

Kennet & Avon Canal East Meeting

Date:	Wednesday 23 rd November 2016	
Venue:	Stanton St Bernard Village Hall	
Attendees:	Dawn Wilson (Chair)	PCAP & Wilcot & Huish with Oare PC
	Susie Brew (Minutes)	PCAP
	John Marston	All Cannings PC & Boater
	Liz Marston	All Cannings PC & Boater
	Mark Evans	Canal & River Trust
	Robert Carpenter Turner	Alton PC
	Kay Wardle	Pewsey PC
	Jane Brown	Boater
	PC Teresa Herbert	Wiltshire Police
	Nick Brown	Bargee Travellers Association
	Panda Smith	Bargee Travellers Association
	Pru Smith	Wilcot & Huish with Oare PC
	Nic Fleet	Wilcot & Huish with Oare PC
	Richard Fleet	Wilcot & Huish with Oare PC
	Joyce Hale	Stanton St Bernard PC
Apologies:	Dee Nix	Wilcot & Huish with Oare PC & Chair of this meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Dawn Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Anti-Social Behaviour & Other Police Matters

PC Teresa Herbert advised that Operation Kraken is being launched on 1st December which is an initiative with British Waterways to counter terrorism and support boating communities.

Teresa advised boaters to sign up for Community Messaging which is a service that the Police and other Emergency Services use to advise people of problems in their area, such as suspicious behaviour, thefts and so on.

Action: Susie to send out the link to attendees.

Action: Teresa will send out the statistics for canal crime.

Action: Susie to send out the article on crime prevention.

Dawn advised the meeting that all suspicious activity and crime should be reported to 101 (999 for hare coursing or if the crime is underway or you are in any danger) as it helps Teresa and her team enormously. Very often something such as a description of a vehicle can be the link that they need to solve crime.

The issue of delays on the 101 service was raised and the associated cost. The non-emergency number for Wiltshire Police is 01380 826 614. The national Police website is www.police.uk.

Teresa advised that safety checks can be carried out by the Wiltshire & Dorset Fire Service. In addition, they are running some Boat Safety talks and there will be one at The Barge Inn on 12th December. More information is on the K&A Boating Community website - www.kanda.boatingcommunity.org.uk/.

Action: Teresa to find out January and February dates and locations.

Mark Evans advised that the number of noise incidents from stag party boats is decreasing as they seem to be on the decline. His concern is that low level crime, small thefts, random vandalism is not being reported (see previous comments).

Action: **Teresa and Mark to organise to meet more regularly.**

Robert Carpenter Turner advised that there is a boat with a very noisy generator in the Quiet Zone at Honeystreet. It is being dealt with because it has been moored for too long but it seems that residents are powerless to do anything. Teresa advised that the police and other partner agencies can issue a verbal or written Community Protection Notice where there is a detrimental impact on a community. Robert said that at weekends the Canal & River Trust are not around and this is often when you really need the assistance.

Mark advised that if there is antisocial behaviour on a boat, then the CRT 24 hour on-call system is available. Issues with noise should be raised with Wiltshire Council not the Police.

Mark Hough and Tim Harris are ASB specialists at Wiltshire Police and are able to help where people feel they are being subject to ASB. If the incident is on the towpath, then the Police can respond.

Teresa confirmed that the incident should be reported as ASB to the Police rather than to the CRT and if there is any violence, then it should be done via 999.

3. Actions from Previous Meeting

Recycling

New licensing rules apply to Everleigh and all other Household Recycling Centres in Wiltshire for trailers and vans. The licences are currently free of charge to non-commercial users.

Parking in Wilcot

The bridges have not had white lines painted on them yet.

4. Tow Path Code & Share the Space Update

Mark Evans had cards with him for boaters to display in their windows. Susie Brew also took some to distribute to partner businesses of the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership (PVTP).

Action: **Mark to organise a bigger supply for the PVTP.**
Susie to share cards and info with businesses through the PVTP.

