



Barnsley, Dearne & Dove Canals Trust

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Winter 2005 Newsletter

How the months seem to pass by at an increasing rate. It only seems to be yesterday that the appeal for funds for the Barnsley Canals Consortium restoration study went out. But the truth of the matter is that it's now over two years, since the feasibility study brief was written, followed by the subsequent appointment of Consultants WS Atkins to carry the actual feasibility study. After much research, study and earlier draft proposals, By the time that you are reading this the final feasibility study report is projected to be completed and with the Barnsley Canals Consortium..

Meetings with the three councils Wakefield, Barnsley & Rotherham Councils have also been organised by the Consortium to meet with the elected representatives and officials to discuss the proposals from the Consultants WS Atkins. It is appropriate again to thank all the sponsors who donated monies, in total over £40,000 was raised in support of the feasibility study

The finish of the report is quite timely for the Barnsley Councils LDF (Local development framework) planning process is actively going through a public consultation process. A study of the linked document section **122**
http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/docs/services/ldf/preferred/preferred_options_dpds/corestrategy.pdf

States:- **"We will consider the possibility of restoring the former Barnsley canal network for transport, leisure and biodiversity, through the Transport Proposals Development Plan document"**

The Atkins report will also be used by the planners to support their decisions from the public consultation process

In Wakefield the Council has produced a document with the regional development agency "Yorkshire Forward" the document again appears to be supportive of the concept of restoration, and even includes a plan from the www.bddct.org.uk website showing the canal corridor up to the border with Barnsley!

So the possibility of restoration has reached a critical stage, so I would encourage members old and new, to get involved. This is the best opportunity that the Canal Trust has got to bring about the restoration of the Yorkshire Waterways missing link. So please do come along to the meetings, join or rejoin, your membership is important to us.

Sadly I have to report that our Company Secretary Mark (ably assisted by Angela) has to stand down at the end of 2005 for personal reasons. Could I use this space to thank him publicly for his work and sound advice over recent years. Which leads on to where you come in, that creates a vacancy on the management Committee! So if there is anyone out there with a few hours spare each month we would love to hear from you don't be shy. Many hands make light work.

Derek Chairman

Latest from the Trust and the Barnsley Canals Consortium Engineer

Following a final consultation with officers of the Wakefield and Barnsley councils, it has been agreed that there are now no issues that prevent the publication of the final document, and our consultant Atkins are now proceeding to print. A rapid exchange of logos from the funding bodies has followed so that all necessary acknowledgements can be included. In parallel with that process, John Openshaw from the Barnsley Canals Consortium is in the process of negotiating dates for the first meetings with Wakefield, Rotherham and Barnsley councils, and this is firming up for the the middle of January 2006. Patrick Moss Atkins' study director will be in attendance and will be able to draw on his extensive experience of canal restoration projects across the country. He has prepared an executive summary of the full report for the meetings, which will give both council members and officers a ready source of essential information during the coming months.

Getting the Atkins line for the canals protected by making sure it is included in the Local Development Framework (the successor document to the current Local Plan) is our next key milestone in securing the future of the canals. So in late November the Trust registered its concerns about our local canals and sought assurances from Barnsley Council that the future of the canals would be considered from the earliest possible point in the development process leading up to the production of the Local Development Framework document. Already it appears that the possible restoration of the canals has a reasonably high profile in that process, but keeping up the pressure can do no harm. The West Riding Branch of the IWA also submitted a supporting letter and has registered its expectations.

So keep everything crossed and watch this space for further updates on the progress we are making with the councils - we're really getting somewhere at last!

Mike Silk Engineer

Funding News

- The Trust has successfully applied for a £4,500 grant from “**Awards for All**” the money will go towards a laptop computer, projector and printer, towards the printing costs of publicity material and towards the launch of the feasibility study.
- The **IWA** has kindly donated £667 to the Trust and again this will go towards the feasibility study.
- Earlier in the year the **COOP** generously donated COOP £500 towards footpath markers / Plaques to help identify the route of the canals. Following the release of the feasibility study, steps are being taken to finish this project off. A big **thank you** to all our sponsors / funders.

Program of Events 2006

The Trust holds an open meeting on the first Monday in the Month (except Bank Holidays) at 20.00 hours at the Market Hotel, Wentworth Road, Elsecar, Barnsley. **ALL WELCOME**. Fifteen days later on the Tuesday evening at 20.00 hours, the trust holds its management committee meetings.

Monday 2nd January Bank Holiday no formal meeting.

Tuesday 17th January Com. meeting

Monday 6th February Ken Neilson, man of knots, is back by popular demand, to educate & to entertain us, with an opportunity to practice a knot or two.

Tuesday 21st February Com. Meeting

Monday 6th March update on the restoration feasibility study, come along and hear the latest news.

Tuesday 21st March Com meeting

Monday 3rd April illustrated talk on newly discovered pictures / slides on the South Yorkshire / Sheffield navigation. The slides have come to the Trust via the Barnsley archives group. Can you help solve the mystery of who was the original owner of the slides?

April Spring Clean and preparation for grass cutting meet at Elsecar, date and time to be confirmed nearer time.

Easter weekend IWA Trail Boat Rally over on the Lancaster Canal

Com meeting date to be confirmed due to Easter holidays

Monday 1st May no formal meeting Bank Holiday

Sunday 14th May Local History / Heritage Fair at Cannon Hall Museum, Cawthorne near Barnsley 12.00 -16.00 hours admission free. The Trust have a stall at the event, volunteers required to staff it please contact Derek on 01226 790341

Tuesday 16th May Com meeting

Monday 5th June meeting speaker to be confirmed.

June / July Trusts annual trip Mark and Angela are looking at organising a boat trip along the Manchester Ship Canal. From Salford to Liverpool returning by coach in the evening back to Salford. Further details to follow nearer the time on the Trusts website at www.bddct.org.uk

Tuesday 20th June Com meeting

Monday 3rd July AGM come and have your say at the Trusts 22nd AGM Speaker to be confirmed. Election and re-election of officers and Committee.

For updated information please see our website at www.bddct.org.uk