



6 October 2011

WATERWAY TRUSTEES REPORT ON CHARITY PROGRESS

The transition trustees of the newly named Canal & River Trust, which from next April will take responsibility for the care of the 2,000 miles of historic waterways in England and Wales, have today published their first report on what has been achieved since they took up their posts in May 2011.

The report sets out the trustees' thinking on membership, governance, funding, management and other matters relating to the new charity. It provides greater detail, terms of reference and timetables for the appointment of the Trust's Council and partnerships and announces the decision to seek three new trustees with experience in finance, investment and engineering.

The report describes the initial make-up of the Council, including seven members to be elected by boat licence holders, boating businesses and staff, with others nominated by different user groups and stakeholders in the built and natural environment, local government and volunteers. Over time trustees are committed to creating a Council that will have 50% of its members directly elected.

Trustees firmly believe that the funding contract from Defra will be a key to the successful foundation of the Canal & River Trust and they are hopeful that they can agree a viable arrangement before the end of the year. They also made it clear that the Trust should not become a 'shadow statutory organisation' with only the outward appearance of a charity. It must operate freely, openly and on a level playing field with all other organisations in the charitable sector.

Tony Hales, chairman of the Canal & River Trust, said: "It has been a fascinating and jam-packed few months and I and my fellow trustees would like to thank everyone who has helped us. It is extraordinarily rare for an organisation the size and complexity of British Waterways to go through this level of change and none of us underestimates how much work needs to be done. We have however been really encouraged by everyone's enthusiasm and willingness to engage and support us – from staff and stakeholders. I have every confidence that we can provide the new Trust with the firmest of foundations that will support the waterways for many years ahead."

To see the full report visit: <http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/media/documents/Trustee-Announcement-The-Canal-and-River-Trust.pdf>

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Notes to editors

Transition trustees

Lynne Berry OBE

John Bridgeman CBE

Jane Cotton

John Dodwell

Tom Franklin

Tony Hales CBE

Nigel Hugill

Simon Thurley

For further details on each of the transition trustees visit:

<http://www.waterscape.com/features-and-articles/news/3101/new-trustees-announced-to-lead-waterways-into-new-sector>

Name and symbol

On 6 October 2011 the transition trustees announced that the new waterways charity would be called the Canal & River Trust and unveiled its new symbol. The decision was taken following extensive public and internal consultation and market research into the replacement for the name and symbol of “British Waterways.”

The Welsh name for the new charity, Glandwr Cymru, translates literally as ‘Waterside Wales’ and reflects a determination by transition trustees that the trust has a distinctly Welsh character and focus for its waterways in Wales.

Multi-award winning design agency Pentagram provided free design consultancy to develop the new national charity’s name, symbol and imagery.

British Waterways Scotland

In Scotland, the waterways currently managed by British Waterways Scotland will be kept in the public sector and will not form part of the Canal & River Trust.