

**Melksham Link Waterway, Pedestrian  
and Off-road Cycle Routes**

**Statement of Community Involvement**

Version 1.1 May 15<sup>th</sup> 2012

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The Melksham Link project has involved the local community from the earliest opportunity to gauge opinion and to help shape various aspects of the design. The chronological process is detailed in section 4 of the Design and Access Statement.

The main consultation carried out directly by the applicant was carried out in 2006 to comment on the draft version of the Black and Veatch feasibility report. A list of consultees is shown in Appendix A.

A number of separate consultations with landowners, Environment Agency, British Waterways and other stakeholders has taken place.

The results of this and the subsequent consultation carried out by the Melksham Community Area Partnership have modified a number of structures and design features of the proposal.

This is the summary of modifications to the scheme

<b>Consultation Response</b>	<b>Change to proposal</b>
Visual impact of structures	Re-location of Berryfield Lock Removal of proposed fixed arch bridge on Berryfield Lane New road access to Berryfield
Safety of children from Berryfield	Inclusion of canal side safety rail at Berryfield
Environment & ecology impacts	Retention of current weir & sluice with additional lock Modification of height of Challemead weir.
Landowner impacts	Modification of proposed route
Water quality impacts	Modification to river lock design
Water resource impacts	Canal construction design modifications
Sustainability	Inclusion of hydro power generator

The Melksham Area Community Area Partnership consultation took place over a period of six months and included two public meetings, at Berryfield and Melksham with the plans on display at key locations including the Town Hall and Library and at a number of business locations as well as the project web site. Responses were collected at the public meetings, by email and post.

Appendix B shows the full consultation response.

## **Appendix A**

### **Black & Veatch Report Consultees**

Avon Angling & Sports Centre  
Avonside Enterprise Park  
Bristol Amalgamation Waters  
British Waterways  
Chairman Avon Angling Club  
Conigre Nature Reserve  
Cooper Avon Tyres Ltd  
CTC  
Environment Agency  
Gompells Pharmacy  
Inland Waterways Association  
J Sainsbury Property Group  
Melksham First  
Melksham Town Council  
Melksham Trust  
Melksham Without Parish Council  
Natural England  
Chamber of Commerce  
Redrow Homes Ltd  
Southern Electricity plc  
SWRDA  
Melksham Town Council  
Tucker and Sons  
Wilts & Berks Canal Trust  
West Wilts Ramblers  
West Wiltshire District Council  
Wiltshire County Council  
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

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Appendix B Melksham Community Area Partnership Consultation

**Collated Responses from the open Consultation**

**on the Proposed Wilts and Berks Canal Restoration through Melksham**

**Summer 2010**

**Responses Version 1.2 November 10 2010**

	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>NATURE</b>	<b>WHERE FROM</b>	<b>NAME</b>  <b>(These have been redacted for Planning Application)</b>	<b>Project Comments</b>
wb1	Safety of children playing in the greens to the front of Berryfield	Concern	Town hall		Suitable Railings added to outline design at Berryfield
wb2	Fencing needed for safety of children	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Suitable Railings added to outline design at Berryfield
wb3	Flood risk in raising water level of river/clackers brook	Concern	Town Hall		Additional Flood Risk Assessment in progress with Black & Veatch
wb4	Finalise all considerations	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Plans were released as guide to scheme and to attract comment

wb5	Lack of full informed consultation on the proposal	Concern	Email		Plans were released as guide to scheme and to attract comment
wb6	consultation should be balanced, with full disclosure of advantages and disadvantages	Concern	Email		Consultation issues defined by CAP
wb7	consultation raises unrealistic expectations	Concern	Email		Disagree
wb8	Environmental problems unresolved	Concern	Email		Environmental issues are undefined however scoping of the issues was carried out in B&V report. Further work will be carried out by Wiltshire Council ecologist as part of pre application consultation
wb9	Legal problems unresolved	Concern	Email		Presume this refers to right of navigation?
wb10	Financial problems unresolved	Concern	Email		Business plan in preparation
wb11	Lack of information means consultation is premature	Concern	Email		Disagree
wb12	We wish to emphasize the importance of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) is to the possible development of the proposed route.	Concern	Email		As stated many times an EIA is only appropriate when plans are finalised . See also WB8
	The EIA would record all the wildlife and look at all the possible effects of this proposed route				The project has always acknowledged that an EIA will be carried out as part of the

