
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	23 AUGUST 2007	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	MIKE ROYLANCE (Ext. 5725)	DOC:
SUBJECT: WARD(S) AFFECTED:	DERBY & SANDIACRE CANAL ALL	REF: TERMS OF REFERENCE: ES10, ES11

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- Consider contributing £2,000 to the Derby & Sandiacre Canal Trust in 2007/08.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To seek Member's views on an approach from the Derby & Sandiacre Canal Trust seeking support in the development of the Derby Canal. The Trust intend to appoint a project manager and are seeking a financial contribution towards the associated costs.

3.0 Detail

The Derby & Sandiacre Canal Trust

3.1 Members have previously received presentations from the Trust outlining the potential of their proposals to restore the Canal. The aim is to create a 20km long linear water park based upon the restoration of the Derby Canal and linked into the UK canal network.

3.2 The Trust aims, 'To restore the former Derby Canal as a navigable waterway, from the Erewash Canal at Sandiacre to the Trent & Mersey Canal at Swarkestone via central Derby as close as possible to the original route, thereby creating a cruising ring and reconnecting the City of Derby to the national canal network. To maximise the sustainable economic, job creation, environmental, tourism, quality of life, nature conservancy, leisure, heritage and educational benefits to the City of Derby, the borough of Erewash and the surrounding areas'. The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity with around 1,600 members.

- 3.3 The District Council has sought to protect the line of the Canal within South Derbyshire. It is presently used as a cycle path and is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. The Council has also provided financial support to the Trust in the past, most recently a grant of £3,525 in 2004/05.

Derby & Sandiacre Canal Enabling Project

- 3.4 A project funding application has been submitted to the Derby & Derbyshire Economic Partnership. The Project focuses upon the appointment of a full time project manager together with administrative support and office costs for a period of 2.5 years, commencing in October 2007.
- 3.5 The key activities of the project manager will include:
- finalising proposals, gaining planning permission, commissioning engineering consultancy, securing funding and overseeing the construction of two stretches of the Canal at Spondon in Derby City and Draycott in Erewash Borough.
 - pursuing the restoration of the Canal more generally, in particular securing planning permissions, undertaking feasibility work and sourcing funding, including opportunities arising from the prospect of a new road north of Swarkestone.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Trust is aiming to raise £60,000 to match an envisaged grant of £150,000 from the Derby & Derbyshire Economic Partnership. £20,000 per annum is to be sought from partner organisations and Trust members over the three years of the project. It is understood that Derby City Council have offered £5,000 for 2006/07, whilst Derbyshire County Council have offered technical support.
- 4.2 The District Council could contribute £2,000 from the existing 2007/08 budget which may not be available next year. Any grant from the Council would be subject to the approval of the application to the Derby & Derbyshire Economic Partnership.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 Whilst less than 1km of the Canal falls within South Derbyshire, the development of a link into Derby city centre, the possibility of a major visitor attraction at the crossing of the River Derwent, together with the creation of a 'cruising ring' (encompassing the existing Erewash Canal and, within the District, the Trent & Mersey Canal) could have significant tourism benefits. The likely increase in boat traffic and associated visitor spend could benefit visitor attractions and related businesses in the area as well as adding to the attraction of the Canal for non-boaters.

- 5.1 The realisation of the Trust's aim for the complete restoration of the Canal could offer a range of benefits, including:
- Environmental improvement
 - Commercial opportunities
 - Employment creation
 - Community development
 - Heritage development

6.0 Background Papers

- 6.1 Background papers, including a copy of the funding application are held on Policy and Economic Regeneration divisional files.