



To Cllr Manro

Chair Haydon Wick Parish Council

Sent by email:

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Wilts & Berks Canal Trust

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Dear Cllr Manro

Royal Wootton Bassett to Swindon Connect Project

As you may be aware the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust has a very ambitious programme of restoration work.

The RWB to Swindon Connect project is one of four flagship restoration programmes along the length of the canal.

The project aims to restore and extend a navigable section of the historic Wilts & Berks Canal between Royal Wootton Bassett and Swindon, creating a lasting environmental, heritage and community asset for local residents and visitors. Included in this project is work on the route of the North Wilts Canal.

A vision, that by 2050

There will be a link from Royal Wootton Bassett all the way into Wharf Green in Swindon via the new canal in Wichelstowe, establishing a 10km stretch of navigable waterway.

A new M4 underpass will be constructed enabling the restoration of the canal route and providing a sustainable walking and cycling route between Royal Wootton Bassett and Swindon.

Priorities for the Next 5 Years

There are various activities proposed in each of the following areas:

- Area 1 – Templars firs to the North side of the M4
- Area 2 – M4 to Kingshill Road
- Area 3 – Kingshill Road to Wharf Green
- Area 4 – North Wilts Canal
- Area 5 - East Wichelstow development
- Area 6 - Swindon New Villages



The Trust believes that its ambitious programme will only be achieved by working closely with Communities, Councils and Landowners.

The Trusts principle objective is to generate as much community benefit as is possible as it carries out the work of restoration.

We have found that the best way to establish a structured means of communication and dialogue between the Trust and Councils is by the use of a Memoranda of Understanding (MoU).

An MoU is non binding, but allows Councils to ensure that any opportunities to benefit their communities are not overlooked..

The Trust would like to invite Haydon Wick Parish Council to enter into an MoU. To that end I have attach a draft for your consideration.

As you will see it provides an opportunity for the Parish Council to nominate a member to sit on the Royal Wootton Bassett to Swindon Connect Project Strategy Steering Group.

In the mean time if you require any further information, please let me know

Yours Sincerely

Ron Crook

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