	<p>on the natural environment, including:</p> <p>the water supply to the canal,</p> <p>the polluted canal water reaching the river,</p> <p>the dredging of the river,</p> <p>the effect of the lower dam on the slowing of the river and the silt build-up</p> <p>the effect of raising the water level.</p> <p>Only after the EIA has been done will it be possible to judge how much the proposal to route the canal through the river will damage the wildlife, the natural environment and habitats.</p>				<p>planning process. See also WB8</p> <p>This presumes the canal water is polluted The scheme will have to conform to requirements of Water Framework Directive</p> <p>May not be required</p> <p>Part of EIA</p> <p>FRA deals with this issue in terms of flooding. EIA will deal with other issues</p> <p>Environment impact will assess both positive and negative impacts. Appropriate mitigation will be included as part of the final proposals See also WB8</p>
wb13	<p>Consideration of other important issues such as the Navigation Rights and walking and cycling path to and from the town must also be</p>	Concern	Email		<p>Due consideration has been given to these issues as part of the project planning.</p>

	addressed				
wb14	Safety for children	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Suitable Railings added to outline design at Berryfield see also WB 1 &2
wb15	Access for landowners	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		All existing access will be retained or suitable alternatives provided
	Has to be a footpath	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Same facilities (or better)to be provided as K&A
wb16	Need good paths not dominated by cycles	Concern	Letter		Same facilities (or better)to be provided as K&A
wb17	Need to consider elderly users and those in wheelchairs	Concern	Letter		DDA requirements will be part of design
wb18	Effect of joining the river	Concern	Opp for Melk Shop		Water quality issues being discussed with EA. The scheme will have to conform to requirements of Water Framework Directive
wb19	Bridge building will isolate people for a while	Concern	Opp for Melk Shop		Community consultation on construction issues and clear communication about plans will be part of the delivery plan.  Temporary works, diversions etc will all be subject to the



					requirements of any conditions imposed by the Planning Authority.
wb20	Concern over new weir and canoe slalom	Concern	Opp for Melk Shop		Canoe club are stakeholders in the project . Advice will be sought from Canoe England
wb21	Crescent weirs are dangerous – closed stopper	Concern	Opp for Melk Shop		Canoe club are stakeholders in project- Advice will be sought from Canoe England
wb22	Want Berryfield lane closed – rat run and rubbish	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		An idea under consideration but would be subject to Highway Authority advice and detailed planning consent.
wb23	Concern that play area is safe – needs careful planning	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Agreed see WB1 WB2
wb24	Concern about exact route and access to canal	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Final scheme will be subject to planning application
wb25	Want Berryfield lane closed to traffic to allow New Inn to expand	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		See WB22
wb26	Tree by New Inn – preservation order	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Landscaping scheme will be part of final scheme
wb27	Make sure there are no trolleys in it	Concern	Waney Edge		Yes!

			Cafe		
wb28	Disruption caused by construction	Concern	Library		Appropriate Construction Code of Practice for contractors to be part of the delivery plan
wb29	Bad idea because it goes straight through the houses	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		No its adjacent
wb30	Need to make sure children are safe	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Agreed see WB1 WB2
wb31	If I want a canal, I can go to K and A down the road	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb32	Concerns for flooding	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Additional FRA in progress with Black & Veatch
wb33	Bad idea because it's a family estate, not retired couples who want property by the canal, it doesn't provide for needs of families	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Recreational opportunity for all ages
wb34	Where is the money coming from?	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Developers and other sources yet to be identified
wb35	Part through Berryfields should include a play area	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Agreed
wb36	Need to support wildlife – bird/ bat boxes, managed areas of woodland	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Agreed
wb37	Would like land adjacent to canal to be tidied up – private landowners responsibility	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		

wb38	Bad track record with Wilts and Berks Canals – inaccessible	Concern	Library		Other parts of W&B still in private ownership – not al accessible at present
wb39	Need a public slipway for small boats and canoes	Concern	Town Hall		Agreed
wb40	Concern about heavy traffic on the bridge	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Bridge designed to full Highways Standard
wb41	Need a suitable site for replacement of Berryfield Hall and Playing Field	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		Agreed it will be part of scheme
wb42	Its aspirational	Concern	Waney Edge Cafe		No – its more than aspiration as Local Authority require evidence of delivery which will be part of Business Plan currently being written
wb43	Good idea	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb44	Increased activities for town	Support	Opp for Melk Shop		
wb45	Boost economy	Support	Library		
wb46	good culture of boating community	support	Library		

