

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Ltd: next Chairman

Background: our second Chairman in 28 years, Brian Kingshott, died in early January. As Vice-Chair, I became Acting Chairman in October at Brian's request as, because of ill-health, he was no longer able to attend meetings. At the January Council meeting I was elected as Chairman to succeed Brian. I made it clear then that I only wanted to serve until the AGM on 10th June this year; before Brian fell ill I had said I wanted to withdraw from responsibilities with the Trust after the 2017 AGM, on age grounds. So we need to find a long-term successor; these notes are aimed at focussing that search, and incorporate suggestions contributed by several people; my thanks to them all.

The Trust's Vision: to reinstate the historic Lichfield and Hatherton Canals for the benefit of the community. (For complete vision and other information see the Trust's website www.lhcrt.org.uk)

The job: To be the public face of the Trust; to lead at major meetings with outside bodies such as local government; to chair the monthly Council meetings and other major internal meetings; and to ensure that the Trust complies with obligations as a company (including on finance and health and safety) and as a charity. Time demand: at least one full day a week on average, but varies greatly and thus can be more in busy weeks. No remuneration, but lots of satisfaction!

The person: Someone with broad experience of bigish organisations, probably at executive level, able to take a strategic view; able to communicate well and get on with most people, and enjoy getting involved as an active participant (a "team player", not just a "figurehead"); possibly recently retired and wishing to devote time and energies to a voluntary body. Knowledge/experience of canals, though useful, is not vital, but sympathy with the canal cause and commitment to a long-term project (with many obstacles along the way) is essential.

Anyone interested in this post, or wanting to suggest someone who might be, is invited to email me at chairman@lhcr.org.uk

David Dixon, March 2016