

21 April 2011

Renato Messere,
Planning Policy manager,
Three Rivers District Council, Northway,
Rickmansworth,
WD 3 1 RL

Our Ref PM/CS/THR
Your Ref TRLDF/Ex

Dear Renato Messere

**CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT; INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION;
EXAMINATION HEARINGS, PROGRAMME AND INSPECTOR'S MATTERS AND QUESTIONS**

Thank you for forwarding on this document.

As you know, we have contributed, at various stages, to the evolution of the Core strategy, namely, inter alia, replies to consultation on update of the Three Rivers LDF (our reply dated 19 January 2009) and your LDF :Core Strategy Development Plan Document ,“Preferred” options (our reply on 06 April 2009)

The Grand Union canal runs through Three Rivers for 6km of which 2.5 km forms the boundary between Three Rivers on the east side of the canal, and Dacorum on the west side. This is in the Kings Langley/Abbots Langley area.

As our earlier replies state, the canal and its towpath and immediate vicinity all confer many benefits in a variety of policy areas such as sustainable transport, health, tourism, leisure and recreation and bio diversity. There is potential for further benefits in future.

This role and potential is well spelt out in the Policy Advice Note; Inland Waterways; unlocking the potential and securing the future of inland waterways through the planning system. This Note was prepared by BW and the Town and Country Planning Association. The link is www.tcpa.org.uk

Turning to the **Inspector's matters and questions**, we noticed under “place-shaping policies” (page 5) paragraph 1.14 states “PSP3 Do the CS and the evidence base demonstrate effective cross boundary working with Dacorum BC?” This is clearly an important issue for BW because of the **joint boundary** mentioned above. We feel that to date there has been good cooperation, but it

is important that both authorities think jointly about the Grand Union canal and its towpath, as nearby settlements, and others, benefit from the canal and its environment. There could be advantages in developing, and adopting a “waterspace strategy “that looks comprehensively about the future potential of the canal corridor for the mutual benefits of both Districts. This approach has proved its worth elsewhere.

I look forward to continued liaison.

Yours faithfully,

***PAUL MAISON BA (Oxon) Dip Town Planning (dist.) MRTPI
Planner, South***



**British
Waterways**

510-524 Elder House

Elder Gate

Milton Keynes

MK9 1BW

Tel: 01908 302506

Fax: 01908 302520

Mob: 0771 754 8183