wb47	Good for cycling and running	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb48	Opportunities for tourism	Support	Letter		
wb49	Great for narrowboat owners	Support	Letter		
wb50	Foot and cycle links to other towns and countryside	Support	Library		
wb51	Look at Bradford on Avon as a canal success	Support	Letter		
wb52	Boats on a river bring its surrounding area alive	Support	Letter		
wb53	Good for wildlife and walking	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb54	Would bring back a sense of pride in the town	Support	Letter		
wb55	More people coming into new houses will benefit from canal	Support	Letter		
wb56	Possible transport options	Support	Letter		
wb57	Need to persuade people locally that it is a good idea	Support	Letter		
wb58	Link will enhance flora and fauna	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb59	Good for bird life	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		

wb60	Boaters will bring jobs and trade	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb61	Bring prosperity and visitors to the town	Support	Town Hall		
wb62	Great news	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb63	Good for walking and enhance area	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb64	Fantastic	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb65	Enrich area and environment	Support	Letter		
wb66	No concerns, idea quite nice	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb67	100% support	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb68	In favour. Good for Melksham	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb69	Enhance environment	Support	Letter		
wb70	Increase trade	Support	Letter		
wb71	Put Melksham on the map as important waterways junction for south and south west England	Support	Letter		

wb72	Would be a massive improvement to the whole area	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb73	New Inn pub welcomes it	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb74	Good amenities for recreation	Support	Opp for Melk Shop		
wb75	Wildlife being given a priority across the whole canal will alleviate concerns about the Nature Reserve	Support	Opp for Melk Shop		
wb76	Will greatly enhance Berryfields and Melksham	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb77	Good idea	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb78	Good for canal boat owners	Support	Opp for Melk Shop		
wb79	bring money to the area	Support	Opp for Melk Shop		
wb80	Good for walking	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb81	Good idea, all for it	Support	Waney Edge Cafe		
wb82	Job opportunities	Support	Town Hall		
wb83	Enhance wildlife	support	Town Hall		

wb84	Great idea for water sports	Support	Town Hall		
wb85	Great idea for nature conservation	Support	Town Hall		
wb86	Great idea for public access in the countryside	Support	Town Hall		
wb87	Good idea	Support	Town Hall		
wb88	Wonderful idea, much needed. Good luck	Support	Town Hall		
wb89	Will bring more people into the area	Support	Town Hall		
wb90	Will bring back wildlife	Support	Town Hall		
wb91	Will provide somewhere pleasant to walk	Support	Town Hall		
wb92	Greatly support it – will open up countless opportunities for Melksham and surrounding areas.	Support	Town Hall		
wb93	Will enhance the area visually and commercially	Support	Town Hall		
wb94	Good idea – soon as possible	Support	Town Hall		
wb95	In favour and feel funding should be granted	Support	Town Hall		

wb96	Will it be recreational only?	Question	Library		Main boating activity will be recreational – see wb97
wb97	Could Freight be carried on canal?	Question	Library		Yes there are a number of new freight by water schemes - aggregates and waste may be suitable cargoes
wb98	Will boats be able to reach edge of town centre?	Question	Town Hall		As originally planned boats will navigate to Town bridge in the first part of the scheme
wb99	<p><b>Semington to Melksham section</b></p> <p>How would the water be supplied? What would it cost?</p> <p>Suggested sources:</p> <p>Kennet &amp; Avon Canal</p> <p>Local streams</p>	Question	Email		
					Indicative for BW and EA:
					Section from K&A to Berryfield from K&A
					Berryfield to River from River Avon
All subject to further negotiation and licence					



wb100	<b>Semington to Melksham section</b> Has a feasibility study been done on obtaining a cycle and pedestrian path to the town?	Question	Email		Yes its part of the scheme
wb101	<b>Semington to Melksham section</b>  Has the problem of discharging canal water into the river (bearing in mind the European Water Framework Directive) been addressed and approved by the EA? (B&V F25 8.30)	Question	Email		Discussions with EA have suggested suitable solution
wb102	<b>Semington to Melksham section</b>  What are the estimated costs of this section?	Question	Email		£11- 15m  Business Plan in progress
wb103	<b>Section using the River Avon through Melksham</b>	Question	Email		No formal agreement for any of the scheme  All subject to planning

