

Minutes

London Waterways Commission

Meeting

Monday, 19 November 2007, Committee Room 4/5

Present: See attached list

Apologies: Tom Bogdanowich, George Nicholson, Richard Rutter, Jim Walker, Cllr Haley

| Item no. | Item discussion | Action |
|----------|--|--|
| 1 | <p>Welcome, Minutes & Matters Arising</p> <p>Murad Qureshi (MQ) welcomed everyone to the meeting and agreed the Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the boat trip would not take place until spring/summer 2008.</p> <p>It was agreed that MQ and KR would investigate the training for planning officers project.</p> <p>It was agreed that a list of Observers would be attached to the Minutes</p> | <p>Include list of observers - KR</p> <p>MQ & KR to investigate planning officer training</p> |
| 2 | <p>Report back on Chairs' activities</p> <p>MQ reported on various activities in particular the Isle of Dogs River Clean up organised by Thames21.</p> <p>In response to a question DL stated that no-one has responsibility for the removal of litter from rivers but that Thames21 are a co-ordinating body working with the main statutory organisations to address the issue, MQ thought that it was a possible matter for a London Assembly Scrutiny.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Your River Your Say Event</p> <p>JL presented the main conclusions from the paper. There was generally positive feedback regarding river paths and a high percentage of people who felt that they would use river passenger services and who want to see the Thames used for freight transport.</p> <p>For next year JL will seek to get the questionnaire as a tear out response sheet within the main Thames Festival brochure, this suggestion was agreed and recommended to George Nicholson.</p> <p>Cllr O'Mahoney suggested that other events more widespread throughout London such as the Kingston Festival at Teddington Lock should be promoted. This was seen as a role for Visit London and Gary Beckwith agreed to take it up.</p> | <p>GN to note suggestion</p> <p>GB to investigate promotion of other river/canal related events through Visit London</p> |
| 4 | <p>Olympics Update</p> <p>Richard Jackson reported that since May the ODA has achieved outline planning permission and is now working on the reserved matters and discharge of conditions. In response to the questions put by the sub committee.</p> | <p>RJ to attend Olympic sub group meetings and report back to LWC on progress</p> |

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| | <p>Q1 – A study into river services is underway with British Waterways</p> <p>Q2 A feasibility study should report in spring 2008 into the use and location of wharves in order to facilitate waterborne freight transport. Prescott Lock will be operational in August 2008.</p> <p>Q3 ODA aim to return to the LWC during consultation in relation to the parkland and public realm.</p> <p>Q4 Litter removal is essentially a LOCOG responsibility but the ODA Education and Communication strategy will be finished in early 2008 and will be reported back to LWC.</p> <p>Q5 The ODA will aim to keep the Lee Navigation and towpath open unless construction Health and safety or security reasons determine otherwise.</p> <p>Q6 RJ undertook to keep the LWC involved and to attend the Olympics Sub Committee meetings</p> <p>There remained concerns about the river wall structures, RJ commented that ODA intended to build once and not have to change as far as possible.</p> <p>GB commented that Atkins had carried out a report into the number of passenger boats although RJ was not aware of the report.</p> <p>GH commented that the timing to get wharves operational is critical in order to fit in with supply chains etc.</p> <p>DB commented that Bow Locks used to transport 5000 tonnes of goods per day</p> <p>GB commented that lessons should be learned from Sydney and that boat operators need to be gearing up with joint ticketing much earlier than 2011. RJ would report this back to LOCOG</p> | |
| 5 | <p>TfL Walking and Cycling Strategy</p> <p>Adrian Bell presented the Mayor’s commitment to an 80% increase in cycling, which was reached in 2006, and that he is now working towards a 400% increase by 2025 and a 10% increase in walking by 2015.</p> <p>Key initiatives include implementing a 900km cycling network, 10 000 school bike spaces, an £8m programme to bring foot and cycle access to the Olympics and investing in behavioural change initiatives such as the Tour de France and London Freewheel.</p> <p>RS pointed out that there were conflicts in areas such as Regents Canal and parallel route were needed.</p> <p>DB felt that shared paths were OK but they shouldn’t be used for commuters only leisure cyclists.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>GLA River Services Workshop</p> <p>KR summarized the main outcomes of the workshop as set out in the paper. The Concordat approach was agreed as a useful start and it was suggested that nominations were sought through London Councils Transport and Environment Committee.</p> | KR to report progress to future meetings |
| 7 | Update from Freight Working Group | JL to set up freight sub group |

