that the Wigan flight is assisted. The Wigan flight is not an assisted passage however; roving lock keepers will be on site from 8am should assistance be required.
- Request to receive water-provision updates. Information should be made available about water levels and the likelihood of restrictions and closures as a result. BW endeavour to provide updated information at the earliest opportunity for stoppages relating to water supply.
- Mooring signage will be erected at Hapton for both visitor and long term linear moorings. Mooring rings will also be installed at this location.
- Rubble in the canal at Long Ing Bridge in Barnoldswick adjacent to Old Mill site. Dredging team will be advised. Look to address the area in April / May.

Question & Answer

Q: Bootle area – towpath upgrade being looked at, also in Sefton Area.

NS

A: Nick Smith to review possibility of funding and report back.

Q: Water sports Centre at Queens Dock – looking to get funding to animate the waterway.

EW

A: Emma Wheeler to review possibility of funding and report back

Q: Mersey Motor Boat Club area problems with anti-social behaviour – Is there anything BW can do?

A: BW’s Community Safety Officer, Sue Ashurst, is currently liaising with local councils and police in order to take action against anti-social behaviour across the North West.

Q: Request made for dredging near to Crooke. No plans to carry out dredging works in this location at this time.

A: This work has been included in the winter works plan 2006/07 we will consult with customers once date has been set

TG/DG

Q: What’s happening with CCTV on Wigan flight.

A: Wigan Council are making an application for lighting to be installed on the flight, BW will submit an application for funding at the same time. Gerry McEvoy to advise of timescales.

<p>Q: Hydrological Study for Reservoirs in relation to water levels on the L&L canal.</p> <p>A: A study is currently being worked on by the Hydrology Team in Hatton. In conjunction with this NW & Yorkshire BU have been meeting with customers to try and manager water levels.</p>	
<p>Q: Water Transfer – Winterburn looking at compensation feed.</p> <p>A: Reviewing this with the Environment Agency but it is dependant on an ecological survey.</p>	
<p>Q: Towpath improvements required adjacent to Wheelton Boat Club.</p> <p>A: Plans for these to commence between June and August this year.</p>	MO
<p>Q: Outstanding leaks on culvert and moorings at ELWY boat club.</p> <p>A: Repairs planned for April / May</p>	MO
<p>Q: Fallen tree near to hapton boat yard needs clearing.</p> <p>A: Will inspect this immediately.</p>	MO
<p>Q: Verandas have been erected outside a local residents property in this area.</p> <p>A: Will refer details onto our estates department.</p>	AC
<p>Q: Problems with craft mooring up outside the water point at Knots Bridge.</p> <p>A: Details have been passed to enforcement team to investigate.</p>	
<p>Q: Trees located near to ELWY boat club need removing.</p> <p>A: Maintenance Supervisor to visit site and review.</p>	MO
<p>Debbie Lumb concluded the meeting. Date of Autumn meeting will be 18th October at the NW office in Wigan.</p>	