

**From:** Jane Hennell [Jane.Hennell@canalrivertrust.org.uk]

**Sent:** 30 April 2013 15:08

**To:** Planning LDF

**Subject:** Core Strategy Further ain modifications.

Thank you for your consultation with regard to the proposed South Gloucestershire Core Strategy - Further Main Modifications.

British Waterways has transferred to the charitable sector on 2nd July 2012 and is now known as the Canal & River Trust. The Trust is the new charity set up to care for England and Wales' wonderful legacy of 200-year-old waterways, holding them in trust for the nation forever. The Trust has responsibility for 2,000 miles of canals, rivers, docks and reservoirs, along with museums, archives and the country's third largest collection of protected historic buildings.

The Trust has a range of charitable objectives including:

- To hold in trust or own and to operate and manage inland waterways for public benefit, use and enjoyment;
- To protect and conserve objects and buildings of heritage interest;
- To further the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment of inland waterways; and
- To promote sustainable development in the vicinity of any inland waterways for the benefit of the public.

The main sources of the Trust's funding are from a 15-year contract with government and income from boating, property and utilities. This funding is important for keeping our precious 200-year old waterways running, but it is not enough to fully support our canals and rivers as valuable resources for people and nature, particularly when under increased pressure and intensified use from expanding development.

Our canals and rivers are today used by more people and for a wider variety of purposes than ever before, with over 35,000 boats and 13 million towpath visitors using them as an escape from the pressures of modern life. Once Britain's most important transport system, our waterways are now a focus for economic renewal in the towns and cities they helped to create.

The Trust works extensively with private, public and voluntary partners to conserve, enhance and improve the waterways of England and Wales. Our expertise and responsibility for water space, combined with their ownership of docks, canals and waterside properties, puts us in a unique position to facilitate redevelopment for both economic and environmental gain. The canals in particular have historically experienced a prolonged period of decline. In recent years, the canals and river navigations have experienced significant development pressures from

commercial, residential and tourism/recreation developments. Attractive waterside<sup>2804033</sup> environments have stimulated this interest and been at the heart of some of the most significant regeneration schemes. We hope that the Council will continue to view the Trust a key Delivery Partner.

The extensive towpath system is being improved and upgraded. It is a valuable asset for pedestrians, cyclists and boaters using it for a variety of reasons. These include getting to work, recreation, leisure and sport. The towpaths already contribute considerably to sustainable transport. The Canal & River Trust has no comments to make but wish to be kept informed of progress of the Core Strategy.

Best regards

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The Canal & River Trust is a new charity entrusted with the care of 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales. Get involved, join us - Visit / Donate / Volunteer at [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales with company number 7807276 and charity number 1146792. Registered office address First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB.

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