



## **The Kingfisher Project**

### **Vision**

'Clear lines of communication and action between residents and agencies to make the Project area beautiful, safe and pleasant'

## **The Kingfisher Management Group**

### **Stakeholder Meeting**

**20 June 2007**

**Belvedere Park**

**Burton upon Trent**

## **Report**

# The Kingfisher Management Group

## Stakeholder Meeting

20 June 2007

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## Introduction

The Horninglow Channel runs alongside the Trent and Mersey Canal through an area known as the Linear Park in Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire. Technically a surface water sewer, this is not an appropriate description for a place that many regard as a local beauty spot. Known locally as “The Brook” the channel has developed into a wildlife corridor and semi-natural habitat several miles long through the urban and industrial areas of Burton.

The Brook is valuable for several reasons, including:

- flood control
- residential and commercial water supply
- nature conservation and biodiversity
- public amenity and leisure
- historical and educational resource for residents and schools.

From meetings with residents going back to early 2004, it became apparent that there was a need for agency and resident involvement in the regeneration of the ‘brook’ and its creation once again as an area of natural beauty that could form an extension to the Linear Park. Having once been a habitat for Kingfishers as highlighted in a question posed by a resident, ‘where have all the kingfishers gone?’ this seemed the ideal name for the project.

The Kingfisher Project is currently focused on the branch of the channel that runs from Eton Park School to Dallow Lock within inner Burton.

The Kingfisher Management Group was formed in March 2006 and is made up of residents from the area, the Resident Involvement Officer from Trent & Dove Housing who provides facilitation for the group, local councillors and representatives of East Staffs Borough Council and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. The group sees the aims of the project as having three major priorities; efficient water drainage, impact on the environment and strong community participation.

The Kingfisher Project involves 27 different stakeholders, including agencies, service providers and schools.

Since the formation of the Management Group many achievements have been made with the support of various agencies. The group are entirely self funding and are actively engaged in fund raising to enable the aims of the project. Activities that have taken place since March 2006 include:

- clearance of the embankment and new fencing.
- Tree for Life program, planting new trees along the project area
- litter picks
- Fun Day and sponsored walk.
- mini beast survey with local schools

The Management Group are aiming to continue with activities that involve the local community such as the purchase of a Bat Detector which will encourage the interest and involvement of local residents helping to monitor the bat population through bat walks; this information will then be fed back to the National Bat Survey. The embankment will continue to be cleared of overgrowth and plans are to use some of the cleared ground for gardening activity.



Litter Pick March 2006



Tree for Life May 2006



Embankment before clearance



New fencing and cleared embankment  
November 2006



The Kingfisher Project won the Commendation Award at the Staffordshire Green Awards 2006.

## **Meeting Stakeholders**

The first meeting of agencies was held at Belvedere Park on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2005. 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. Twenty-six people came to the workshop, representing a variety of agencies, organisations and levels of government.

*The Kingfisher Project, Report on Agency Workshop, 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2005, Scott Jones*

Further meetings with schools and residents took place during 2005 and residents have continued to be consulted and informed since the creation of the management group for the project. With so much having been achieved and with support being given by residents, schools and some agencies it was decided to meet again with all stakeholders to inform and update everyone about the achievements to date and gather opinions on how to move the project forward. This meeting took place on 20 June 2007.

Residents gave an opening presentation highlighting the purpose and achievements of the project so far. This was followed by a walk along the length of the project from Dallow Lock to Eton Park. This provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to see and hear for themselves the improvements that had been made to the area environmentally with the involvement of the whole community and support from various agencies.

The event culminated with discussion groups allowing for opinions to be heard on what had been achieved so far and inviting suggestions and further offers of support towards achieving the future aims of the project.

## **Outputs from the discussion groups**

All stakeholders at the event, consisting of agency representatives, management group members and residents formed two separate groups, each facilitated by the Resident Involvement Team at Trent & Dove Housing. Discussions took place based on the information given in the morning's presentation and what was seen on the walk along the project area. The groups were asked to consider what was good about the project, improvements that needed to be addressed and future activities and involvement that could be supported by the stakeholders. Key points were recorded from their discussions.

These have been collated and listed in two separate tables and are given on the following page.

## Group one outputs

Good	Improvement still to be made	Future activities and support
<p>Resident Ownership Partnership working and energy Dallow Mural Evaluation of activities and partnerships to help with future funding Promotion of work done to date</p>	<p>Large area that has been cleared at rear of Horninglow Bridge looks barren and is being used for dumping rubbish Litter around seating areas Dog fouling, needs action : signage, media, photos, mobile CCTV Strategy with agencies to be worked on to improve this</p>	<p>Resident led projects around gardening, seating, continued involvement and managed. Agency support and guidance Complementary wildlife planting Involvement of Shobnall PC and more activities at Shobnall Mural at Horninglow – more costings Environmental/canal festival Permanent 'marker' of Kingfisher Area More school involvement (HOB to coordinate) Funding for trees and community involvement available and offered by National Forestry</p>

## Group two outputs

Good	Improvement still to be made	Future activities and support
<p>Achievements Residents taking it on board and making it happen Appearance better Less fly tipping</p>	<p>Keeping growth of weeds etc under control Tenants not looking after gardens Young people still misusing the area for drinking etc and leaving rubbish Lighting needs improving Signage etc for litter and dog fouling</p>	<p>Consult on weedkiller with Blooming Gardens, can stronger killer be used? Consult on communal/individual gardens at Flats on Masefield Re educate residents – need to raise standard – do T&amp;D provide one off cut of gardens? Joint Kingfisher/T&amp;D letter setting out what will be done and what tenants need to do. More litter bins needed along linear path T&amp;D need to manage intensively after any possible one off cut of gardens. HOB may have bins to use Possible moving of benches where being misused Cut through from gardens to brook area</p>

## **Next Steps and Recommendations**

Following the discussions several action points have emerged:

- Working closely with agencies to tackle dog fouling. This will include signage along the length of the project area, using the media to highlight the dangers of dog fouling and the need for responsible dog owners and possible usage of CCTV.
- Continuation of litter picking to involve local residents.
- Inviting Shobnall Parish Council to have a representative on the management group to enable further activity to take place in and around Shobnall.
- Working more closely with the schools to develop some of the work that has already been done with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.
- Keeping the embankment clear of overgrowth and developing the ground for use by local residents.
- Working with The National Forestry on obtaining funding for trees.
- Continuing to work closely with Heart of Burton on aesthetic improvements to the area.
- Trying to open up lines of communication with Severn Trent Water to tackle the drainage issues.

These action points will form the basis of work for the Kingfisher Management group over the forthcoming months. Agencies and residents will continue to work together to achieve the aims of the project. For further information or to offer advice and assistance contact details for group members and stakeholders are listed on the following pages.

The Kingfisher Management Group contact list 2007

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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## Stakeholder contact list

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