



Canal &
River Trust

WEST MIDLANDS WATERWAY

Walsall MBC Scrutiny Review Presentation



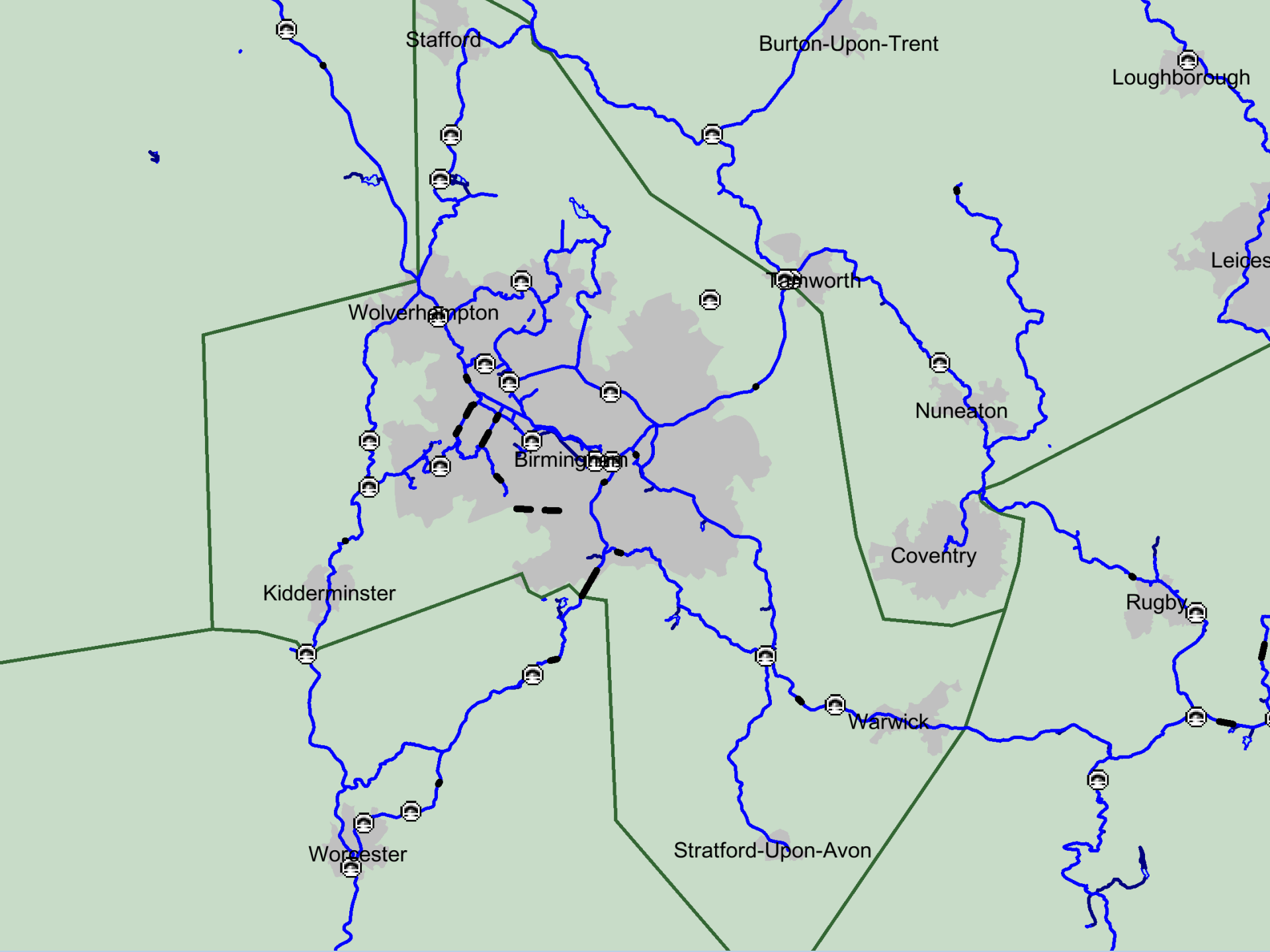


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AGENDA

- Background on the Waterway and what we do
- Walsall Canals
- Canal and River Trust – What will it mean?
- Waterway Partnership for the West Midlands
- Challenges, Solutions and Possible Ways Forward