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| | <p>The Freight Group has not met since August but is due to meet in the near future. Stephen Steele gave an update on relevant TfL activities. TfL Board supported the Freight Plan and it is due to be published around the end of 2007. Major projects include Powerday Wharf, Prescott Lock, Thames Wharves and the Multi Modal Refuse Collection Vehicle (MMRCV). TfL and LDA will work on a River Lee Study in 2008/9 and TfL have a Water Freight Planning project underway with a workshop on 28th November. TfL also examining options for delivering fuel to wharves to supply bus garages and City Airport.</p> <p>In discussion it was noted that access points to the canal network need to be maintained to enable greater use and public wharves should be set up to allow transshipment of various cargoes. BW appeared not to feature in discussions and questions were asked about BW attendance.</p> | <p>prior to xmas.</p> <p>KR to contact BW re attendance</p> |
| 8 | <p>Update on Sewer Overflows Tony Denton reported that it had not been possible to get a monthly report on sewer discharge figures, but he would work on it. In general though the Abbey Mills overflow operated around 60 times/year, 10% of those times would be over 1 million cubic metres and 30% over half a million cubic metres of combined sewage and rainwater. The EA broadly agreed with those figures. Regarding the Thames Tideway sewer project TD confirmed that Thames Water are working toward a planning application for the phase 1 (Lower Lee – Beckton) sewer works by May 2008 with a 2014 completion date and a 2010 planning application for phase 2 (Hammersmith – Beckton) with completion in 2020. The project has been given the go-ahead in principle but the funding mechanism has not yet been agreed.</p> <p>Commissioners were disturbed to hear about funding uncertainties and wished to be kept informed of progress and also to ensure that the use of water transport for spoil and construction materials is maximised.</p> | <p>TD to keep LWC informed of progress and report any future available discharge figures.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Questions to the Commission</p> <p>The answer to a question was circulated and is available with the minutes, please note the post meeting update from the PLA.</p> | |
| 10 | <p>AOB</p> <p>Notes of thanks were given to West London River Group, Regents Network, London Forum and River Thames Society for their efforts at the EiP.</p> <p>PLA reported that according to DfT figures, the Thames is the no.1 inland waterway for freight in the UK.</p> | |

Future LWC meeting:

Monday 11th February 2008 City Hall 18:00 – 20:30

February agenda items

Report on Sewer Overflow volumes
Stakeholder Questions
Freight Group update

Post meeting note on Stakeholder Question #2

The PLA now understands that, contrary to the answer given to the London Waterways Commission (LWC#2) dated 12 November 2007, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency currently has no intention of promoting national legislation outlawing the disposal of sewage direct to the water from all vessels. The PLA apologises for this misunderstanding and for any confusion caused. In view of this, and as stated in the response, the PLA will now give active consideration to more local options on the tidal River Thames, including the introduction of a new Byelaw and/or an amendment to the Port of London Act 1968, both of which would be the subject of public consultation.

London Waterways Commission

19th November 2007 Meeting

Commission Members Attendance

| Name | Initials used | Tick for attendance |
|---|---------------|---------------------|
| Murad Qureshi (Co Chair) | MQ | ✓ |
| Kevin Reid GLA | KR | ✓ |
| Jose Lapre GLA | JL | ✓ |
| Organisational Representatives | | |
| Richard Rutter, British Waterways | RRu | Apologies |
| Rob McCarthy, Environment Agency | RM | ✓ |
| James Trimmer, Port of London Authority | JT | ✓ |
| Stephen Steele, Transport for London | SS | ✓ |
| Michelle Washington, London Dev Agency | MW | ✓ |
| Gary Beckwith, Visit London | GB | ✓ |
| Deborah Leach, Thames21 | DL | ✓ |
| Barry Edwards, River Thames Society | BE | ✓ |
| Roger Squires, Inland Waterways Assoc | RB | ✓ |
| Jill Goddard, Thames Estuary Partnership | JG | ✓ |
| George Nicholson, London Rivers Association | GN | Apologies |
| Archie Galloway, London Councils | AG | ✓ |
| Cllr Brian Haley, London Councils | BH | ✓ |
| Cllr Barry O'Mahony, London Councils | BOH | ✓ |
| Cllr Peter Goody, London Councils | PG | Apologies |
| Tony Denton Thames Water | TD | ✓ |
| | | |
| Individual Representatives | | |
| Del Brenner | DB | ✓ |
| Gerry Heward | GH | ✓ |
| Jonathan Rosenberg | JB | ✓ |
| Lindy Kelly | LK | ✓ |
| Jim Walker | JW | Apologies |
| Oliver Schick, (for Tom Bogdanowicz) | OS | Apologies |
| Michael Mainelli | MM | Apologies |
| Simon Robbins | SR | ✓ |