



To Cllr Hewer

Chair Wroughton Parish Council

Sent by email:

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Wilts & Berks Canal Trust

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Dear Cllr Hewer

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.

By 2050,

- To link the canal at RWB all the way into Wharf Green in Swindon via the new canal in Wichelstowe establishing a 10km stretch of navigable waterway
- Working with Highways England to complete the critical M4 underpass, delivering the project commenced in 2022

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 Trust's 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 Wroughton Parish Council to also enter into an MoU. To that end I have attached 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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