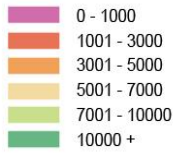


WEST MIDLANDS STATISTICS

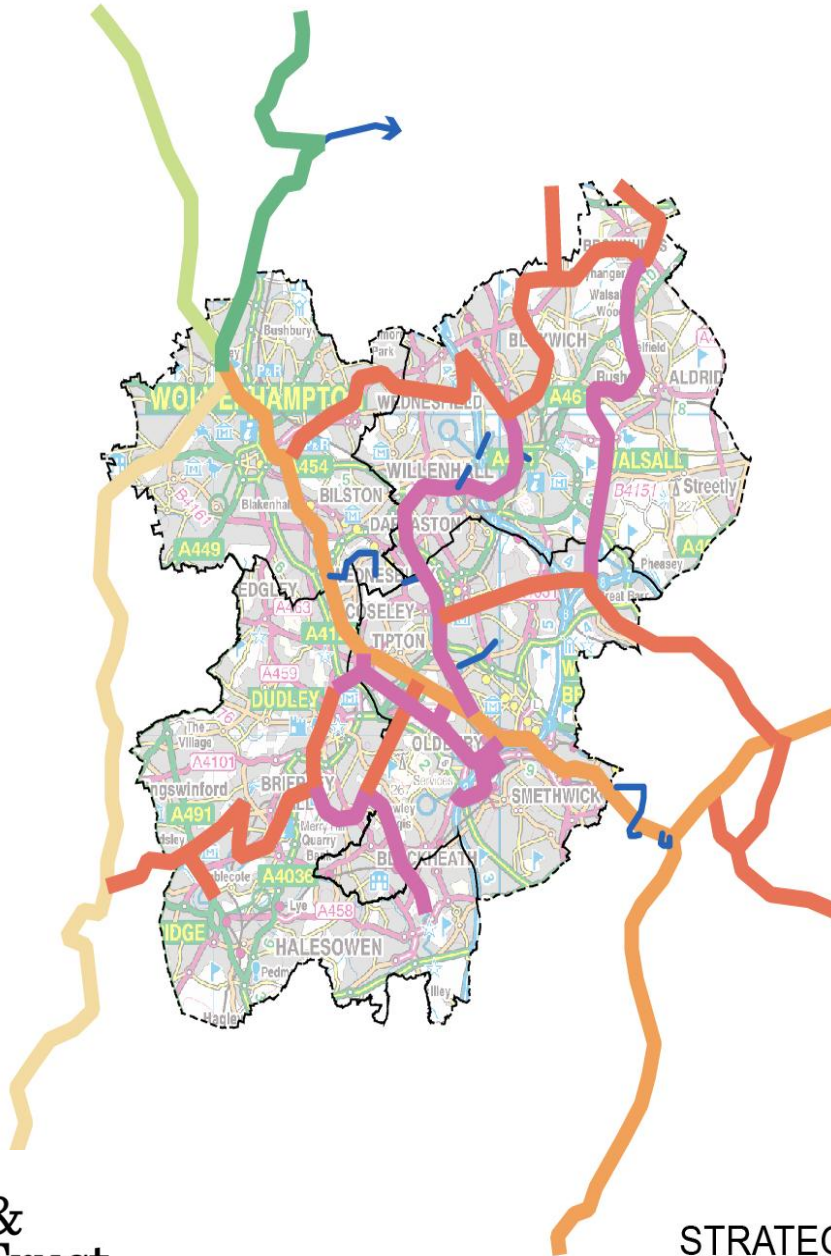
- 275 miles of canals
 - 54 miles of canal feeders
 - 287 Locks (about a fifth of the national number)
 - 12 Reservoirs
 - 454 Bridges (road, accommodation, moving)
 - 260 Major Embankments & Cuttings
 - 280 Weirs and Sluices
 - 169 Culverts passing under the canal
 - 12 Tunnels
 - 56 Aqueducts
- *41 miles of canals*
 - *No feeders*
 - *15 Locks*
 - *No Reservoirs*
 - *42 Bridges*
 - *31 Embankments & Cuttings*
 - *27 Weirs and Sluices*
 - *22 Culverts*
 - *2 Tunnels*
 - *2 Aqueducts*



boat movements per annum:



