



Barnsley, Dearne & Dove Canals Trust

www.BDDCT.org.uk

Newsletter – Spring 2013

Greetings to all

Yes! Its Renewal and AGM time again!! – So, if you have a renewal form in with this news letter (and the ‘dreaded red dot’ on the label) *please* help us by renewing promptly,

Matters have been moving so slowly that it appears we are at a standstill, but, rest assured we haven’t forgotten about the restoration - so don’t lose heart just yet!

Our most immediate plans are to commission the Environmental Impact Study for the Walton Top Pound through to Cold Hiendley, - then it will be about 1 ½ miles of scrub bashing and mud digging with towpath wall repairs as required and a slipway at some point – plain basic restoration work (or is that WRGing!!) This will give us a showpiece for trail-boats and fishing etc. Wakefield Council are about to consider allowing studies and work to progress in line with their adoption of the restoration line proposed by the Atkins feasibility study - now included in the Local Development Framework (LDF) plan. Watch this space!

Efforts continue to try and get Barnsley Council to adopt a similar approach in their LDF to Wakefield. The Trust thinks that a continuous line of restoration rather than a series of unconnected stretches of water should be in the plan. The battle continues later in the year.

The most recent danger to our route is HS2 Stage 2 extension to Leeds which is planned to run across the Dearne & Dove Stairfoot flight diversion which we plan to put down the old railway line. Levels look promising as the HS2 line goes well under our proposed water levels but will require a large single span aqueduct. The proposed route parallels the Barnsley Canal northwards from Stairfoot to cross the Cold Hiendley Reservoir just in front of the Winterset Reservoir Dam on a viaduct. The IWA, Chesterfield Canal Trust, the Ashby Canal Trust and ourselves are forming an Ad-hoc committee to ensure a co-ordinated approach is made to the powers that be in order to protect our routes (and if possible advance our restoration goals). We will also be approaching Barnsley and Wakefield councils to work with them on our detailed submissions at the appropriate time. It’s early days yet - but!!!

The published line of HS2 will probably have an impact on the Ninelakes Forest Park scheme. Associated development planned for the Winterset area will be very close to the line, so re-prioritisation of the phasing seems likely. This could push back the use of the restored section of the Barnsley between Walton and Cold Hiendley for water-related activities. But restoration can proceed quite independently.

Plans for housing on the old Wakefield power station site are still being progressed, with the increasing interest being shown in a water-related development that could include boat access to the River Calder.

The official Accounts for 2012 and minutes of the AGM 2012 will be available at the AGM 2013
Hopefully see you all at the AGM

OK that’s it for now;
Best Regards

Ulrich Signer

Membership Secretary & Editor

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