



The Kingfisher Project

Shobnall Brook and Horningslow Channel

Burton upon Trent

Report on Agency Workshop
Belvedere Park

11th August, 2005

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Introduction to Report

A report dated 2nd July¹ provided background to the Kingfisher Project and presented residents' findings regarding opportunities and concerns around the Horninglow Channel area between Shobnall Fields and Eton Park. That report followed a residents meeting on 24th May 2005 and was sent to residents, schools, service providers and agencies that are stakeholders in the area.

To take things forward two meetings were proposed. The first meeting, summarised in this report, was held at Belvedere Park on August 11th. This meeting was not designed to focus on solutions. The purpose was to clarify the needs and interests of agencies and organisations and enable these parties to focus on understanding the needs and interests of residents and other groups.

Workshop Activities

Twenty-six people came to the workshop, representing a variety of agencies, organisations and levels of government. The meeting began at 09.30. After introductions, there was a short presentation on the Kingfisher Project and key issues that emerged from residents meetings and the 2nd July report. Participants then broke into four working groups to:

1. Introduce their agency/organisation in a little more detail
2. Discuss from each stakeholder's perspective what were their needs, concerns, hopes and aspirations for the Kingfisher Project area.

Groups worked for about 90 minutes and prepared summaries on chart paper for reporting back to everyone else. Each small group had a short question-and-answer session with additional notes taken by the facilitator.

A short whole-group session brought together themes for discussion and identified next steps. The workshop ended at 13.00.

During the final session we discussed further meetings to explore partnership possibilities with agencies and residents representatives. The 2nd July report noted the need to consider carefully what we mean by 'representation' to get a balance of residents from Shobnall and from Horninglow & Eton - perhaps beyond. Ideas about representation, legitimacy, sustainability and governance

¹ [The Kingfisher Project, Project Background and Report on Residents' Meetings. 2 July, 2005, S Jones](#)

were a major focus of our final discussions and were incorporated into 'Next Steps and Recommendations.'

Outputs from the Four Working Groups

The four working groups each presented key points from their discussions. These are given below.

GROUP ONE

Needs / Concerns

- Pollution of Brook, household waste, faulty drains (e.g. where channel passes under Horninglow Road)
- The Horninglow Brook has similar pollution problems to those discussed by Kingfisher Project area - these need to be considered at sometime
- Clearance of rubbish from metal grills at the end of Masefield Crescent and Shakespeare Road, near Eton Park School
- Continued lack of collective responsibility
- Imminent end of funding for Heart of Burton; there is a need to plan for a successor / advocate
- Motorcycles on footpath/town path.
- Safety/water safety of users of both footpath/towpath. Access to both the Canal and the brook

Hopes

- Education, community use and involve and interpretation of wildlife corridor
- More Kingfishers!
- To sustain current interest and involvement
- Action to feed the residents passion of enthusiasm for project
- Greater education possibilities
- Link between canal and brook -- more partnership work
- Better vegetation management
- Overall management team with continuing responsibility and open lines to community
- Extension of path from Beech Drive to A38 at Clay Mills cycle track.
- Community police / wardening -- "bicycle bobbies"
- Social Enterprise Funding
- A *Trust* type of body for unifying governance
- Decent parking

Opportunities

- Big Lottery funding streams (e.g. Living Land Mark, Heritage)
- Advantage West Midlands - *where are you?*
- National Forest & beyond. Links

GROUP TWO

Needs

- Money - Can we only go as far as legislation?
- Community Involvement (sustainability)
- People need to know their role -- how does everyone link?
Are there areas of overlap, or shortfall?
- Legal responsibilities - need to clarify land ownership
- Need a main contact point - a Framework, and links into existing networks
- To be clear about peoples expectations as against what you can deliver.
What should the channel look like viewed from different peoples eyes?
Whose responsibility is it to meet those expectations and can any one agency do that? Who does what?
- Shared local responsibility
- Balancing urban area with wildlife
- TRUST
- Need a Wildlife Management Plan
- Need to show leadership and to have a wider/general view on the project
- Link in with wider projects and programs - dissemination of best practice
- Need people to feel safe
- Health & Safety: Water quality and children/public using the channel
- Grills - Stop children accessing
 - Maintenance
 - Legal
- Reed bed system to improve water quality & wildlife content (e.g. Tamworth)
- Oxygenate water - e.g. use lock system to inject air into channel?
- Set up local community - take pride in the area
- Make sure information is up to date - who will do that?
- There is a need for action - keep the public attention and involvement.
- Need to make refuse collection easier. More widely known.
- Need a CAN DO mentality - keep the positive feeling.