	Has the environment Agency agreed to a second weir?				
<b>wb104</b>	<b>Section using the River Avon through Melksham</b>  How would this affect flooding risk to the town - particularly Sainsbury's site and Conigre Mead?	Question	Email		B& V working on FRA for the revise project
<b>wb105</b>	<b>Section using the River Avon through Melksham</b>  How would the operators obtain Navigation Rights?  This stretch of the river is not and never has been navigable  (ref. Black & Veatch report E9 8.1, House of Lords 1991 A-G Derwent Trust v. Brotherton.)	Question	Email		The rights of navigation on the river are vested in the riparian owners. Primary legislation would be required to establish a Navigation Authority
<b>wb106</b>	<b>Section using the River Avon through Melksham</b>	Question	Email		Not established that this is required. EA would need to

	Has the Environment agency agreed to dredging the river?				approve all works on the river
<b>wb107</b>	<b>Section using the River Avon through Melksham</b>  What would happen to the silt built up behind the Town Weir?	Question	Email		As with all rivers and navigations this would be removed if it affects the operation of the waterway or affects its flood capacity
<b>wb108</b>	<b>Section using the River Avon through Melksham</b>  When would the Environment Impact Assessment be done?	Question	Email		As appropriate when formal planning consent is sought for the scheme
<b>wb109</b>	<b>Section using the River Avon through Melksham</b>  Who would be responsible for the maintenance of the town stretch of the river? (ref:B&V E.9.8.1?)	Question	Email		See wb105 wb111

wb110	<p><b>Section using the River Avon through Melksham</b></p> <p>What are the estimated cost of this section?</p>	Question	Email		<p>Uncosted at present – will be part of business plan</p>
wb111	<p>Would British Waterways be willing and able to take over the restored canal and maintain it?</p>	Question	Email		<p>Possible but not certain</p>
wb112	<p>In view of the Grontmij report is the restoration of the whole canal financially viable?</p> <p>The Grontmij report said:</p> <p>a) “that there would be enough water for about 1000 boat movements per year. British Waterways has suggested 4500 boat movement for the restored canal.”</p>	Question	Email		<p>Please also read Ecotec report on economic benefits of the K&amp;A canal restoration</p> <p>The main cost benefits come from the visits to the operational canal not the number of boats in transit</p> <p>Consideration to the number of possible boat movements will be part of the final restoration strategy</p>

	<p>b) “that the W&amp;B CT needs to consider whether the costs are prohibitive to the restoration of the canal before any further investigation are undertaken, bearing in mind that these cost do not include land acquisition costs “</p> <p>c) The cost of water resources would be £68.2 million and maintenance costs of the order of £3million</p>				
wb113	Environmental impacts considered?	Question	Library		<a href="#">See wb108</a>
Wb114	My existing hedge belongs to farmer – I would expect/desire a quality boundary, sensitive to surroundings (NOT a concrete wall) which does not block natural light	Concern			The plans as published are outline only. The comments are noted. The detailed design will try to accommodate these concerns and will in any case be subject to constraints of the Local Authority in any planning consent application
Wb115	Intrusive lighting would be a problem if shining through rear windows of my property at night	Concern			<a href="#">See WB114</a>
Wb116	Commercial/residential properties overlooking my boundary and blocking light would be a problem	Concern			<a href="#">See WB114</a>
Wb117	Strongly object to close proximity of public conveniences	Concern			<a href="#">See WB114</a>

Wb118	Noise/possible intrusion/security issues would require a substantial division between car park and my property	Concern			See WB114
Wb119	Increase of traffic from main village access may cause congestion/build up on bridge -> more noise -> more litter	Concern			Planning application would need to assess this issue and provide traffic assessment
Wb120	Location of my septic tank/soakaway is on boundary of property – will this be a problem?	Question			The project would need to investigate in more detail but would need to find a solution if there are any problems
Wb121	Impact/disturbance during construction	Concern			See WB28
Wb122	Increased traffic crossing bridge may cause congestion/accidents with roadside parking.	Concern			See WB119
Wb123	Should all parking be restricted to main car park? Not on roadside! Already camper vans and commercial vehicles park on the roadside for several nights in a row.	Question			See WB 119
Wb124	My concerns are subjective as I am nearest property to proposals. If I lived elsewhere I could view the plans objectively and welcome them.	Support			