

Minutes

London Waterways Commission

Meeting

Tuesday, 22 May 2007, Committee Room 4/5

Present: See attached list

Apologies:

Item no.	Item discussion	Action
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Murad Qureshi (MQ) welcomed everyone to the meeting and agreed the Minutes of the previous meeting</p>	
2	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>DB Reported that he had given evidence at the Defra Committee examining British Waterways activities and that the report is expected in early summer.</p> <p>JT reported that PLA have opened a refurbished boat grid at Strand on the Green</p> <p>A question was asked about the LWC attendance at the London Plan EiP. MQ confirmed that he would be attending the session on 21st June and would circulate his written statement with the Minutes.</p>	<p>KR to attach Olympics planning application response letter and LWC EiP statement to minutes.</p>
3	<p>Report back on Chairs' activities</p> <p>MQ had prepared a paper detailing his activities since the last meeting. In particular he had organised a discussion at the Canalway Cavalcade. This focused mainly on the issue of freight transport and proved to be a useful forum for engaging with stakeholders. DB commented that there was little notice of this event. MQ agreed that publicity had been limited as a result of the event being organised late but that he intended to do the same next year and expects to improve publicity.</p> <p>MQ also chaired a session at the State of London Debate and thanked Robert Runcie, Mark Bensted and Richard Everitt for supporting the event. The event was well attended and MQ intends to seek a similar slot at next year's event. Event included promotion of the Get Afloat campaign to encourage more people to use the river.</p> <p>AG invited MQ to discuss attending a London Councils event on 2 June at QEII centre on Who controls London.</p> <p>The LWC will again support the Mayor's Thames Festival with a particular effort on trying to understand what it would take to get Londoners onto the Thames and canals as passengers. JG suggested that there needs to be better signposting and location of Blue Ribbon event as last year many people missed the location behind the Scoop.</p>	<p>MQ and AG to discuss 2 June event</p>

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4	<p>Olympics Planning Applications Progress</p> <p>The LWC received a presentation from Richard Jackson, Simon Jay and David Peacop of the ODA. This detailed the way in which the proposals are addressing river corridors and river walls, navigation, bulk freight movements and visitor access and possible use of river boats to service London Olympic venues.</p> <p>Commissioners raised a number of points:</p> <p>LWC asked for an official response to the planning application consultation. This was agreed to by RJ</p> <p>Sub group would like to see a stronger commitment to using waterways for freight. ODA want to ensure max use of waterways but proposals have to be value for money through tendering process and will become clearer over the next few months.</p> <p>Sub group have concerns over bridge clearances and removals. ODA and BW want to see excessive bridges removed to enable financially sustainable legacy. Bridge clearance all agreed with BW to be navigable with Prescott Lock.</p> <p>Sub group concerned at deletion of several basins. ODA no longer need these basins for surface water management and the area of the Olympic is now smaller than in 2004.</p> <p>Sub group concerned about disruption to access routes, already happening. ODA will address this and detailed proposals need to be determined for future management.</p> <p>Sub group feel river edge design is a problem, ODA examining but generally seeking softer landscape in north and harder in south of park.</p> <p>GN was encouraged by the mix of realism and vision and stressed importance of developing the Legacy vision.</p> <p>JR felt that the number and location of wharves should be identified and that waterways should be used to move people around during the event. ODA felt that the wharf locations need to be determined by the operators who tender for the contracts and they would like to examine movement around the park at a later stage.</p> <p>SR felt that the river edge design for boats and legacy boat facilities needs to be given early consideration.</p> <p>RRu said that the philosophy is to always have at least one river bank in a natural state.</p> <p>RB Disappointed that Carpenters Road Lock is not being restored and wants to ensure that new bridges would not interfere with the Lock. RJ confirmed that the ODA is not making the lock functional again but that the bridges would not prevent this from happening in future.</p> <p>It was agreed that ODA would keep in touch with the LWC as proposals progress and would return to a future meeting.</p>	<p>RJ to organise response to planning app letter.</p> <p>ODA to return to 19 November 2007 meeting</p>

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5	<p>TfL Olympics Walking and Cycling Plans</p> <p>KG reported that the plans were not ready yet but would be by the time of the next meeting.</p>	<p>KG to present paper to Sept 07 meeting.</p>
6	<p>Boatyards Studies</p> <p>Mike Adams (MA) of Adams Hendry reported on the two boatyard reports that had been commissioned by the GLA on the River Thames and by BW on the canal network. For the River Thames MA identified that London Plan policy 4C.18 appears to be working, but remaining yards suffer a lack of investment and that there needs to be at least 1 additional site able to handle large vessels to cope with future demands.</p> <p>For the canal network MA identified a different situation where 2 new yards had recently been built and most of the others were in public ownership. Two sites are vacant, Johnsons Island Brentford and Adelaide Dock and discussions were ongoing to bring these into use.</p> <p>GN asked about Graving Docks in the Royals, MA replied that these had all ceased use and City Airport restrictions would severely limit their use.</p> <p>SR asked about the 14 wharves that Robin Evans of BW referred to. RRu said that there had been a mix up – he was referring to the 14 boatyards. SR suggested that the wharves is something the Freight sub Group should investigate.</p> <p>DB commented that MSO had only a short (10 year) lease, RRu said that this was by mutual agreement.</p> <p>BE said that there is a nibbling effect and cited examples in Richmond where sites have been lost. MA said that Richmond had actively protected sites including making their own sites available.</p> <p>KR confirmed that the River Thames report would be available on the GLA website in the near future. DB and SR requested hard copies.</p>	<p>KR to notify LWC members when report is available and send hard copies to DB & SR.</p>
7	<p>Freight Working Group</p> <p>Group had not met since last meeting but agreed to meet before next meeting and consider how to address the issue of wharves (as above).</p>	<p>KG to arrange meeting of sub group and report to Sept. Meeting</p>
8	<p>Update on Sewer Overflows</p> <p>KR reported that Government announced the go ahead for the overflow sewer project on 22 March 2007. The project is the Mayor's preferred option of a main tunnel from Hammersmith to Beckton and a spur from the Lower Lee Valley to Beckton. It is estimated to cost around £2bn at 2006 prices and take until 2020 to complete. There is still a lot of design, engineering and planning work to undertake.</p> <p>TD said that Thames Water are already investing in Mogden, Beckton and Crossness Sewage Treatment Works under agreed funding programmes and these will deliver improvements over the next 5-6 years.</p> <p>BE asked that the LWC receive a regular update on the amount of sewage discharged through overflows. TD agreed to provide such an update for circulation prior to each meeting.</p>	<p>TD to provide sewage overflow info for each future meeting.</p>

9	Questions to the commission No questions were received by the deadline, one question was subsequently received regarding the Thames Festival. This will be answered at the next meeting. There were some calls for the deadline for questions to be 1 week before meetings rather than 2 but KR replied that 2 weeks is needed to give Commissioners a reasonable opportunity to provide an answer. The deadline for the next meeting is Mon 20 th August	
10	AOB A suggestion was made for the next meeting to include a presentation and discussion of the Environment Agency's Thames Estuary 2100 flood risk management project. Participants at the London Plan EiP were wished well.	RR to organise a presentation at Sept Meeting

Future LWC meetings:

Monday 3 Sept 2007 City Hall 18:00 – 20:30
Monday 19 Nov 2007 City Hall 18:00 – 20:30

Sept agenda items

TfL Olympics Walking and Cycling Plans
TE2100 Flood Risk Management
Freight Working Group
Report on Sewer Overflow volumes
Stakeholder Questions