Concerns

- Different areas have different needs - there will be different solutions along the length of the channel.
- Flood defence vs. smell
- Flat geography - the angle of flow is very shallow - silt builds up but moves when there is a lot of rain. Also, the flat nature of the land means that methane gas builds up because organic matter collects and sits around
- People feel problems haven't moved on
- Water quality - is it acceptable that it is not as good as rural areas?
- Public concern in refuse collection - refrigerators, electrical goods, bulky objects, even cars!

Opportunities

- Education - especially in the local schools
- Large natural resource on our doorstep; especially for young people
- Link in with School curriculum
- Millennium Volunteers, Princess Trust, Duke of Edinburgh (AWARDS)
- Approach Burton District for setting up on award scheme
 - Awards - Community award Scouts.
 - Environmental Award
- Millers need a Project to contribute to. Need a development brief talk to the planners. Needs links -- to build a relationship with developers and community. Need good public relations to sell houses and generally (publicity).
 - 250 New Homes will be looking out across the area
 - Section 106 funding
- Link with Staffs Wildlife Trust - nation wide network
- Has got great wildlife potential
- Put bird boxes etc at grill sites - when checking boxes can check litter to.
- Heritage Lottery funding - get more people to use area e.g. lighting, information signs, education, seating
- Seasonal interest, rolling programme tied in with the management programme.
- Encourage people to come and see the area - make it a special attraction.
- S.C.C. - narrow boat - use as floating education station and for advertisement - a focal point (work with British Waterways).
- Use press - Inland Waterways Association. Set up Campaign, e.g. a 'clean up'
- Greyhound club for example have an event: have a schedule of events throughout the year.
- Can improve service provided to maintain waterway by working in partnership and with volunteers.
- Once the public have ownership of the Project and activities, then people will 'police' things themselves.

GROUP THREE

Needs

- Identify responsibility
- Establish Communication
- Clear Contacts
- Make Improvements
- Ongoing monitoring
- Establish funding
- Know your limits (e.g. sewerage)

Hopes

- Attraction of wildlife
- Clean environment
- Local residents taking responsibility to keep area clean (e.g. no more tipping and dumping)

Concerns

- Sewerage discharges
- Communication between agencies
- Fly tipping/dog fouling
- Abandoned vehicles (arson)
- Vermin (Brambles, etc.) / amenities (encroaching)
- Policing
- Keeping people's interest
- Funding

Opportunities

- Future projects (e.g. L.E.A.P., Rotterdam Project)
- Education of next generation
- W.A.S.P. initiative
- Bring schools on board
- Changing attitudes
- Lobby councillors / authorities

Note:

LEAP = Local Environmental Action Plan

WASP = Ward Action Service Plan

GROUP FOUR

It is important to look at the history of the area. Quite a lot of work has been done and the area is a lot better than it was 10 year ago. For example some of the partnership work on the 'Linear Park' between ESBC, British Waterways, Sustrans etc. has had a very positive effect.

Needs

- Clarify ownership and responsibilities
- Grills to be cleared regularly
- Rubbish collection review
- (Adult and Kids) Education re rubbish
- Trent and Dove involvement

Concerns

- Litter
- Fly-tipping
- Dog Fouling
- Needles
- Perceptions of the area
- Children - Safety
- Public liability
- Arches (e.g. Dallow Lock area)
- Anti-social behaviour

Hopes

- Look better
- Open up / Create pools
- Clear brambles?

