

## *Kennet & Avon Canal East Meeting*

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017

Venue: Wootton Rivers Village Hall

Time: 6 for 6.30pm

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies  
Attending: Dee Nix (Chair), Dawn Wilson, Panda Smith, PC Theresa Herbert, Kerry Pycroft, Jane Brown, Kay Wardour, Savannah Norcliffe, Richard fleet, David Butler. Apologies: Mark Evans (CRT), Cllr P Oatway, Upavon PC
2. The Minutes of the November 2016 meeting were accepted with the following amendment:  
Item 10 “more visitor moorings in Wilcot” remove Panda’s name as she did not ask that question. There is no real need for visitor moorings in Wilcot as it is never full.
3. Anti-Social Behaviour & Other Police Matters  
Theresa ran through the latest report (copies available on request). There have been reports of several assaults, aggressive dogs, a collision, drunk drivers, counterfeit money used at canal side cafe, a drunken incident at Wootton Rivers, thefts, a suspicious couple of men, theft from a vehicle, an assault on towpath in Devizes, also females slapped by a youths on a bikes on towpath in Devizes, a damaged boat at the marina, theft of wipers from a of vehicle at Wilcot. For more please see the full report. Body worn video cameras are now being worn by police. Independent advisory groups are looking for residents to join to inform police policy. Panda asked that it be noted that the advice on reporting suspicious isolated parked vehicles may not always relevant as canal residents do park in isolated places.
4. Actions from Previous Meeting:
  - a. Action: Susie to send out the link for Community Messaging to attendees- done
  - b. Action: Teresa will send out the statistics for canal crime- done
  - c. Action: Susie to send out the article on crime prevention- done
  - d. Action: Teresa to find out January and February Boat Safety Checks dates and locations.
  - e. Action: Teresa and Mark to organise to meet more regularly about low level crime.
  - f. Action: Mark to organise a bigger supply of Towpath Share the Space posters for the PVTP. Susie to share cards and info with businesses through the PVTP.
  - g. Action: Mark to provide details and costs of improvement work. Mark never responded on costs to see if funding could be raised so CRT could do the work if they are not comfortable with volunteers doing it themselves.
  - h. Action: Mark to organise tidy up weekend and skip for March – late arrangement of dates made this difficult.
  - i. Action: Mark to investigate maintenance pound. Suggestions for any other possible sites for parking – All. Investigate New Mill site – Panda. Mapping facilities on the K&A – Mark.

- j. Action: Dawn to get information from anglers on what boaters should do if anglers are fishing- done. Susie to put Fishing Club rep in touch with Mark.
- k. The fence has fallen to bits on the towpath west of the bridge in Wilcot.
- l. Action: Mark to check.

**Matter arising from actions:**

- m. Towpath tidy up took place in Wilcot in March, ACTION: please share with boaters next year.
- n. Panda Re New Mill land that exists and could be used for parking, ACTION Panda asked to mark area on a map for Dawn to follow up with CRT to see if they own it.
- o. The Bridge at New Mill (north side) is collapsing and parking near there makes it worse. ACTION: David Butler to forward images he sent to Highways for evidence for Dawn to raise at CATG and with CRT via these minutes.
- p. New Mill towpath collapsed as well and is dangerous- the Forum will inform CRT via these minutes.
- q. Theresa informed the meeting of the partnership of the Police with Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service meeting at Bouverie Hall next Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup> around Fire Safety and support for the vulnerable. ACTION: Savannah will try to give locally known names of bridges to Fire Service to help them find locations. Karen Pierson of Dorset and Wilts Fire Service is leading these community safety drop-in sessions. To include boat safety checks. There is a regular Police drop-in at the Bouverie Hall Tuesday's and the last Thursday of month at Devizes Market and first Wednesday at Marlborough Market.

5. Canal and Rivers Trust Report – None Supplied

6. Parking in Wilcot

Canal side works Wilcot to be done in phases. The Estate will partner with Parish Council on this. Wilcot and Huish PC are trying to source used road chippings for this. ACTION: The PC were asked if they could get a sign made up with “please park considerately” for this area.

7. Tow Path & Shared Space Update

Cllr Oatway wanted to ask CRT is who is responsible for policing the towpath that has powers for enforcing ASBO issues and inconsiderate use etc. The Chair reported incidences of a bonfire on towpath, and a gazebo obstructing the towpath near Lady Bridge in Wilcot. It was NOTED that this is a small percentage of the canal residents/users causing a nuisance. CRT appear to be ineffective at policing/enforcing these issues if it is their responsibility. It was reported that CRT have bye-law powers include for various offences such as obstructing the towpath, damage to fencing, throwing things in the water. CRT also have powers of prosecution for these infringement but do not appear to use them. The reason may be the difficulty of collecting evidence to bring a private prosecution under their bye-laws or a lack of resources, but this does not abrogate them of responsibility. CRT only seem to want to revoke licenses from boats. Again please call 101 and report these incidents to the Police. Savannah would like to note that this group [reported above] sit at their fire pit on their own, other boaters are trying to discourage them. This forum would ask that CRT share intelligence and reports, especially of hire boaters are causing a nuisance, with Wiltshire Council. Liveaboards with a continuous cruising license are asked to

move 20 miles a year otherwise CR are applying pressure for them to take up home moorings. Those who have a home mooring are not policed to the same extent. There seems to be some confusion. It is understood that those at home mooring can stay as long as they like but off the mooring should move every 14 days and the inconsistency of how this is policed is the problem. There will be circumstances where extensions for ill health etc. are permitted, in that case boaters should be encouraged to put up a note, one is available on the boaters website. But essentially this is a matter of the rules being applied fairly. It was noted that CRT also have a means for Liveboards to notify them if they need to stay over the 14 days because of extenuating circumstance.

8. Lighting of Bonfires on Towpath – see item 7
9. Tow Path Improvements – see item 4 g
10. Adopt a Canal/Volunteering – deferred to CRT attendance
11. Wilcot Verge Improvements – see item 6
12. Parking access along the canal for all users – see item 4 i and 6  
Some parking has been lost at Wolf Hall and Wide Water and at places where boats are away from houses. Any suitable land that a landowner will allow parking on can be shared through this forum. Parking is reduced at Lady's Bridge in Manningford PC or Woodborough PC by Swanborough Tump. ACTION: could increasing parking spaces be investigated as there are 20-25 moorings there.
13. Exchange of Information  
The enforcement situation has got worse, some have lost their boats. Having to move, trying to get to work/schools/Drs and shortage of parking will lead to further issues. This forum hereby notifies representatives of CRT via these minutes that these actions could be counter-productive when boats are in areas they are not familiar with trying to park and work with no public transport available.  
The Forum will invite some landowners to the next forum and offer that this forum acts as a go between for both parties.

[Waterways Chaplaincy Website](#) Waterways Chaplains seek to 'be there for them'. Whether it is simply to be a 'listening ear' or offer more practical support.

[Home-Start Kennet](#)- support for families with difficulties with a child under 5 yrs. HSK recruit and train parent-volunteers to provide support which is tailored to the individual needs of each family. Our volunteers offer a valuable skilled listening ear, so that parents themselves can find constructive solutions to the problems they are facing. We are currently recruiting volunteers for a training course commencing 27th September 2017. Please visit the Volunteers section of our website for more information or send in a self-referral form available to download under the Referrals page.

Meeting ended 8pm

Next meeting October 2017 date and venue to be confirmed.