

# STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK

## NEWSLETTER number 7, JULY 2009

*Sorry for the delay in producing this newsletter but that has not stopped progress continuing. As I left you in the last newsletter in April I mentioned that a meeting had been arranged to be held in January of this year at the Council Offices in Stafford.*

*Ivor our Chairman, Bob our Membership Secretary and myself (who would give a Laptop presentation) duly arrived at the Council Offices at the appointed time on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Present at this meeting was*

*Ann Edgeller, the Mayor of Stafford and a member of Stafford Boat Club, Joe Lockwood also a member of Stafford Boat Club, David Kidney MP for Staffordshire, Ian Thompson Leader of Stafford Borough Council, Nigel Senior, Stafford County Council Economic regeneration funding team leader, Eunice & Bill Finney with John & Ann Finney joint owners of the land at Baswich.*

*After Ivor had opened the meeting giving a brief introduction of the aims and objectives of restoring the Link from the Staffs & Worcs Canal from Baswich to Stafford Town and pointing out the many benefits of this proposal I gave a visual presentation showing the historical link with photographs from the 1970's to the present, also maps, diagrams and aerial views of the proposed line of the restoration and then stood by with Ivor & Bob to answer any questions.*

*Ian Thompson leader of the Borough council noted that little in the way of civil engineering was involved in the project, which he agreed would be of benefit to Stafford Town and pointed out that the our problem would be the Environmental Agency who are not very flexible (I might add here that the EA was also mentioned as a potential problem at another talk that the SRL presented – more about this later). Nigel Senior of the County Council said that it was essential that the SRL formed itself into a Company and produce a report that could be taken around to secure funding from bodies providing funds for community projects. Nigel thought that the SRL project may enhance Stafford regeneration plans and may be eligible for some council funding after producing the report and the councils "forward programme" might offer technical help and assistance with environmental problems. David Kidney MP said that he would open up discussions with the EA, IWA, BW and the parliamentary group responsible for such projects and that our way forward was to become a "Community interest Company", produce a scoping feasibility study and then formally apply to the council for funding assistance.*

*Ivor, Bob and myself decided that this meeting had been the most important and productive that we had ever had, the support from every participant had been greatly encouraging and the SRL was following the recommendations made at the meeting. The SRL was so impressed with David Kidney MP that we asked him to become our President and we were very pleased when he accepted. The SRL also asked The Lord Stafford to become our Patron having historical links through his ancestors with the Link into Stafford and allowing us to use the Stafford knot with a very nice hand-written acceptance.*

*Since that meeting further meetings have taken place and progress is being made to that restoration of the link and I will provide more information in the next newsletter, due in August /September.*

*For now though I would like to advise all members that on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September the SRL are holding an Open day where at 10am, Noon and at 2pm guided tours will commence at Riverside Car park by the Council Offices and walk to Baswich (where more car parking will be available) to then board a Narrow boat (courtesy of Teddesley Boat Co. Ltd and AngloWelsh) which will cruise to Stafford Boat club for tea and scones before a private Bus (Arriva and P & J Travel) return trip to your car.*

*Members are very welcome to attend the day – please advise Ivor or our Website of your intention to attend. You should wear suitable footwear and clothing for walking about 1½miles, partly over rough ground*

*Website: [www.stafford-riverway-link.co.uk](http://www.stafford-riverway-link.co.uk)*

*We are also pleased to announce that the SRL will be giving a presentation at the IWA National Festival of Boats on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm. Your support would be welcome if attending the festival.*

*The SRL would be thankful for your continued support in restoring this Link and remind members that memberships are due for renewal. A form is printed below for you to use if you have not already subscribed. Thank you*

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**Or 01902 842464**

**STAFFORD RIVERWAY LINK**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS request 2009/10**

*Please find enclosed the sum of £.....*

*Being membership renewal for:-*

*Name(s).....*

*.....*

*Please send to Mr. R. Bowden 36, Wolverhampton Road,  
Codsall,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV8 1PJ.*

<i>Annual Single Membership</i>	<i>£10-00</i>
<i>Annual Family Membership</i>	<i>£20-00</i>
<i>Annual Corporate Membership</i>	<i>£25-00</i>

*Cheques payable to Stafford Riverway Link.*

*Your continued Membership is greatly appreciated – we will get there.*