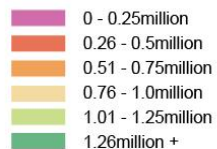
Boat Movement



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DRAFT
BLACK COUNTRY
STRATEGIC WATERWAY PLAN

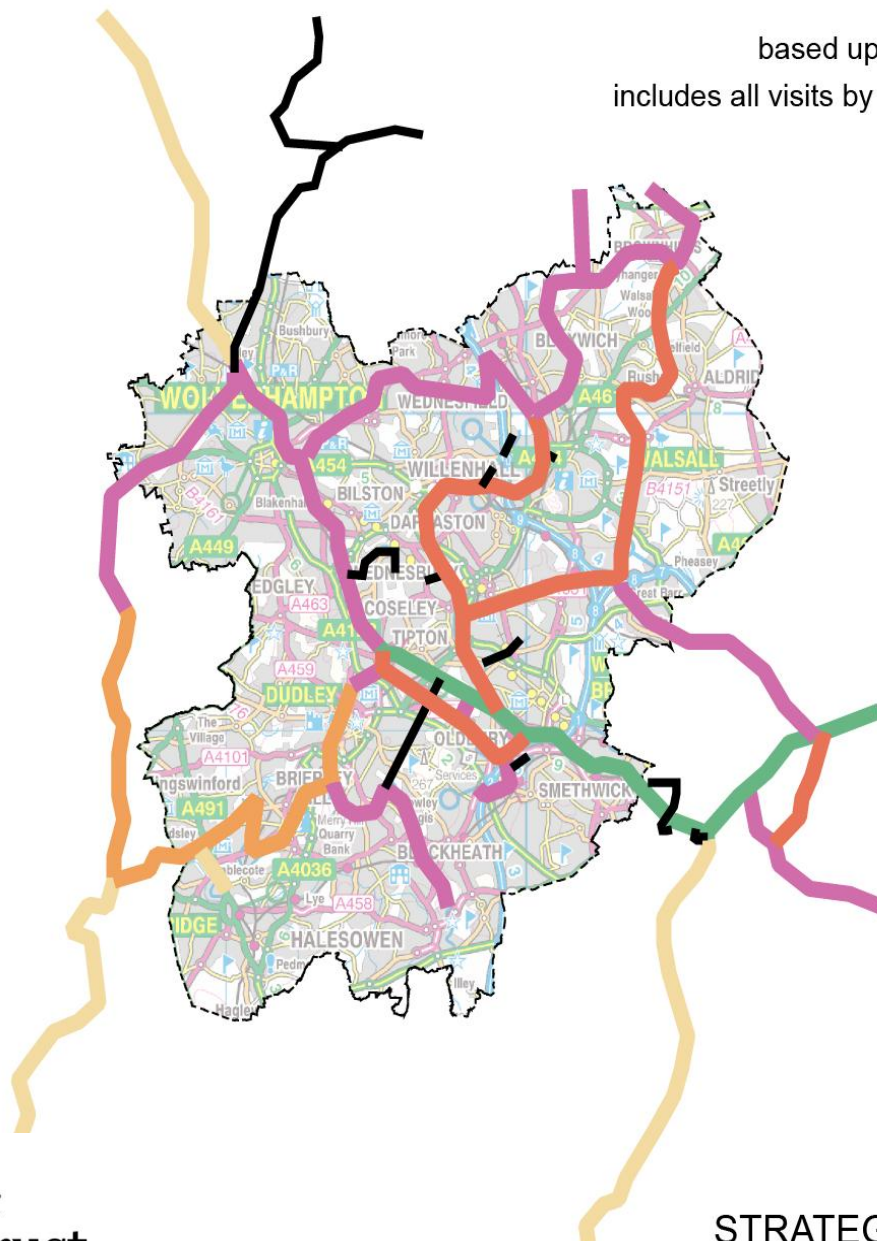
towing path visits per annum:



Tow Path Useage

based upon National Count Estimates

includes all visits by walkers, cyclists, anglers etc



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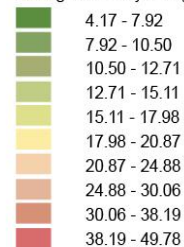
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BLACK COUNTRY
STRATEGIC WATERWAY PLAN

Deprivation Plan


-  BW waterway
-  Black Country zone
- 1** Wolverhampton District
- 2** Walsall District
- 3** Sandwell District
- 4** Dudley District

