

Notes of the fourth meeting of the Water-space Implementation Plan Steering Group,

26 January 2017 at Titanic Hotel, Liverpool

In attendance:

Bob Pointing (BP), Chantelle Seaborn (CS), Richard Beardsley (RB), Nick Smith (NS) - Canal and River Trust, Gerry Proctor (GP) – Engage Liverpool, David Beard (DB)- Liverpool Marina, Ian Pollitt (IP)– Peel, Brian Connor (BC) - Titanic Hotel, Sue Grindrod (SG) – Albert Dock Company, Julie Turner (JT) – LCC

Apologies: Mark Grogan (MG) – MOD, Peter Sandman – Liverpool LEP, Andy Goudie (AG) – CRT, Tracey McGeagh (TMcG) – Liverpool Museums, Lisa Houghton – LCC, Samantha Campbell (SC) – LCC, Peter Skates – LCC, Simon O’Brien – LCC

1. **Notes of last meeting:** agreed as a correct record
2. **Matters arising:**
 - a. Understanding existing and ‘target’ visitors and improving the day offer. Visitor data may be available from Peter Skates? May be in Destination Management Plan for World Heritage Site **Action PS**
 - b. National Trust interested in progressing discussions about display of photos of dock with museums etc, meeting to be arranged of those interested **Action CS**
3. **Greening the dock.** GP gave a presentation including videos showing water level and cyclists view of the dock. BIG Lottery funding was secured to undertake consultation prior to the publishing of BlueGreen Liverpool. These ideas are to stimulate debate and there is no funding at this stage. A floating walkway, planting along harsh hard landscaping to soften the areas and linking visitor destinations was discussed. DB asked whether planting was appropriate in a dock environment? Generally, it was felt that the right planting would be welcome. The vision is for a waterfront park where visitors can rest and relax. There will be green links across and to the City. A plant-hunters (Eden style) project is included and talks are ongoing with the creators of the Eden Project about this. The Wildflower Centre has closed and this might be relocated? SG felt that these ideas should be within the local plan particularly if we want funding support. The Mayor and Simon O’Brien have set out a Greening Liverpool vision, and a representative from the Greening Liverpool team had been invited to present at this meeting but hadn’t been able to. **CS** to ask them to attend a future meeting. IP welcomed the discussion and felt that those involved in projects could use these ideas but we needed to guard against duplication of effort, Peel’s ideas and discussions included some of those mentioned including a 17-acre park.
4. **Floating structures presentation** CS presented concepts plans for the location and possible massing of floating restaurants within Salthouse Dock. A lot of work remains to be done in terms of consultation and obtaining the necessary approvals. The setting makes the design very important and only something that is considered appropriate would be proposed. There are obviously planning processes to negotiate. SG confirmed that GSE was supportive and is involved fully in the project. The floating restaurants would be a catalyst for change, increasing visitor numbers, adding interest and animation, offering a focal point for trip boat for the future. Those present were supportive of the work so far.

5. **CRT Brand work** CS presented concept plans from designers for increasing brand awareness for the Trust within the Dock. Generally there was agreement that these were interesting and contemporary. The scale needs to be appropriate to sit within the space it occupies. CS confirmed that there is no funding to proceed with these proposals at present, other than with the new canopy for the floating platform in Salthouse, and that these are for inspiration to a large degree rather than 'finished' proposals. All present asked that any signs and branding be consulted with partners and be consistent with signage style where already agreed, so that there is not confusion or clutter.

6. **Water taxi / restaurant tender** RB brought indicative plans for stops and information for tenderers that would go to the market in March or April. The potential for a stop in the North Docks, or a North Docks boat was discussed and RB will speak to tenderers and IP about this. When there are events in the North docks there may be 'one off' opportunities for stops there. RB confirmed that until the floating restaurants are in place the taxi will operate from the floating platform. Tenders are expected to be with the Trust in late 2017, and experienced operators are expected to show interest. It was discussed whether there is potential for a commuter run as well as a tourist taxi. RB confirmed that the Floating Grace was operating until August 2017, with good reviews but not the number of scheduled runs that we would ideally hope for. This can be suspended on events that make runs inappropriate ie clashes with wake boarding. RB shared possible designs for an aquapark which is being actively considered for Dukes dock, this will attract younger people to the dock and is welcomed. It is likely to operate April to October, the design and risk assessment will be agreed with the Trust prior to approval being given. The water based facilities are very easily removed and would be required to be removed for pre-agreed events.

7. **Canning Bridges proposal.** Unfortunately LH was unable to make the meeting but had sent a detailed note confirming that investigations and consultations are proceeding well. GSE, NML and CRT are in discussions. **Action SG** will request that a project meeting is established of all the interested parties.

8. **Funding.** NS asked that the group considers which projects they want to seek funding for and he will look at this. Private sector funding will also deliver some of the projects. CS suggested the walkway/greening, and NS confirmed that he is waiting for the Watersports Centre to provide information on their growth ambitions then he can provide advice to them. The Chair said that NS's role would be to attend meetings and advise us of opportunities and to assist with bid writing. He asked NS to consider this, make enquiries of members and the City Council and present back to the group at the next meeting **Action NS**. The Chair was keen that the group establishes a master plan with priority projects for which we can seek funding.

9. **Update on other projects**
 - a. Boat show running for 3rd time this year
 - b. BP is to make contact with the new Commodore
 - c. Steam Festival planned for May 2017
 - d. Albert dock pontoon extension bid submitted and outcome awaited
 - e. Presentation asked for next meeting on attracting training ships (AG)

f. Tall ships event June 2018, River Festival and Armed Forces Day June 2017

10. Next meeting

The Chair thanked Brian for hosting the meeting and for the lovely refreshments.

The next meeting will be held on 11 May at Liverpool Marina Bar and Grill.