

Towpath Meeting
Tuesday 21st April 2026 – via Teams.

PRESENT

Canal & River Trust – David George, Rebecca Mason.
Cheshire West & Chester Council – Cllr Mike Jones (Tattenhall Ward).
Christleton Parish Council – Cllr John Beckitt.
Tattenhall & District Parish Council – Cllr Paul Kerr, Ann Wright (Clerk).
Waverton Parish Council – Philip Morrey, David Robert (Footpath Warden).

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss scheme design work and next steps.

Towpath Designs

David George had produced 18 designs covering the towpath from the A41 road bridge number 122B, through to Beeston Brook Bridge number 107, 15km.

It was noted the design work is at a standard that it can be used for tendering and as such is more detailed than a concept design.

One of the project challenges is that some maintenance work is required on parts of the route which needs to be undertaken before the project can proceed. However, these works may not be a priority for the Trust. Some funders will cover the cost of these works while others will only want to fund the specific project. It was noted that the Trust has been successful in the past obtaining funding for this type of works.

Vegetation Clearance

It was raised that some parts of the towpath could be improved in the short term by clearing vegetation. Rebecca Mason confirmed overgrown vegetation can be reported to her for clearance noting that we are currently in the bird nesting season.

It was explained that once the towpath has been improved it will make vegetation clearance much easier as there will be a clear edge to the path.

It was confirmed before works take place the Trust's team will undertake an environmental appraisal.

Costings

It was agreed that the Trust will obtain a price for the whole 15km route in the first instance.

It was estimated the scheme would cost around £4m to complete.

Process

- Identify funding source
- Go through funding application process.
- Application assessment period (usually couple of months)
- Funding agreement signed.
- Trust will undertake mini tender process (noting they have 2 preferred contractors in the Northwest).

An example was given of a project in Doncaster where 2 agreements were agreed in October 2025, 1 on which is not yet available and the other is currently subject to negotiation. It is hoped the works will commence on this project in August 2026.

Rebecca Mason confirmed that she is in discussions with CW&C about active travel including this project as well as the new combined authority.

Peak Cluster

It was noted that the Peak Cluster project impacts the canal at Hargrave. It was noted this is on the radar and more information is required on the project and its timescales.

Waverton Pipe

It was noted that the pipe identified in Waverton near Egg Bridge is a drainage pipe from the school and village playing fields which was renewed by the Parish Council last year.

Active Travel Project

It was noted the project is an active travel project providing an off-road green travel route.

Next Steps

- Any questions relating to the designs to be emailed to David George. Responses will be shared with the whole group.
- Costing of whole scheme to be obtained from the Trust (expected to take a couple of weeks.)
- Consideration to be given to routes name, one suggestion is Ranulph Way after the 4th Earl of Chester.

Ann Wright
22/04/2026