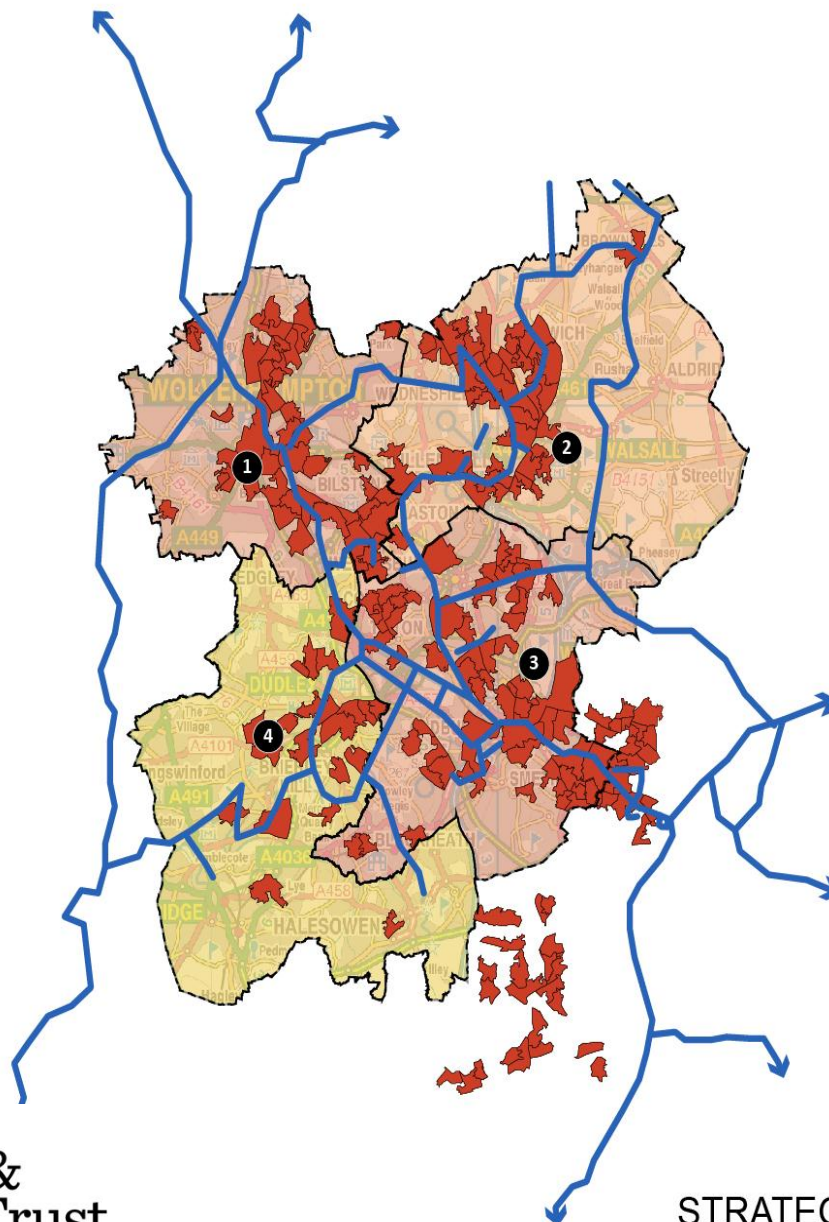
Deprivation Index :

Average Score by LPA (2007 data)



Top 10% SOAs (2010 data)

-  10% most deprived areas within 5km of a BW navigation



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STRATEGIC WATERWAY PLAN



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WHAT DOES THE WATERWAY DO?

- Day to day maintenance, repairs and risk management
 - Minor repairs costing less than £50,000 (e.g. lock gates)
 - Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM)
 - Vegetation Management
 - Customer Service – lockkeepers, sanitary stations, signage, etc.
 - Inspections
- Planned and delivered locally through the direct labour workforce and contract
- Direct customer liaison and interaction
- Delivering volunteer activity and local benefit





