

MINUTES

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Title | Lowland Canals Key Stakeholder Group |
| Date | 15 March, 2014 |
| Venue | The Falkirk Wheel |
| Attendees | <p>Martin Latimer, SC Board (Chair) (ML) Jim McLachlan, Forth & Clyde Canal Society (JMclL) Marion Preez, Spokes (MP) David Thomson, Ramblers Scotland (DMo) Andy Carnduff, RYA Scotland (AC) Ronnie Rusack, General canal interests (RR) Eddie Palmer, Scottish Canoe Association (EP) Ian White, East Coast Paddling Community (IW) Gail Jones, Capercaillie Cruisers (GJ) Josie Saunders, Head of Communications (JS) Alasdair Smart, SC Waterway Manager (Minutes) (AS)</p> |
| Apologies | <p>Alasdair Burns, Head of Marketing Alistair McKenzie, Glasgow Watersports Ron Woods, Scottish Federation for Coarse Angling</p> |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| | Action |
|--|---------------|

| | | |
|-----------|--|---------------|
| 1. | <p>Introductions & Agreement of Group's Remit</p> <p>ML opened meeting and welcomed all attendees. Approval of previous minute with amendment: Ramblers Scotland contact Glen Cross should be Ben Glencross. Proposed RR, seconded JMclL.</p> <p>Group Terms of Reference were agreed. Proposed AC, seconded DT.</p> <p>Group to consider range of attendees for future meetings.</p> | <i>All</i> |
| 2. | <p>Overview/ feedback from Representatives</p> <p>Written feedback received from RR, MP, AC, IW and JMclL (attached). Additional items noted as follows;</p> <p>RR, Canal interests Volunteering; meeting of Lowland Volunteer Group arranged for Mon 17 March 2014 to discuss purpose and future. ML requested input of expert advice from NTS, RYA Scotland and Volunteer Scotland. How do we recruit new volunteers, engage with them in meaningful ways and</p> | <i>JS/ AS</i> |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <p>recognise the work of volunteers?</p> <p>MP, SPOKES SC has responded to query re: towpath gritting. SPOKES supporting launch of Scottish Canals' 'Share the Space, Drop your Pace' campaign. SPOKES handing out leaflets and bells to promote awareness of potential conflict between cyclists and pedestrians. MP presented a paper on Union towpath proposals. To be discussed at next meeting by group.</p> <p>EP, SCA & IW, East Coast Paddling Highlighted lack of coaches/ facilities at a number of clubs (incl Forth Canoe Club) due to increasing demand. Development of community hubs linked to Secondary Schools adjacent to canals. EP and IW to carry out review of emerging hubs of paddlesports activity throughout the Lowlands and assess the availability of facilities and resources. Final report to be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>AC, RYA Scotland Queried why Skippers Guide had not been updated since 2012 and when new Helix extension would be available. ML/ AS confirmed that revised Skippers' Guide was in production and commissioning of new canal was ongoing. Suggestions for improvements to River Carron navigation were noted. Current facilities were being improved and additional items would be added as resources allowed. Pipe noted discharging at low tide – reported to SC engineering team.</p> <p>JMcL, F&CCS Positive feedback on Speirs Wharf improvements. Feedback noted on upgrading of towpaths to hard surfaces. Not universally popular and mix of needs to be balanced between various users, including walkers and horse riders. Alternative forms of surface finish to be considered – mix of hard and soft finishes. Separation of cyclists and pedestrians where possible. Towpath strategy to be finalised and circulated.</p> <p>GJ, Capercaillie AS to meet with AC and GJ to discuss issues around boat movements. Feedback from recent visit of Black Prince MD. Concern that canal was regarded as being full with no available moorings.</p> <p>Suggestion to consider use of smartphones to report issues of dredging, weed, trollies etc (with images/ GPS locations) to SC to assist in identifying and tackling problems.</p> | <p><i>All</i></p> <p><i>EP/ IW</i></p> <p><i>AS</i></p> <p><i>RM</i></p> <p><i>AS</i></p> <p><i>AS</i></p> |
|--|--|--|

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 3. | <p>Creating a shared canal culture</p> <p>ML presented. All representatives asked to feedback (via bullet points) what they believe is needed to create a shared canal culture.</p> | ALL |
| 4. | <p>SC Updates</p> <p>JS presented Events update. AC asked if more non-inland waterways events could be included. JMcL noted a number of events were missing. All to feedback information to Josie for updating.</p> <p>AS presented update on dredging, winter works, towpaths etc.</p> | All |
| 5. | <p>Key Actions</p> <p>Volunteering strategy: Explore the volunteering strategies employed by SWT and NTS, RYA Scotland and Volunteer Scotland for discussion in Scottish Canals.</p> <p>Dredging: Plan to be developed and circulated to group. Potential lobbying to Government for additional funding.</p> <p>Towpaths: Update strategy on towpaths and circulate.</p> <p>Paddlesports: Nodal development options to be developed and circulated.</p> <p>Cycling (Edinburgh): Representatives to consider MP proposals for next meeting.</p> <p>Shared canal culture: All members to feedback following ideas in writing prior to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What requirements their members have for using the canal corridor? • What challenges their members face? • What opportunities they perceive? • What are the next steps? | <p>ML/JS/ AS</p> <p>AS</p> <p>RM</p> <p>EP / IW</p> <p>All</p> |
| 6. | <p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Saturday September 27th, 2014 Location: Nonna's Kitchen, Kirkintilloch</p> <p>All representatives are asked to submit a written report of activities/ actions 3 weeks prior to meeting – deadline Monday September 1st, 2014. This should cover:</p> | ALL |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Update on actions since last meeting- New business to be discussed <p>ML closed meeting and thanked everyone for attending.</p> | |
|--|--|--|

Lowland Canals Key Stakeholder Group

Terms of Reference

- To encourage the enjoyment and understanding of the Lowland canals as an important part of the recreational, environmental and historical heritage of Scotland.
- To represent the full range of users of Scotland's canals
- To act as a respected and informed forum for Scottish Canals' management
- To influence thinking and monitor future strategy / actions among all parties
- To identify themes and issues while managing any conflicting goals and aspirations between different user groups and available resources.
- To stimulate action & engagement within each organisation's own member base
- To provide visible and meaningful representation of wider industry interests
- To provide a platform for high level engagement with other stakeholders, as and when appropriate and requested
- To enable Scottish Canals to have means of enhanced two-way communications with commercial interests