



Planning permission granted!



Plans to develop a new visitor centre in the Canal Basin in Tiverton have moved a step closer, following a decision by Devon County Council's Development Management Committee to grant planning permission.

The final hurdle before construction can proceed is the securing of Listed Building Consent. If and when this is consent is granted, tendering of the works will be undertaken, with construction due to take place in the Autumn of 2011 and opening of the new centre to follow in the Spring of 2012.

Cllr Des Hannon, DCC member for Tiverton East and Chairman of the Canal's Joint Advisory Committee said: "It's great that we're a step closer to the first visitor crossing the threshold. What better time to secure an investment which will boost our local economy as well as helping everyone get more enjoyment from our canal? The rigorous planning process, with input from archaeological experts, has been a real plus. The canal has a long history and I think each generation should carefully do something new that makes it even better. This small, high quality building fits the bill."

Ice safety

Prolonged cold spells this winter have seen the Canal freeze on several occasions already, and it is likely that the Canal will freeze up again before spring arrives.

Compared with last winter, the Rangers have had very few reports of children playing on the ice and there has been noticeably less rubbish thrown on the ice and so they would like to thank everyone for that.

However, it is important not to become complacent, so please help to spread the message that it is very dangerous to go onto the ice. The thickness of the ice can vary greatly and just because its thick at the edge doesn't mean its thick in the middle. Please don't allow dogs on the ice – several people have died in the UK in recent years trying to save dogs that have broken through the ice. Enjoy the seasonal weather, but please be safe!



A frozen section of the Canal near Ayshford Chapel