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WEST MIDLANDS' BUDGET

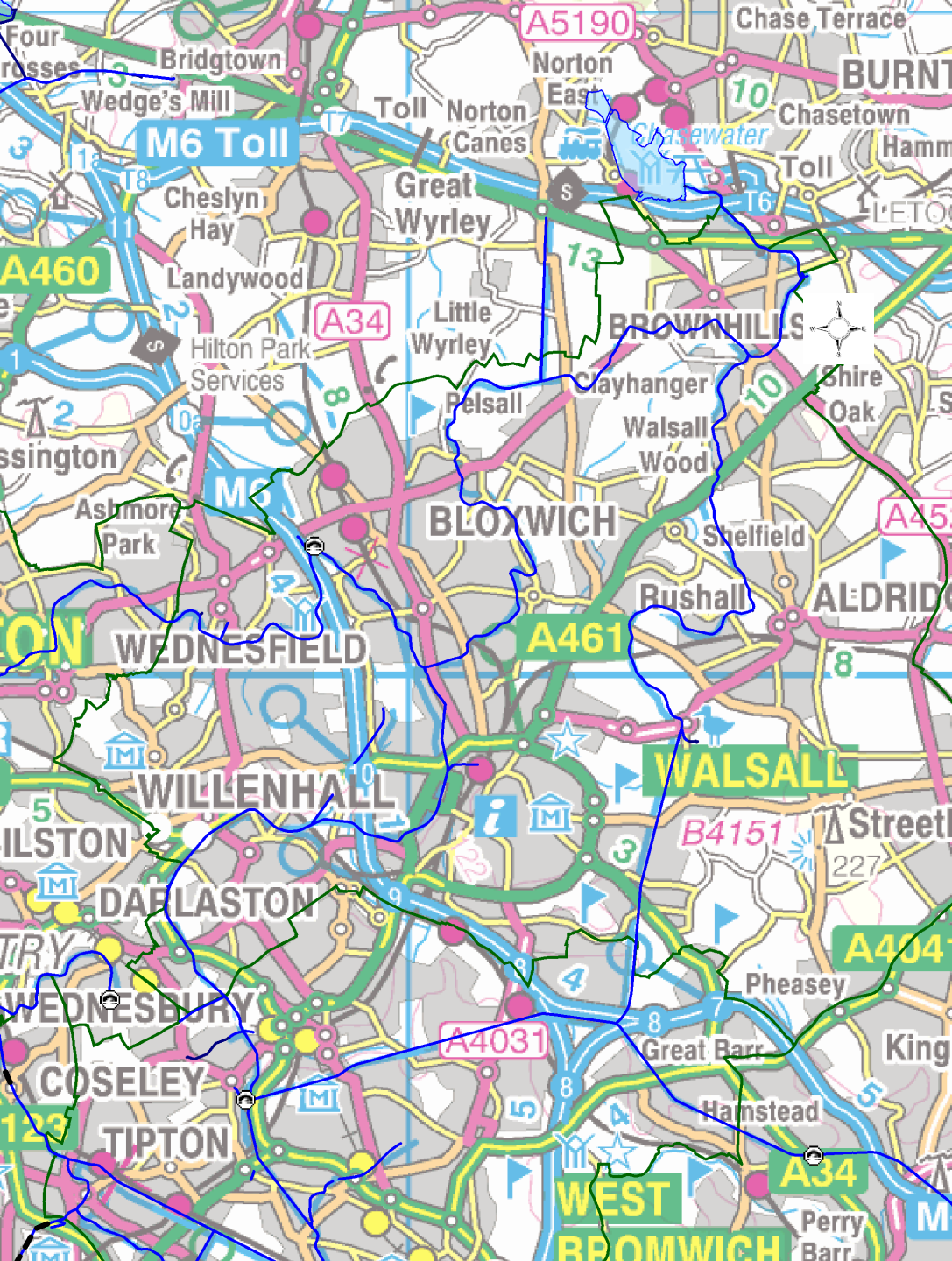
Budget for the year is £6.8M

- £2.5M Payroll
- £2.7M on Materials and Contracts
 - Major/Minor Works £692k
 - Customer Operations £130k
 - Vegetation (Contracts) £1.4M
 - Dredging £52k
 - Mechanical & Electrical £153k
 - Rapid Response £16k
 - Inspections £74k
 - Floating Plant £51k
 - Volunteers £142k
- £600k on Plant & Machinery
- £1M on Fixed overheads to include Safety, Training, Premise/Office costs, commercial vehicles etc



