
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	5 MARCH 2009	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	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 £1,000 to the Derby & Sandiacre Canal Trust in 2008/09.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To seek Members' views on an approach from the Derby & Sandiacre Canal Trust requesting support in the development of the Derby Canal. The Trust has appointed a project director and is 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, linked into the UK canal network.
- 3.2 The Trust aims, 'To restore the former Derby Canal as a navigable through 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'. It also seeks 'to maximise the sustainable economic, job creation, environmental, tourism, quality of life, nature conservancy, educational, heritage and leisure benefits for the City of Derby, the Borough of Erewash, South Derbyshire District and the East Midlands region generally'.

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 and £2,000 in 2008/09.

Derby & Sandiacre Canal Enabling Project

- 3.4 Last year the Trust secured funding for the Enabling Project from the Derby & Derbyshire Economic Partnership. The Project focuses upon the employment of a project director with associated administrative and consultancy support to drive the scheme forward over a period of three years.
- 3.5 Activity to date has seen the Trust's application for outline planning permission for the whole of the route prepared and submitted. The Trust has also examined a number of commercial options to attract funding for the canal restoration and a commercial partnership is being developed to progress these ideas.
- 3.6 A series of key projects have been identified to lead the restoration, including water-fill at Spondon (in Derby City) and Draycott (in Erewash Borough), together with negotiating the placing of the canal within the wider developments proposed at Chellaston.
- 3.7 The role of the project director includes:
- developing proposals, gaining planning permission, commissioning engineering consultancy, securing funding and overseeing construction; and,
 - pursuing the restoration of the Canal more generally, in particular undertaking feasibility work and sourcing funding.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Trust is aiming to raise approx £60,000 to match a grant offer of some £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 £4,000 for 2008/09, whilst Erewash Borough Council have offered in-kind support in the form of meeting rooms.
- 4.2 The District Council could contribute £1,000 from an existing budget in 2008/09. It should be noted that funding would not be available from this source in 2009/10. Any grant from the Council would be subject to the continued support of the Derby & Derbyshire Economic Partnership.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Economic development and in particular tourism feature as priorities in both the existing and emerging Corporate Plans (under the 'Prosperity for all' theme). The Council has recognised how important the attraction of visitors is to the local economy, particularly in rural areas.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 The realisation of the Trusts' aims for the complete restoration of the Canal could offer a range of benefits, including:
- Environmental improvement
 - Commercial opportunities
 - Employment creation
 - Community development
 - Heritage development

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 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.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 Background papers, including a copy of the funding application are held on Economic Development files.