

Chesterfield Canal Members Steering Group - Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Steering Group will oversee the restoration of the remaining disused section of the Chesterfield Canal between Killamarsh & Kiveton Park Station. It will seek to achieve this by:

- The ongoing development of a vision for the Masterplan Area, which shall be consistent with the aims & objectives of the current version of the “2020 Vision” for the Canal.
- Establishing & protecting a boundary for the Masterplan Area, which shall comprise the route of the Canal & any associated features such as tow-paths, foot-paths, marinas, means of access, tributaries and sources of water supply, bridges, locks, embankments and historic features: together with any adjacent areas of land needed to restore the Canal.
- Providing advice and guidance to the Project Manager & delegating individual items of work.
- Seeking access to appropriate sources of funding for the project.
- Commissioning internal & external partners to carry out specific items of work.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of partnership arrangements & fair & appropriate division of workload.
- Agreeing & implementing a communication/promotion plan.
- Developing partnerships with related professional groups & local interest parties.

The Steering Group will manage the project giving consideration to practical matters including:

- Priority actions.
- Slippage.
- Risks & issues.
- Communications & engagement, internally & externally.
- Agreed scope, timetable & budget
- Matters to be forwarded to the Chesterfield Canal Technical & Executive Steering Group bodies.

The Steering Group will pay due regard to emerging initiatives such as the effects of climate change, flood alleviation, encouraging the use of green energy & transportation; the need to conserve & protect the environment, including wildlife habitats & local species of flora & fauna; & the need for aftercare & management of the Canal & its associated features in an era of economic constraint. Successful management of the project will require a novel & innovative approach.

2. Membership

The Steering Group will be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Business Growth & Regeneration.

Core membership of the Group will comprise the following:

- Council Ward Members – Wales & Anston Wards
- Parish Council Representative – Wales Parish Council
- Project Manager, Environment & Development Service
- Representative of the Kiveton Park & Wales Development Trust

Occasional representation from outside the core group will be invited, principally from the following organisations:

- Canals & Rivers Trust
- Local Economic Partnership
- Don Catchment Partnership
- The Environment Agency
- Planning Service, Rotherham MBC
- Legal Services, Rotherham MBC
- Streetpride Service, Rotherham MBC

Other representatives may be invited to attend as necessary, for example where expertise is required on specialised themes such as hydrological issues, ecology, tunnels & other specialised Canal structures.

Occasional attendance may also be requested from representatives of local interest groups, land-owners & national waterway bodies.

All representatives will be asked to sign up to the purpose of the Steering Group & take responsibility for progressing actions.

3. Phasing of Works

The current economic climate necessitates a pragmatic approach to the restoration of the Canal & for this reason a distinct phasing of works is proposed, comprising sections that have been identified on the grounds of economic regeneration as well as topographic or legal considerations.

This is not to say that a “medium” & “long” term viewpoint will not be adopted, as well as a “short term” view, but essentially development work will be planned as follows:

Phase 1 – Norwood Tunnel (East Portal) to Wales Bridge

- 1A – Norwood Tunnel (East Portal) to Hard Lane
- 1B – Hard Lane Underpass & Locks
- 1C – Hard Lane Locks to Kiveton Bridge
- 1D – Kiveton Bridge to Wales Bridge
- 1E – Kiveton Waters Marina

Phase 2 – Wales Bridge to Norwood Tunnel (West Portal)

- 2A – Wales Bridge to M1 Motorway
- 2B – M1 Underpass
- 2C – Norwood High & Top Locks (Lock Nos; 19a to 19f)

Phase 3 – Norwood Tunnel (West Portal) to Norwood Bridge (Bridge No; 30)

- 3A – Norwood Middle Locks (Lock Nos; 16 to 19)
- 3B – Norwood Bridge & Lower Locks (Bridge No; 30 to Lock No; 16)

Phase 4 – Potential ‘Rother Link’ (Chesterfield Canal to South Yorkshire Canal)

4. Reporting, Communication and Links

Within Rotherham MBC, the Steering Group will report to & implement the strategic direction of, the Cabinet Member for Business Growth & Regeneration & will submit Minutes of it’s meetings to this Cabinet Member.

The Steering Group will also report to & implement the Strategic direction of the Chesterfield Canal Technical & Executive Steering Groups.

The Group will also plan & deliver communications & engagement activities to ensure that external stakeholders are properly involved in the process, including:

- Presentation of general updates & specific consultation.
- Organisation of workshops & events for local authority officers as necessary. These will focus on pertinent topics on which feedback will inform & direct development of strategy & policy in the Masterplan in a timely manner.

- Organisation of workshops & events for external stakeholders as necessary, with an emphasis on business & land owners, developers & relevant authorities. These will focus on pertinent topics on which feedback will inform & direct development of strategy & policy in the Masterplan in a timely manner

Members of the Steering Group will also ensure effective coordination of activity with any other dedicated project groups either existing or emerging, where the purpose of those groups complement or contribute to the themes of the Masterplan.

The Group will meet on alternate months, commencing February 2015 & may hold special meetings on specific issues when required. It will be serviced by the Environment & Development Service, Rotherham MBC.

Meetings will be held at Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham or at a venue closer to the site when circumstances require.