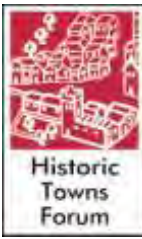


Historic Towns Forum



for prosperity and conservation in historic towns

Patron:

*His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales*

30 June 2011

To whom it may concern

Consultation: moving inland waterways into a new charity in England and Wales

The Historic Towns Forum is an independent membership organisation, the mission of which is to promote the prosperity and heritage of historic towns and cities. Its work is rooted in the recognised value of heritage assets to social, economic, and environmental well-being. It is the only UK-based organisation which represents all professional disciplines and sectors working in the historic built environment.

The HTF is
supported by:

The Historic Towns Forum welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. We have responded in order to questions we feel qualified to answer and have appended more general concerns below.



Question 1: Do you agree that, over time, the charity should work towards including other navigations, including the EA Navigations in the next Spending Review?

Yes.

Question 2: Do you think that the proposed requirements of the Trust Declaration are the right ones? Are they sufficient/are there others which should be considered?

It seems a little superficial as it stands and should provide a fuller picture of breadth of interests and areas the new body will take responsibility for. In particular more detail is required, for example around responsibility for heritage assets of national significance.



Question 3: Do you agree the new Waterways Charity should enjoy the same powers and be subject to similar legal duties to maintain the waterways as British Waterways currently is?

Yes.

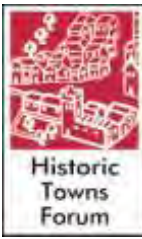
Question 4: Do you agree with the proposed 'mission' statement? How could it be improved?

Yes. No improvement needed.

Bircham Dyson Bell

John Lewis Partnership

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Question 5: Do you agree with proposed 'belief' statement? How could it be improved?

Yes. No improvement needed.

Question 6: Do you agree with the proposed 'vision' statement? How could it be improved?

Yes. No improvement needed.

Question 7: Do you agree that the New Waterways Charity should enjoy the same powers and be subject to similar legal duties to maintain the waterways as British waterways currently is?

Yes.

Question 13: How best can the New Waterways Charity strike the right balance between local needs and the needs of the waterways network as a whole?

Local partnerships or a network of individual trusts (or a combination of both) could be considered.

Question 14: How could the charity encourage effective working between different communities and partnerships who share the same waterway?

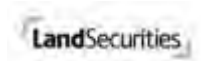
Encourage early community engagement and local partnership working.

Question 24: Government policy is to support the movement of freight on inland waterways, where it is economically sustainable. Do you agree that the status quo is no longer an option?

Yes, as long as this would not interfere with or prove detrimental to existing/future core recreational boating provision/activities or heritage interests, particularly where the waterway is the feature of an historic town or city/core zone, and that there is no resulting environmental detriment.

Question 26: Are there other areas where you think NWC could increase its commercial income?

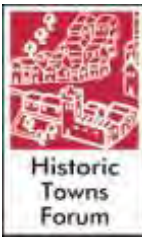
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Consider regeneration schemes, commercial property development and tourism/cultural offers.

Question 29: New Waterways Charity (NWC) is just the working title for the new charity. Which of the following suggestions for the name of the new charity do you prefer and why?

Waterways Trust says all it needs to.

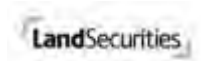
The HTF is supported by:

Additional comments:

In general HTF supports the proposal. It is, on the whole, well considered and structure and would lead to a sustainable future for the waterways in England and Wales, if successful. We feel, however, that the business model is weak: more clarity is needed, particularly around funding streams and regeneration for relevant urban landscapes.



We feel also that there is not enough detail in the proposed plan concerning the conservation and promotion of the Trust's rich network of heritage assets, which are currently under resourced – we would want to see in the business model some way to ensure these remained protected and promoted without resources diminishing further. Nor do we feel there is enough relation to their connection to the cultural, heritage and tourism offer or to how this feeds into the business model, particularly with regards to regeneration.



I hope you find this response helpful; if you require further information at any stage, do get in touch.

Yes. No improvement needed.

Question 5: Do you agree with proposed 'belief' statement? How could it be improved?

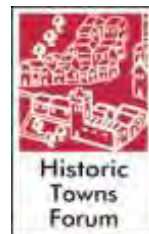
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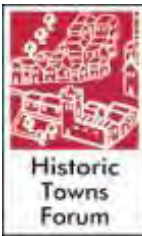


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I hope you find this response helpful; if you require further information at any stage, do get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noël James".

Noël James

Director

Historic Towns Forum



Bircham Dyson Bell

John Lewis Partnership