

Market Drayton Community Partnership (MDCP)

Notes of the meeting held at Market Drayton Town Hall on 15 January 2018

Present: Richard Priestley (Chairman), Alistair Duncan (Vice Chairman), Davina Bridge (Treasurer), Jason Watts (Canal and Rivers' Trust), Hamish Armytage, Steve Glover, Roy Claydon, Jane Hughes, Kate Woodward (Secretary)

Apologies: Nicola Fisher, Suzanne Edwards, Charlotte Hollins, Eric Davis

1.18. Welcome and introductions

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Jason Watts from the Canal and Rivers Trust.

It was **noted** that, owing to family commitments, Charlotte Hollins had expressed her wish to stand down from the group. This was **accepted** with thanks for Charlotte's leadership on the Walkmill Meadows project and other work.

2.18. Notes of the previous meeting.

39.17.2- It was **noted** that the white lines at the junction of Frogmore Road with Cheshire Street, by Prospect Road, had been repainted.

The notes of the meeting on 9 October 2017 were **agreed** as a true record.

3.18. Financial report.

The accounts were presented and **agreed** for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 December 2017. It was **noted** that:

- The accounts showed a healthy start for the year ahead.
- The Arts Festival was a financial success; its main items of expenditure were artists and performers and ticket sales were good.
- Taking account of the MDCP underwriting of £1,000, a balance of £3,396.13 was available for the Arts Festival in 2018
- Other items of expenditure included the heritage work undertaken at the canal-side.

It was **agreed** that congratulations were due to Jane, Suzanne and Hamish for their success with the 2017 Festival.

4.18. Work streams.

4.18.1 Tourism and Visitors Group.

Jason presented information on the concept of local groups and community organisations adopting a section of the canal towpath in association with the Canal and Rivers' Trust (CRT). It was **noted** that

- The CRT could supply the necessary tools for the job.
- Initiatives could be either small or wide-ranging, e.g. a litter-pick or something more involved and long-term.
- More information is available on the website [#https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers)
- There were many benefits to canal-sides if the CRT worked alongside local voluntary groups and that these benefits could include:
 - ◆ increased well-being of volunteers
 - ◆ improvements to the area concerned
 - ◆ enhancements to ongoing local initiatives, eg. Best Kept Villages, etc.

It was **noted** that Roy C. had met with Jason and another colleague to plan some initial work and that Roy, having already worked on the substantial project to improve the Montgomery Canal, had personal experience which would be very welcome. Roy reported that some ten people are presently involved in work between Bridges 61 (Tyrley) to 64 and

that the Tryley Locks area was already under adoption with Stoke Heath Prison, whence working parties were convened when prison staffing levels permitted. This was part of an ongoing rehabilitation of offenders project focussed on maintenance of lock gates, etc. Jason invited expressions of interest from local groups with members of all ages from scouts to senior citizens' groups.

Davina's offer to advise the MD Education Partnership of this opportunity (see 4.18.2 below) was **agreed**.

It was **noted** that a formal launch of this local initiative was planned for Spring 2018. Hamish planned in the next issue of The Messenger to feature the canal adoption scheme and other developments.

It was **agreed** that the MDCP supported and endorsed the development of the canal adoption concept in conjunction with the CRT.

It was **noted** that the Tourism and Visitors' Group / CRT had completed the 'Welcome to MD' and 'See you again' boards for the attention of canal travellers, either side of Bridge 64. The two boards were designed by local schoolchildren and the artistic side of the project was led by Suzanne Byrnes Antoney with funding support from the Shropshire Housing Group.

It was **agreed** that the MDCP was very grateful for the support of the SHG and that Suzanne and the schoolchildren were commended for their design work. A postcard has been produced, showing both designs and dated November 2017.

It was **noted** that a site has been identified for two further boards near to the sandstone steps adjoining Berrisford Road, the costs for this second project being estimated as in the region of £2000. It was **agreed** that the MDCP would contribute £1,000 towards the cost on the basis that the remainder could be secured from other sources and Richard would make enquiries with possible donors. It was **noted** that Morrison's Supermarket in Market Drayton had a community fund to which application could be made and that local schools might be persuaded to undertake some fund-raising work to assist with the project.

Note 17.3.2 Awards for All bid.

It was **noted** that the bid for funding of phase 2 of this project concerned with heritage signs was unsuccessful but that it would instead be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

4.18.2. MD Education Partnership.

Davina reported that the Learning Partnership was seeking projects with which young people could become involved.

4.18.3. Talbot Inn.

It was **noted** that despite James and Gareth's work in submitting detailed comments re the planning applications for the Talbot Inn, the next phase of the planning process, i.e. the conversion of the building into two dwellings, had been passed by Shropshire Council. It was understood that planning officers had concluded matters. It was **agreed** that the MDCP should express a vote of thanks to Roy C. and via him to James and Gareth.

4.18.4. Neighbourhood Plan.

It was understood that the background work was complete. It was **noted** that the plan was now managed by the Town Council with support from Nicola Fisher of Shropshire Council and that discussions were being undertaken as to how this might best be pursued. It was **noted** that Richard had been advised that Shropshire Council was very supportive of the work to date.

4.18.5. Children's Art Group.

It was **noted** that Suzanne and Jane were awaiting the cheque for £3,000 awarded by the Local Joint Committee to fund the Children's Art Group to be established at the Phoenix Centre.

It was **noted** that:

- The group would be led by two adults who would work on a self-employed basis; the leader would be paid £25 per session fee and the other person will be paid £17 per session.

4.18.6. Drayton Arts Fest. 2018.

It was **noted** that

- Suzanne had begun booking some acts for this year's festival, to include an art class run by Malcolm Hague to be held at Fordhall Farm and a music event at Wetherspoons.
- It was intended that some fund-raising would take place around a summer art exhibition at the Phoenix Centre.

4.18.7. Resilient Communities

A report from Nicola Fisher advises that the pre-Christmas meeting was cancelled due to the number of apologies received. Nicola will be looking to arrange a meeting of the Resilient Communities steering group in February at which it is anticipated that Community Connectors will be rolled out together with a referral pathway to assist people to access local services. The Shropshire Choices Website is under review but the group will continue to encourage local groups to register.

8. News and views.

- Concern was expressed over the state of the road sign at Marley Mount Crescent. It was **suggested** that the fault should be reported to the Shropshire Council Customer First Centre on Cheshire Street.
- It was **noted** that some Belisha Beacons around the town were being replaced.
- It was **noted** that the Road Safety Group, which is long established in the town, was struggling to attract new members. Roy Claydon would be pleased to hear of any expressions of interest.

6.18 Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the MDCP would be held on Monday 9 April 2018 at 7.00 pm.