CANALS IN WALSALL

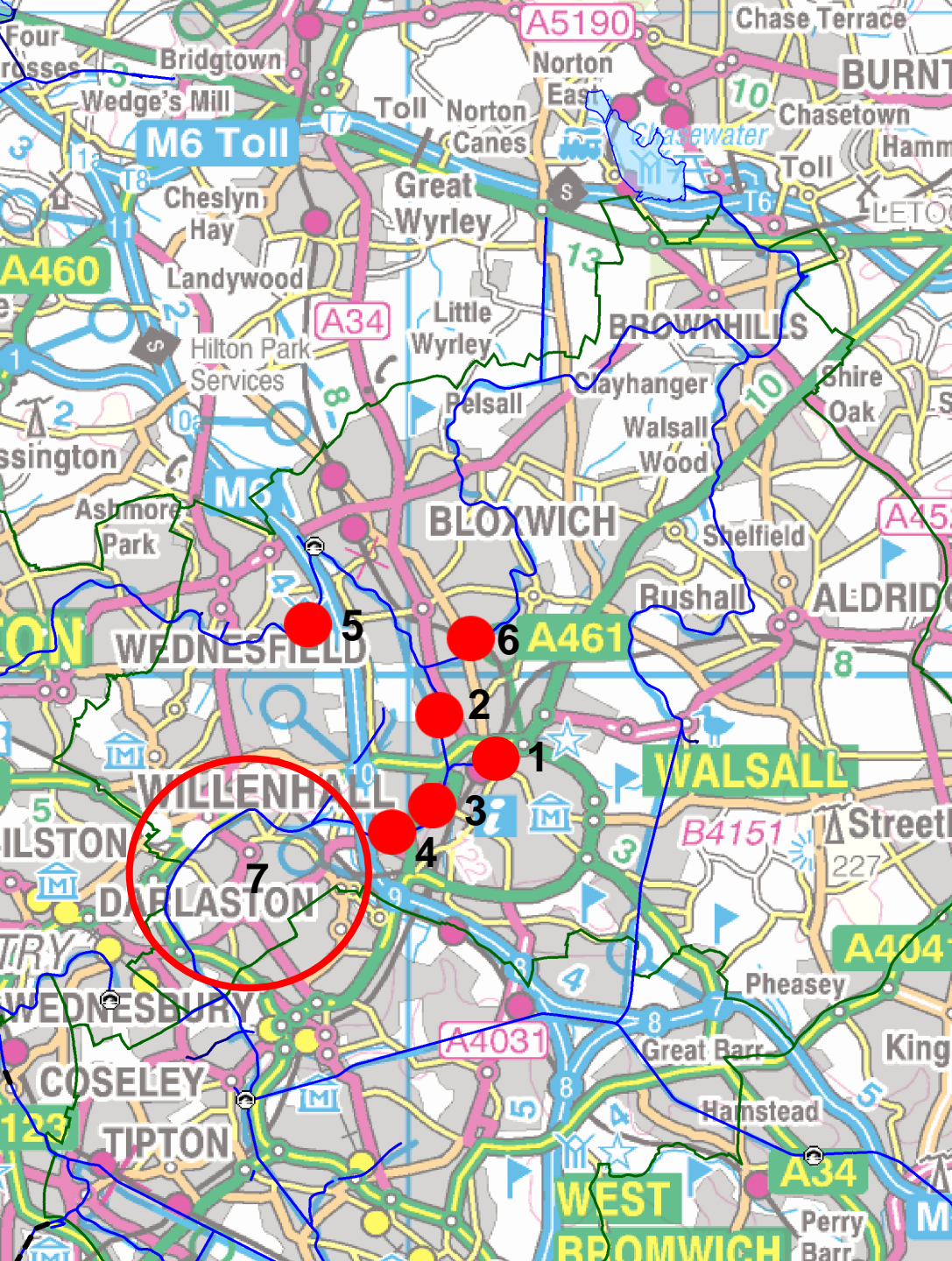
- Wyrley & Essington
- Daw End
- Rushall
- Anglesey Branch
- Cannock Extension
- Walsall
- Anson Branch



HOT SPOTS

We have significant Problems throughout the Borough but particular problem areas are:

1. Walsall Town Arm
2. Walsall Lock Flight
3. Woodward's Bridge (Pleck Rd)
4. Scarborough Road
5. Bentley Wharf Bridge
6. Forest Lane Bridge
7. Pleck & Darlaston Areas





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MAJOR WORKS

- **Spot dredging of Rushall and Daw End Canals during the next two years**
 - **Improving navigation and clearing weeds and reeds from the channel**
- **Just completed spot dredging of Walsall Canal – Reed removal – Ryders Green to Walsall Locks**
- **Metal bridge repairs and painting 2012/13 but chance they may be brought forward**





Walsall Canal Spot Dredging





Metal Bridges Repainting & Repair



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COMMUNITY PAYBACK SCHEMES

Liaison with local probation services across the waterway

Offender attendance is higher than any other activity (up to 80% cpw the average of 50%)

Supervised work, carrying out planned maintenance tasks that we would otherwise do – painting, towpath surfacing, lock painting

- 4,700 man days planned completed last year across the West Midlands
- Generating the equivalent of £250,000 of benefit to the Trust