5. Tow Path Improvements

Devizes and Bath have been completed, however it is not a top priority for the CRT's budget. Therefore they look for a funder to help pay for the improvements, so for Devizes it was Wiltshire Council, for Bath it was Cycle Ambition Fund. The same approach will need to be undertaken for other stretches that need work.

There is a stretch that is in particular need of improvement at Milkhouse Water.

Nick Brown confirmed that he can get volunteers to do the work. Dawn suggested that this could be used to match fund for any materials or equipment that may be needed if applying for a grant. Winter up to February is the best time to do the work. Mark confirmed that the towpath must be kept as a green way (not hardcore). Mark confirmed that if a volunteer group were able to do the work, then it must be sanctioned with the CRT first. Jane asked whether Mark could provide information (materials, plant, man hours) on the costs of doing the work at other sites so that funding to do the work at Milkhouse could be researched.

Action: **Mark to provide details and costs of improvement work.**

6. Adopt a Canal / Volunteering

Volunteering has gone well with boaters doing a litter pick at Wilcot. It was suggested that the boaters and the villagers join forces next year to do the litter pick in March before verges grow up.

To counter fly tipping at bin points, Mark can organise a skip.

Action: **Mark to organise tidy up weekend and skip.**

7. Wilcot Verge Improvements

This is an on-going issue where cars park on a narrow lane, part on road, part on the verge. This causes obstruction to other vehicles as well as destroying the verge. Dawn confirmed that there have been discussions with the landowner and with Wiltshire Council to find a solution to this. The issue is not targeted at boaters. Dee Nix is arranging a meeting to progress this and any comments should be forwarded to the Clerk at Wilcot & Huish with Oare PC - clerk@wilcotandhuish-pc.gov.uk. Wilcot PC has offered to contribute funds to any work supported by the land owner and Wiltshire Council Highways in order to get this issue moving.

Panda was concerned that the bank had been built up at Wide Water so that people couldn't park off the road. Dawn confirmed that the work in Wilcot was in response to a request from residents to stop damage, provide firm surfaces for parking in suitable areas and block parking in unsuitable areas to improve farm vehicle and emergency vehicle access. Dawn advised that volunteers may be needed to do the finishing off work and Nick said that he would be able to help get some volunteer assistance.

8. Parking access along the canal for all users

There is a maintenance pound at Milkhouse Water which could be turned into a small car parking area. Mark will investigate.

Action: **Mark to investigate maintenance pound.**
Suggestions for any other possible sites for parking - All
Investigate New Mill - Panda
Mapping facilities on the K&A - Mark

9. Access issues for fishing clubs, boat numbers

Anglers are generally concerned that they won't get a line in the water as there are too many boats, especially near deep water moorings. It can be difficult for anglers to get access between boats as they are moored too close together.

If a club is having difficulties, then they should contact Mark as he may be able to help - about 50% is privately owned but can be organised. CRT is already working with Reading Anglers.

Nick said there can be friction when a boat moves as it stirs up silt. Forewarning of any fishing match dates would be useful so Boaters are aware.

Action: **Dawn to get information from anglers on what boaters should do if anglers are fishing.**
Susie to put Fishing Club rep in touch with Mark.

10. Any other business

Nick said the fence has fallen to bits on the towpath west of the bridge in Wilcot.

Action: **Mark to check.**

Panda asked whether it was possible to have more visitor moorings at Wilcot and Dawn confirmed that this is not possible.

John said that there is a lack of visitor moorings in Devizes and Mark confirmed that a review of visitor moorings at the eastern end is about to start.

Panda said it was difficult to moor close to the edge of the canal because it is too shallow. Places such as Allington are no longer accessible because the water is too shallow, which impacts capacity on the canal. Mark confirmed that the CRT are doing spot dredging to address the worst places over the winter and it will be completed by Spring 2017. Dredged depth depends on use. Long Pound is slightly shallower due to seepage.

Mark confirmed there will be a user forum in Spring .

Dawn confirmed that there are plans to have two of these Canal Meetings per year and the next one would be good to tie in with the Wilcot tidy up.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm