

PRESS RELEASE

Issued: 28 November 2017

HAVE YOUR SAY - PUBLIC CONSULTATION INTO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AROUND CANAL WORLD HERITAGE SITE AT TREVOR BASIN

MEDIA INVITATION

Event: Interviews and photos to mark the start of two public consultation events into future development of land around the Pontcysyllte World Heritage Site and Trevor, nr Wrexham.

Time: Wednesday 6 December, 1.30pm

Place: Trevor Community Centre, LL20 7UD.

Contact: Lynn Pegler, Canal & River Trust Press Office, 07783 686246

Members of the public are invited to give their views about future development around the canal World Heritage Site at Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, in North Wales, at two drop-in consultation events being hosted in December.

Glandŵr Cymru (the Canal & River Trust charity in Wales), Wrexham County Borough Council and Solutia UK Ltd are working with global design consultancy Arcadis and a range of stakeholders on the Trevor Basin Area Masterplan. This will identify opportunities for tourism and economic regeneration at Trevor Basin, next to the aqueduct, and nearby communities of Trevor, Froncysyllte, Acrefair, and Cefn Mawr.

Everyone is invited to give their views and offer ideas for the future of this historically important site at Trevor Community Centre on Wednesday 6 December, 2pm – 8pm, and on Monday 11 December at Cefn Mawr, George Edwards Hall, from 10.30am – 3.30pm.

The Trust cares for 2,000 miles of the nation's waterways including the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal. Solutia UK Limited owns 59 hectares (147 acres) of land within the masterplan

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study area. This includes former manufacturing, warehousing and water treatment sites, plus 25 hectares (61 acres) of fields and woodlands adjacent to the World Heritage Site and along the River Dee.

Suggestions include:

- A new visitor centre and visitor experience
- Extra car parking
- New footpaths and cycleways
- Improved signage
- Recreation of historic transport routes
- Enhanced infrastructure for business boating customers and private boaters
- Tree management to enhance views
- Creation of new habitat/ green space on former industrial land

The study area boasts a challenging mix of land uses from brownfield sites left vacant after the closure of chemical and brick manufacturing industries to an internationally-important canal tourist destination. The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal World Heritage Site, inscribed in 2009, currently attracts 250,000-300,000 visitors a year and has potential to bring more jobs and economic prosperity to the area.

The first stakeholder meeting was held at Trevor in June, when suggestions were made for a new visitor centre and canal basin next to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, a treetop pathway, improved cycling and walking routes, nature walks, leisure activities such as glamping, and extra car and coach parking. There are plans to address the parking issue immediately with a proposal to create an extra temporary car park while the masterplan is developed.

Stuart Mills, chief investment officer with the Canal & River Trust, said: “Our World Heritage Site is on an equal international footing with the Pyramids and Stonehenge. People travel from all over the world to see the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal, and we want to ensure that they have a world class experience when they get here. We are delighted to be working with our partners from Solutia UK Ltd and Wrexham County Borough Council, and our consultants Arcadis to develop a deliverable strategic masterplan for this area and we are very interested to hear the views of local people.”

Cllr Hugh Jones, Chair of the World Heritage Site Board and Wrexham County Borough Council’s Lead Member for communities, partnerships, public protection and community safety, said: “This is a great opportunity for local communities and residents to have a positive input into the regeneration opportunities being looked at for land surrounding the World Heritage Site to help further boost the tourism economy of Wrexham”.

Steve Westhead, from Solutia UK Limited, added: “As one of the three landowners within the masterplan boundary area, we are pleased to cooperate with the Canal & River Trust and Wrexham County Borough Council in this important project. We look forward to hearing the views of the local community about creating an exciting future for the area.”

Anyone unable to attend the consultation events is invited to register their views online at www.pontcysyllte-aqueduct.co.uk before 19 January 2018. All the feedback will be reviewed and an appraisal carried out before a preferred option is produced for further consultation in spring 2018.

Ends

Notes to editors

For more information please contact Lynn Pegler, press officer with Glandŵr Cymru (Canal & River Trust) on 07783 686246 or email: lynn.pegler@canalrivertrust.org.uk.

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct World Heritage Site Facts and Figures

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and a 11 mile stretch of the Llangollen Canal became a World Heritage Site in 2009, recognised alongside just 1,000 sites around the globe that are deemed to be of outstanding universal value, such as the Grand Canyon, the Pyramids and Stonehenge.

- The cast iron trough which holds the canal water is 307m long and at its highest point it is 38.4m above the river Dee
- There are 19 arches, each with a 13.7m span.
- To keep the aqueduct as light as possible, the slender masonry piers are partly hollow and taper at their summit.
- The aqueduct holds 1.5 million litres of water and takes two hours to drain.
- Constructed between 1796 and 1805, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct is a grade one listed building and a scheduled ancient monument and forms the centrepiece of the 11 mile World Heritage Site.

Glandŵr Cymru, the Canal & River Trust in Wales, cares for Wales historic canals, made up of the Swansea, Llangollen, Montgomery and Monmouthshire & Brecon canals. Our canals are a haven for people and wildlife and a national treasure. Built over 200 years ago as part of the world's first industrial revolution, the waterways continue to play an important part in the life of Wales today, making an annual contribution of £34m and supporting 800 jobs in local businesses.

Canal & River Trust cares for 2,000 miles of canals, rivers and docks across England and Wales. It is our job to care for this wonderful legacy – holding it in trust in perpetuity and giving people a greater role in the running of their local waterways.

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