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MAKING A DIFFERENCE





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VOLUNTEERING



The Waterways Appeal

A HAVEN
FOR
PEOPLE
AND
NATURE





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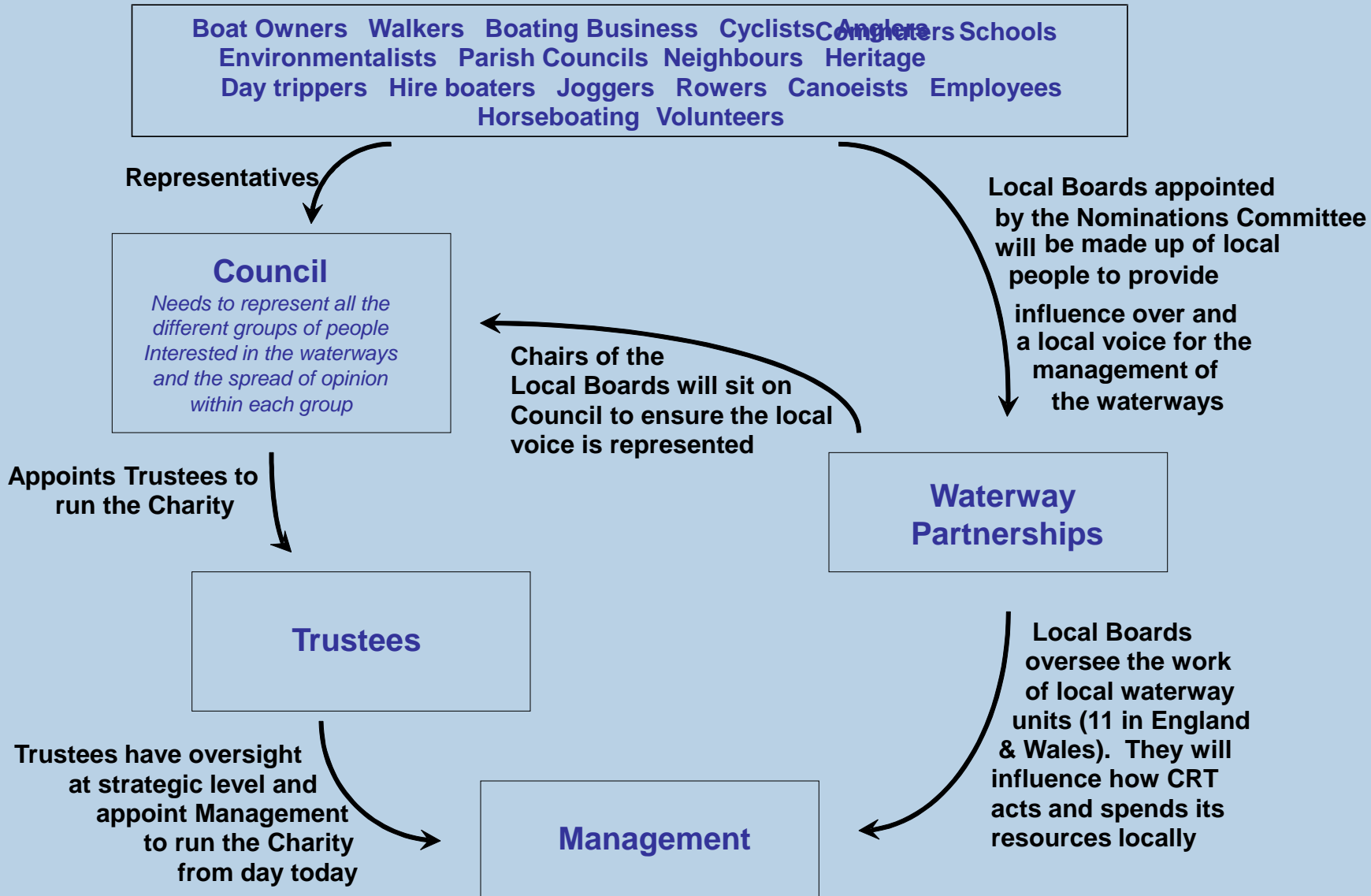
SO WHY TRANSFER TO A CHARITY?

- Securing a sustainable future for the canal and river network
- Make it valued by more people as a national asset
- Ensure they become a valued part of the local community through which they pass
- Give freedom to increase funding and give greater opportunity





GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE





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LAUNCH DAY 12th JULY 2012





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CORPORATE SPONSORS

- Google Maps – promoting canal towpaths to a wider audience
- Cooperative Bank – Canal & River Trust Credit Card
- People's Postcode Lottery – donated £100,000
 - £50,000 being spent on the Guillotine Lock on the Stratford Canal this winter



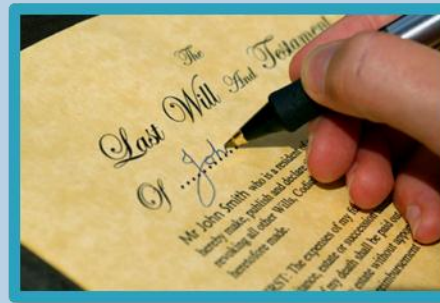
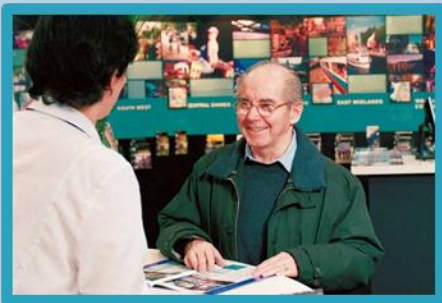
The **co-operative**
bank





Would the public be interested?