Opportunities

- People to adopt "can do" attitude
- Greater use - more walking
- Wildlife survey (the place may be better than we think) (work with Staffs Wildlife Trust)
- Management Plan including wildlife/landscaping
- JB Kind and RE Cook sites - re-development, e.g. 2 or 4 storey?
- Partnership working

Ideas

- CCTV
- New name
- Entrance Feature (Kingfisher Park)

Next Steps and Recommendations

In the closing discussions with the whole group, several action points were discussed:

- Prepare and distribute a contact list for agency, organisation and political stakeholders (by mid-September, Appendix One, this report)
- Meet with local schools representatives, e.g. head / deputy-head teachers, heads of year and subject leaders from Eton Park, Grange, Belvedere, Lansdowne, Victoria to identify and take forward education and other schools-related issues (23rd September, 2005).
- Collate and map what is known about ownership. Identify gaps in knowledge about ownership, working with Severn Trent, ESBC, County, Trent and Dove and other agencies, and with large private stakeholders (e.g. JB Kinds, RE Cook) (ongoing during September to end of October).
- Identify ways of involving people so far under-represented in resident meetings and workshops, e.g. youth, people with disabilities, minority ethnic groups (ongoing).
- Establish links with the Volunteer Bureau to discuss legal, funding, constitutional and governance issues around forming a steering group or Trust of some kind for the Kingfisher Project. (September, 2005)
- Continue working with local residents, especially through strengthened links and involvement with Parishes and Residents' Associations (ongoing). Design ways forward for identifying a "Residents Forum" for the Kingfisher Project, perhaps through Parish and Housing Associations and other entities (ongoing).
- Explore ways forward with regard to Project governance, e.g. through a Trust mechanism. A very large number of people live, work or have recreation time in the Kingfisher Project area. A Residents' Forum, perhaps linked closely with Parishes and/or Resident Associations may be one useful next step toward a Trust or other entity with resident and agency membership. (ongoing)
- Provide two page update for 'Heartbeat' Magazine and distribute to all residents in the Heart of Burton area (August, 2005)

- Design a leaflet that captures key ideas around the Kingfisher Project for distribution to local people and potential partners (draft in October for discussion at next meeting)
- Design a simple map of the area that highlights the drainage system from Henhurst Wood to the River Trent, with major landmarks, to illustrate the (draft) project area.
- Explore possibilities of re-naming the area, i.e. changing from 'The Horninglow Linear Park' to something more engaging and user-friendly, such as the 'Kingfisher Trail'
- Update Project Stakeholder List (September, 2005, Appendix Two in this report)

Appendix 1

Agency and Political Representatives Contact List
(alphabetically by first name)
Updated 16th August, 2005

Name	Organisation	Contact Details

Appendix 2

Kingfisher Project Stakeholders (Draft List)

This draft list of stakeholders has been developing since January 2005. Please forward this report to others people or agencies who you feel need to be on this list and encourage them to contact Scott, Sarbjit or Nihat:

- Residents -- all age groups, females and males, black and minority ethnic groups, newly arrived residents, people with disabilities, folks who live nearby, including Dallow Lock, people who visit the area but live further away.

- Abbot Beyne School
- Anglers and Angling groups
- Belvedere School
- Borough Council (a) Parks & Countryside, (b) Asset Manager, (c) Ward Action Service Plan [WASP] officers, (d) Health & Environment, (e) Engineers
- British Waterways
- Burton Albion Football Club
- Burton College
- Burton Conservation Volunteers
- Burton Day Services
- Councillors (Parish, Borough, County)
- County Council
- De Ferrers College
- East Staffs Primary Care Trust
- Environment Agency (Dove Environment Management Team, Community Partnership team, Environmental Protection)
- Encams (East Midlands)
- Eton Park School
- Fire and Rescue
- Grange School
- Heart of Burton Partnership
- Horninglow and Eton Parish Council
- JB Kind p.l.c.
- Lansdowne School
- Library Services
- Local businesses
- Member of Parliament
- National Forest
- Police (CAT team)
- RE Cooke p.l.c.
- Residents Associations
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Severn Trent
- Shobnall Parish Council
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
- Sustrans
- Trent and Dove Housing Association
- Victoria School
- West Midlands Forest District