ERIH-UK Winter Meeting

Canals – a public benefit

Dyfrffyrdd bywiol i harddu ein byd ac i lonni'r enaid

Living waterways transform places and enrich lives
• The CRT model

• Challenges

• And Potential
Who we are

• Formerly British Waterways

• Became a Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee July 2012

• Largest transfer of public assets – ever

• Changing relationship with Government
• Changing relationship with public
• Securing property dowry
• Access to new funding
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What makes us sustainable?

- Strengthen local understanding and appreciation
- Engage people in caring for their natural and cultural heritage
- Build awareness of what CRT does
- Improve the visitor experience

Volunteering 480,000 hours
169 community ‘adoptions’
64,000 children engaged by 130 Explorer volunteers

£2.5m raised
c.15,800 active Friends
Success with major donors, Trusts & companies, 1st legacies
Old age

Open day March 19th Llangattock
Climate change

Stainton Aqueduct – Lancaster Canal
Mon & Brec
The opportunity:

- Legislative context – new ways of working
  - Well-being of Future Generations Act
  - Environment Act
- Within Capital City Region
- In an area of need

- Connects people
- Connects home to schools, employment, recreation
- Connects habitats
Health benefits

Figure 9.3: Determinants of Health (Dahlgren & Whitehead, 1991).
Forecast economic outputs

Whole canal
• 1.5 million additional visits
• 258 net additional tourism jobs
• £5m net additional GVA from tourism
• 842 construction jobs (84 FTE assuming 10 year duration)

Across Caerphilly and Torfaen (other authorities not calculated)
• 2,129 net additional jobs from canalside development
• £93 m net additional GVA
• 3,590 new houses (gross)
• 213,000 sq m of non residential development (gross)
• 227 hotel beds (gross)
Why do we know it works?
• Creation of Canal & River Trust has engaged the public in a way British Waterways never could

• Waterways deliver multiple environmental and social as well as economic benefits

• We know it can be done because we’ve already done it