- Over 1000 Friends have been recruited since July
 - Birmingham, Stourport, Stratford, Hatton, canalside festivals
 - Donating between £3 and £30 per month
 - <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/get-involved/donate-now>
- Sponsored Bike Ride to Brussels raised £34,000
- Auction of cycling shirt signed by Bradley Wiggins raised £1,500





- Council members established and there have been three council meetings 28/3/12, 4/7/12, and 27/9/12 – check minutes online
- First Trust Annual Meeting held on 27/9/12
- Partnerships established and working across all waterway units
- New Trustees appointed – updates online
- Advisory groups established



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WATERWAY PARTNERSHIP





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Waterway Partnerships – What Are They About?

The two main roles of the Partnership are at a local level to:

1. Bring more influence, knowledge and experience
2. Grow the resources available to the Trust

The Partnership is an advisory body, established to add value to the waterway. It will support and advise the waterway team on:

- The prioritisation of available resources
- The development of the funding, volunteer and other resources
- The balancing of the interests of waterway users, the local community and others with an interest in the waterway
- The championing the interests of the waterway





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PARTNERSHIP FOCUS

Not interested in the day to day management and operation of the waterway

There to provide additional support and guidance, and open doors to new opportunity

Focusing on:

- Fundraising
- Community engagement
- Local Authorities
- Waterside businesses
- Commerciality of the waterway
- Tourism
- Marketing & PR
- Sport and recreation
- Youth engagement
- Action orientated

They are incredibly passionate , enthusiastic and are committed to make the partnership work





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PARTNERSHIP GETTING ABOUT





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WHAT'S NEXT

We hope the Waterway Partnership can help us —

- In understanding how we can engage our communities
- Share knowledge and best practice that will allow us to get more from our current resources
- Introduce us to new partners that help achieve greater efficiencies for us all
- To communicate more effectively with our customers, thus increasing the shared understanding of what is and can be delivered
- Develop and deliver a wider strategy for the waterway that will ensure it is valued by all





WATERWAY STRATEGIC PLAN



- We have begun to compile a waterway strategy for the West Midlands
- Initially just for the Black Country Canals
- Widening of the plan across the whole of the waterway in the next few months
- Identification of numerous ideas and priorities across three strands:
 1. Waterways for People
 2. Waterways for Prosperity
 3. Waterways for Places
- From these establishing:
 - The Partnerships vision
 - The strategic priorities
 - The project priorities



Making the Black Country (*West Midlands*) canals relevant to, and valued by, local communities, authorities, businesses & visitors





- Building Community Ownership & Management
- Changing perceptions of people living & working in the Black Country
- Promoting & using the waterways as part of the “natural health service”
- Community Engagement particularly children & young people





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WATERWAYS FOR PROSPERITY



Maintaining working condition
of waterway infrastructure
itself

Changing perceptions of
potential visitors & investors

Promoting & supporting
waterway dependent
businesses

Promoting & integrating the
canals as the “heart” / “spine”
of the Black Country Urban
Park concept



- Connecting the canal & the towing path to other routes
- Creating a “String of Pearls” – improving existing & creating new places of interest
- Engaging with waterside companies to improve waterside boundaries
- Conserving, promoting & interpreting the industrial / cultural heritage value of the canals





CHALLENGES FOR US

- Resources – planned preventative maintenance (PPM), legal compliance and priority defects repairs take all assigned budgets – but the aesthetics which the public expect are not resourced
- Public Perception – the general view of the Black Country canals is negative and we need to try and correct this where possible. Increase use and understanding of what's on offer
- Community engagement – waterways not always valued, leading to increased litter & waste, graffiti and anti-social behaviour. Get people to understand and appreciate the canals more
- Regeneration has slowed – waterside sites are sitting empty and need redevelopment (including Canal & River Trust sites)
- Water control – current resources rely on seasonal rainfall which in turn affects trade and tourism reliant on the canals.





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MULTI-FUNCTIONAL USE





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WATERWAY USERS

290.7 million visits to
CRT waterways in
2010, of which:



**93% Functional
Users**



**4% Passionate
Enthusiasts**



**3% Activity
Seekers**



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PUBLIC BENEFIT

- Free public open space available 24/7
- Safe routes to school
- Safe commuting routes
- Access to nature
- Healthy walks
- Environmental and Heritage classroom
- Living and working museum
- A place to relax





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POSSIBLE WAYS FORWARD

- Volunteer days in the WM in 2011/12 stood at 1,800 man days. Tasks completed include maintenance works, litter clearance, heritage surveys and customer services
- Community Payback Programmes through probation services becoming more of a focus for us in West Midlands
- Partnerships with Local Authorities – relationships vary. Tend to be reactive contact on both sides, hard to know who to get in touch with
- Mutually beneficial opportunities – facilities, yards, maintenance
- Raising the profile of the canals and what's on offer. Black Country has a unique heritage and communities need to understand this and then hopefully they'll value it





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ANY QUESTIONS?

