

Area Board Project

1. What is the project?

Improvements to the canal towpath surface, including selected widening to 2.1m along with improving access to / from residential areas.

2. Where is the project taking place?

The Kennet and Avon Canal towpath, between:

- Park Bridge and Cemetery Bridge; and
- London Rd Bridge to Park Bridge.

3. When will the project take place?

Subject to funding, the Canal and River Trust (CRT) is aiming to deliver the project between March 2015 through to April 2015. Initial estimates are for a 6-8 week construction phase.

4. What are the Community benefits/evidence of need/desired outcomes?

The towpath through Devizes provides a valuable community asset allowing residents and visitors alike the opportunity to walk and cycle to fulfil their daily business. Use of the towpath is currently restricted by the surface and its width. The CRT believes that a bound surface will be the best option to cater for the increasing use of the towpath as Devizes continues to grow and prosper.

The towpath project fully accords with the objectives of the Devizes Transport Strategy and will contribute towards tackling congestion and improving air quality in the town by providing an alternative to the car.

5. Who will manage/be responsible for this project?

The Canal and River Trust.

6. Costs/quotes/ match funding?

Costs: The CRT has provided the following costs to deliver the project:

£62,000 - Park Bridge and Cemetery Bridge

£164,000 - London Rd Bridge to Park Bridge

£226,000 – Total

Match Funding:

£30,000 - The CRT has also pledged project officer time.

£30,000 - Wiltshire Council Local Transport Plan

Devizes Town Council will consider the supporting the proposal at the next Community & Civic Resources Committee on 7 October 2014.

The Devizes Transport and Air Quality group will consider committing funds through developer contributions.

7. Additional information

The CRT has a robust approval process that will consider the proposals impact on heritage, environment, accessibility and conservation. The CRT has advised that the works is permitted development and therefore does not require planning permission.

