

SLEAFORD NAVIGATION TRUST

*A non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee.
Registered in England & Wales No: 3294818. Registered Charity No. 1060234
Registered Office: Unit 16B First Floor, Chiltern Court, Asheridge Road, Chesham, HP5 2PX*

Directors' Annual Report, December 2023

This is the twenty-seventh annual report of the Directors of the Trust and covers the year to 31st December, 2023. 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 2023 were:

Christine Hayes (Chairman)	David Carnell
Stephen Hayes (Secretary)	Penny Carnell
Debbie Scott	Rebecca Franks (Treasurer)
Pat Taylor	Susan Sowerby
Melvyn Sowerby	Will Pickworth
Robin Saul	

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

The Trust registered office is Unit 16B First Floor, Chiltern Court, Asheridge Road, Chesham, HP5 2PX
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: Amanda Jay of Sleaford

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 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. Executive Board meetings were initially conducted mainly by Zoom although, later in the year face-to-face gatherings took place.

In September, the directors were saddened to hear of the death of Pat Taylor, a long-time director and avid supporter of SNT. Pat truly was “the smiling face of SNT” at promotional and sales events and will be sorely missed.

Representatives of the Trust attended:

- A Witham Catchment Partnership meeting in Sleaford.
- Meetings of the South Kyme Working Group consisting of representatives from SNT, SKPC and the EA.
- Meetings of the Slea Flood Resilience Project.
- Meetings related to Sleaford Town Council Neighbourhood Plan.
- A meeting of Heckington Henpeckers where a talk was given on the history of the navigation and the work of the Trust.
- Meetings with Alan Gray and Kevan Ray of NKDC in connection with the Shared Prosperity Funding for the purchase, fit-out and operation of a trip boat in Sleaford. This include a visit to Ranby to see the Chesterfield Canal Trust trip boat Seth Ellis for comparison. The necessity of clearance from the river of excess silt, weed and reed growth was also addressed in these meetings.
- Meetings regarding the RiverLight Festival in Sleaford. Unfortunately, a series of circumstances, including inclement weather, prevented participation in the event.
- A meeting at NKDC with representatives of Lambert Smith Hampton regarding possible future developments in Sleaford.
- Meetings in connection with the co-ordination of Heritage Trails in Sleaford.
- A Heritage Event in Sleaford where a talk was given on the history of the navigation.
- Woodhall Spa Country Show in the Heritage Marquee.
- Langley Mill Boat Rally with sales and promotional material.
- Heckington Show with a gazebo and display in the Heritage Village.
- A visit to HD Narrowboats in connection with the commissioning of a shell for the trip boat and reservation of a build slot.
- Sleaford Christmas Market with a display in Navigation House.

In September, Becky Franks informed the Executive Board that, because of commitments related to her promotion at work, she would no longer be able to act as Treasurer beyond the year end. Will Pickworth was proposed and accepted as a director to take her place as Treasurer and Becky agreed to liaise with him as necessary.

Trust work parties have continued at a number of locations including Taylors Lock, and Sleaford where overhanging branches obstructing the path by the river were cut back.

Trust members undertook LANTRA training in the use of chainsaws to fell trees.

The Trust continued to be part of the NKDC Good Cause Lottery receiving funds from the sale of tickets. A new gazebo was purchased with funds made available by a grant from Sleaford Renewables Community Fund.

The promotional leaflets were updated and reprinted.

The connection with Grantham Anglers Fly-fishing Section (GAFFS) continued.

Review of Financial Activities and Affairs

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. The Trust is registered for VAT.

For and on behalf of the Executive Board

Steve Hayes,
Director & Secretary