

Transcript of an article which appeared in the Wolverhampton
Express & Star on 23 August 1976

STAFFORD MAY AGAIN SEE BOATS

INVESTIGATION

Canal enthusiasts are looking into the prospects of bringing narrowboats back to Stafford town centre.

Members of the Staffordshire-Worcestershire Canal Society aim to work out if it would be possible to make the River Sow navigable.

They would like to see cruise boats able to branch off the main canal at Baswich – about three miles away – and travel up the river to the town centre.

“There is nothing new in this”, said Mr Roger Squire, the society’s chairman. “In the last century the River Sow was navigable. There was a lock off the canal which let boats on to the river.”

“It is our opinion that there might be a case for putting a lot of effort and money into a scheme to reopen this waterway into the town.” He added that the idea still had to be investigated.

The society plans to talk to interested parties about the scheme and if preliminary reports show it to be feasible, to think about finding methods of raising finance.

“We feel a canal into Stafford would benefit the townspeople in that they would have the amenity of cruising and also benefit from the money spent by the many people who would visit the town,” said Mr Squire.

Transcribed: David Jones 2013.

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