

Sarina Young

From: Mike Rodd <mrodd@btinternet.com>
Sent: 21 April 2011 17:30
To: Robin Evans
Subject: Action Plan for Boating Management: Kennet & Avon Canal East

20 April 2011

Mr Robin Evans
Chief Executive
British Waterways
64 Clarendon Road
Watford
WD17 1DA

Dear Robin

**ACTION PLAN for BOATING MANAGEMENT:
KENNET & AVON CANAL EAST - January 2011**

I write as the Chairman of The Kennet & Avon Canal Partnership, established to oversee the HLF award, and which remains in place to account for the continuing support for the canal, and the funding provided by the Riparian Authorities.

The above Action Plan has come to our attention as several members of our K&A Trade Association have either been refused licenses to operate new hire boats on the Devizes-Reading section of the waterway or have been advised that they will not be able to increase the size of the present fleets.

We note that this Action Plan is the result of an agreement between British Waterways and Natural England. We are horrified that no other organisations, especially the Riparian Authorities, the Canal Trust, and the Trade Association have even been officially informed of the existence of the Plan or, indeed, actually been consulted.

Whilst we are aware of the underlying issues of torbidity which has led to the Action Plan, we are also well aware of recent work which shows that restricting boat movement is only one of many other ways of tackling the issue.

We also wish to remind you that under the original HLF agreement between the Partners, and especially those who are continuing to provide substantial funding to BW, that it was agreed that BW would do everything possible to increase the revenue-generating activities on the waterway, thus ensuring, as far as possible, the future sustainability of the waterway. Clearly the Action Plan flies in the face of this undertaking **and will be a cause of considerable concern** to the contributing Riparian Authorities, who are already struggling to continue to justify meeting their commitments.

It is with some regret that I write this letter in light of the constructive partnership between British Waterways and this Partnership which has led to the establishment of the Trial Local Partnership.

We look forward to your response to the above concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mike

Dr M G Rodd FIET CEng

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Sarina Young

From: June Pell
Sent: 05 March 2012 10:27
To: Sarina Young
Cc: Robin Evans
Subject: Correspondence with Mike Rodd
Attachments: Action Plan for Boating Management: Kennet & Avon Canal East

Sarina:

This is all I can find with regard to correspondence with Mike Rodd and Robin.

Regards

June.

From: Mike Rodd [<mailto:mrodd@btinternet.com>]
Sent: 16 May 2011 08:12
To: Robin Evans
Cc: Mark Stephens
Subject: RE: Meeting with Tony Hales

Dear Robin

Thank you for this and sorry to be slow in responding but it has been a complicated and busy few weeks for us in both the Trust and the Partnership as we put together, and run, a series of consultations with our Trust and Partnership members relating to the DEFRA proposals.

As Mark and James will report, we had a good meeting of the Local Partnership last week and I hope that the 2 Defra folk there got a flavour of both our support and constructive concerns. We have had submissions now from most of our members and will be constructing our official submission ready for consideration at our meeting next month. We also are getting stuck into setting up a series of initiatives and I am sure that these will result in valuable support for Mark and his excellent team. The Partnership, though, continues to be extremely concerned about support once James Young departs – neither the Trust or, I suspect, Mark will be able to find suitable resources to replace James' exceptional work.

Thank you for following up on my comments to Tony Hales. I have been in contact with James Lazarus and whilst I am sure a meeting with him will prove to be useful, I am not sure if it will solve the underlying problem we have (and here it is largely viewed from the Trust's experience) whereby, whilst we might agree locally on a variety of property-related matters, things seem to disappear into a black hole. For example, over the arrangements at Claverton, which have been under discussion ever since I arrived at the Trust some 2 and a half year ago.

The Partnership is now actively engaged both in the issues of Turbidity and Moorings. In the first case, we have set up a working group led by Bill Fisher to guide us. In the case of Moorings, we look forward to receiving the final proposals from the Damian Kemp's Local Moorings Strategy Group for our consideration. We are encouraged by the way that this work has progressed, although we are concerned by recent developments.

Another issue I raised with Tony related to Volunteering. I have been in contact with Edd Moss over this and brought to his attention some serious concerns. He has promised to get back to me and we will then set up to meet with him and other relevant people.

With very best regards
Mike

From: Robin Evans [<mailto:Robin.Evans@britishwaterways.co.uk>]
Sent: 11 May 2011 11:34
To: Mike Rodd
Cc: Mark Stephens
Subject: Meeting with Tony Hales

Dear Mike

I refer to your e-mail of the 21 April and your recent meeting with Tony Hales.

I understand from Tony that whilst you have an excellent working relationship with Mark Stephens, you feel the communication with other parts of BW is not so good. I think you mentioned moorings and estates specifically. You have also brought to my attention the lack of communication regarding the restrictions required by the EA in respect of turbidity problems.

Taking the three issues in turn:

Estates: I will arrange for James Lazarus who is our Head of Property Development in the South England to visit and talk through our current plans in and around the K&A and the Bridgwater. (I don't think there is much, if any other than Aldermaston). He will also clear with you how best to brief the Partnership in the future.

Moorings: I understand this was an item identified at one of your first Partnership meetings as being of interest to the Partnership. Accordingly Mark arranged for Damien Green to give a full briefing to the Partnership at their last meeting. Is there still more information or briefing you need? I thought the view of the Partnership was that it had been a good and inclusive process and they were happy to endorse it.

EA & Turbidity: Mark is fully involved in this and had another meeting last week with all the key BW players. He is ready to brief the Partnership on Wednesday. Hopefully this will bring the Partnership up to date and establish how the Partnership wish to be involved in the future.

I hope all this is helpful and that it ensures the Partnership are fully informed on the key issues. If any areas of concern remain, please do not hesitate to raise them with Mark or me.

Robin.

Robin Evans
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