

Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee

TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING

Introduction

The Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee (GWCJAC) supports and encourages an active partnership between all the bodies involved in and co-ordinating management across all activities of the Grand Western Canal (GWC). The management of the GWC is co-ordinated by the Chief Assistant Engineer on behalf of Devon County Council.

The Joint Advisory Committee represents the main mechanism for the co-ordination of advice and the collation of local views relating to the management and maintenance of the canal.

The aim of the County Council is “to conserve for the future the integrity of the Grand Western Canal in its setting as a wildlife, historic, recreation and education resource”.

The principle functions of the GWCJAC are to:

- Promote and act as champion for the canal;
- Support the aims of the County Council for the GWC which are to:
 - Preserve and maintain the canal as a civil engineering asset;
 - Develop, conserve and interpret the biodiversity in the surrounding area;
 - Promote the canal for amongst other things – tourism purposes.
- Provide a forum for discussion and information exchange between the different interested parties;
- Provide advice for the County Council on issues of management of the GWC

This will be achieved through providing advice

- To assist the implementation of the Management that supports the County Council’s aims for the GWC;
- To inform a review of the Management Plan at appropriate intervals;
- To permit the monitoring of the success and achievement of the GWC Team and the use of the Canal;
- To inform the County Council on the impacts of existing or proposed uses of the Canal;
- To inform the commissioning of special studies of issues if necessary, utilising appropriate forums;
- To inform the local planning authorities about developments which are likely to affect significantly the GWC, its environs and landscape character;
- On the likely resources necessary for effective management;
- on the dissemination of information and by undertaking this through appropriate organisations;
- On the accommodation of new requirements due to changes in legislation affecting the GWC

It should be noted that the GWCJAC does not have executive powers over the funding partners, but acts in an advisory and consultative capacity to the funding partners and others as required.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- The GWCJAC will meet twice a year;
- The Chairman and Vice Chairman will be elected annually;
- The position of Chairman and Vice Chairman will rotate between the main funding partners of Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council;
- The secretariat for the GWCJAC will be Mid Devon District Council and the Committee will be run under MDDC standing orders;
- The GWCJAC will be considered quorate when eight representatives are present of whom 3 should be County or District Councillors with 1 being a County Councillor;
- Representatives will be expected to attend all meetings or to send a suitable replacement with prior notice;
- If a representative fails to attend two GWCJAC meetings within the year, without reasonable cause, then their eligibility to attend any future meetings will be terminated with immediate effect;
- Meetings will be open to the press and public with opportunities for the items to be brought in by the public for part of the meeting with prior notice;
- Suggested agenda items and questions should be presented 3 weeks before any meeting;
- Press and publicity must be channelled through Devon Media Services having initially been authorised by the Chairman or Vice Chairman or the Assistant Chief Engineer;
- The membership of the GWCJAC will be reviewed once during each financial year to ensure there is a wide and balanced representation of canal interests;
- New members may be co-opted onto the GWCJAC with the agreement of the GWCJAC following a presentation to the Committee outlining the reasons why they should have representation;
- These Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the GWCJAC following the agreement of the Chairman with recommendations for change being made to the funding partners;
- All organisations will have equal voting rights should the occasion dictate, with the Chairman having the casting vote;
- The GWCJAC will report to the Executive Member for Environment, Economy and Culture who will be the County Council's representative on the advisory committee.

Membership of the Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee

Membership of the Grand Western Canal Advisory Committee will consist of the following organisations:

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|---|---|
| DCC – Executive Member for Environment | 1 |
| MDDC – Portfolio Holder for the Street Scene | 1 |
| County Councillors with Wards adjoining the GWC | 2 |
| District Councillors with Wards adjoining the GWC | 6 |
| Devon Wildlife Trust | 1 |
| Tiverton Canal Company | 1 |
| Local Parish Councils (Tiverton Town, Burlescombe Sampford Peverell, Halberton Holcombe Rogus) 1 each | 5 |
| Tiverton Sea Cadets | 1 |
| Canal Awareness Group | 1 |
| Tiverton and District Angling Club | 1 |
| Grand Western Canal Trust | 1 |
| Inland Waterways Association | 1 |
| Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society | 1 |
| Wildlife Advisory Group | 1 |
| Mid Devon Hire Boats and Moorings | 1 |
| Sustrans | 1 |
| Canal Businesses Group | 1 |

TOTAL **27**

Each organisation may register a deputy to their representative, which must be approved by the GWJAC in advance.

The GWCJAC will be advised by the Assistant Chief Engineer and Canal Manager and other officers as required.

We endorse the above Terms of Understanding for the GWCJAC and hereby agree to represent, to the best of our ability, the interests of the GWC. We understand our role is to act as an ambassador for the GWCJAC and further its aim to conserve, for the future, the integrity of the Grand Western Canal in its setting as a wildlife, historic, recreation and education resource and to be supportive of sustainable economic activity and tourism in the area.

Organisation.....

Named
representative.....

Position.....

Date.....

Signature.....
Contact Details

Address.....
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Tel.....Fax.....
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Email.....

Named
Deputy.....

Date.....

Signature.....

Contact
Details.....

Address.....

Tel.....

Fax.....

Email.....