

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

*A non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England & Wales No: 3294818. Registered Charity No. 1060234
Registered Office: Island House, Moor Rd., Chesham, HP5 1WA*

Directors' Annual Report, December 2018

This is the twenty-second annual report of the Directors of the Trust and covers the year to 31st December, 2018. The company was incorporated on 19th December, 1996 and its full name is the Sleaford Navigation Trust. A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales No. 03294818, the Trust is also a registered charity No. 1060234. The governing documents of the Trust are the memorandum and articles of association which have been approved by the Charity Commission.

The Directors of the Trust during the year to 31st December 2018 were:

Christine Hayes (Chairman)	David Carnell
Stephen Hayes (Secretary)	Penny Carnell
Debbie Scott	David Pullen (Engineer)
Pat Taylor	Susan Sowerby
Melvyn Sowerby	Rebecca Franks (Treasurer)

No director may remain in office for more than three years without seeking re-election.

The Trust registered office is: Island House, Moor Rd., Chesham, HP5 1WA
General correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary at 10 Chelmer Close, Lincoln. LN6 8TH.
The main Agents of the Trust are:

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc, 2 Northgate, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. NG34 7BL

Auditors: Staniforth & Co of Nottingham

Membership Secretary: Jenny Osborne, Bank House, Ruskington Fen, Billinghay, Lincoln, LN4 4DS

Objectives, Organisation and Activities

The Company was established to stimulate public interest in and appreciation of the history, structure and beauty of the waterway formerly known as the Sleaford Navigation or Kyme Eau and to promote the restoration and preservation of the waterway for navigation and other purposes.

The Trust

- is organised and controlled by its Directors who provide their services on a volunteer basis as members of the Executive Board which meets monthly, or more frequently if necessary, to formulate and implement strategy and to review progress. There are no paid or seconded staff.
- is a corporate member of the Inland Waterways Association which shares certain objectives with the Trust and provides help and support nationally and locally to all organisations engaged in waterway restoration.
- is a member of the Sleaford Sports Partnership.
- produces its own newsletter which is circulated to members.
- has a website www.sleafordnavigation.co.uk and a facebook page.

Review of Progress and Achievements

During the year, the Trust has continued the publicity campaign undertaken in previous years. Activities have included attendance at a series of events which were successful in raising public awareness of the Navigation and, in some cases, also proved a success in the secondary function of fund-raising. These included Heckington Show, Chesterfield Canal Trust Festival and the Grantham Canal Discovery Day.

Press releases, articles and interviews resulted in valuable publicity both locally and in the national waterways press.

Representatives of the Trust attended

- CRT Local Forum meetings in Lincoln and Retford
- The CRT Annual Partnership Meeting at Leicester.
- Northern Canals Association meetings in Chesterfield and Uttoxeter
- Meetings of the Witham Catchment Partnership Steering Committee in conjunction with the Lincolnshire Rivers Trust.
- Sleaford Regeneration Group meetings
- Meetings of the Sleaford Heritage Forum.
- An IWA/CRT Restoration Workshop in Wolverhampton
- South Kyme Working Group meetings involving representatives from the Environment Agency and South Kyme Parish Council

Trust work parties have continued at a number of locations including Taylors Lock and in Sleaford. In the previous year, coir roll had been installed as bank protection and habitat enhancement in Sleaford. This project was funded by the EA and Sleaford Town Council but effected by Trust members. A successful application to The Greggs Foundation funded the supply of aquatic plant plugs and these were initially installed in Spring 2018. Unfortunately, only a few of the plants survived because of extremely wet conditions and shading from the overhanging trees. A second planting was only slightly more successful. After consultation with Salix, the supplier, a different choice of plant, Carex Pendula, will be used in another attempt in Spring 2019.

At the beginning of the year, directors submitted a second, modified, bid for LEADER funding. This was for Destination South Kyme, a project to encourage greater use of the waterway up to the village. Included were a multi-user water access point and interpretation boards explaining the heritage of the waterway. In February, the news came that the bid had been successful. Contractors started work on the water access point in July and it was completed in early August. The interpretation boards were installed by Trust volunteers in September.

Because of uncertainty as to the start date of the works in South Kyme and a potential blockage of the navigation at Chapel Hill through LCC Highways Dept. bridge strengthening, the boat-gathering at South Kyme did not take place in May.

The Annual Dinner was held in Sleaford in December.

Review of Financial Activities and Affairs

LEADER funding required all bills to be paid by the successful applicant and invoices submitted before funding could be released. The Trust successfully applied to the Inland Waterways Association for a bridging loan to facilitate this. This would be repaid on receipt of the LEADER grant and, providing the period of the loan did not exceed six months, no interest would be charged. In addition the Trust was able to claim a previously allocated IWA grant towards the cost of constructing a winding hole in South Kyme.

The Trust has been fortunate enough to receive monies from individual donors and raised capital from the sale of goods. The Trust is registered for VAT. The resources available are considered adequate to enable the Trust to continue its work effectively at this stage of the restoration programme. The Trust's assets are adequate to fulfil all its obligations and there are no commitments which are required to be disclosed in this report or the notes to the accounts.

For and on behalf of the Executive Board
Steve Hayes,
Director & Secretary