



The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

# Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Limited



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12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Mr Tony Briggs  
Town Clerk  
Lichfield City Council  
Donegal House  
Bore Street  
Lichfield, WS13 6LU

Dear Tony,

## POTENTIAL CITY COUNCIL GRANT

We refer your supportive correspondence at this time last year which became overshadowed by the impact of Government health restrictions from the Covid pandemic difficulties hindering progress.

You will recall that the Trust submitted a detailed proposal for recreating the Lichfield Canal alongside the Lichfield Southern Bypass on the basis of what City Council funding might have become available from the sale of former canal land south of Wordsworth Close. In the event, you reported that "The City Council had resolved - in principle - to make a capital contribution to support the project...etc", and added your own comments suggesting potential funding up to £60,000 after further discussion.

By now, considerable benefit has derived over those twelve months from SCC completing the bypass and Persimmon Homes opening their St. John's Grange housing estate. These works have included donated elements of the Lichfield Canal channel with two over-bridges to the estate and an innovative engineering solution to preserve heritage Lock 23 for modified restoration as a unique feature to benefit the City.

As Persimmon Homes are now offering to bring forward legal transfer to our Trust of the whole of that canal land out of their acquisition, we feel that this is the right time to capitalise on these opportunities to move ahead with canal works through part of that section in recognition of that investment.

We have drawn up a broad plan for the work that can be undertaken by the Trust at the western end in the St John's Reach sector spread over two years 2022 – 2023, summarised as follows:-

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	
Preliminaries and maintenance overheads	£3,700	£5,273	
Bulk excavation & disposal including plant/contract costs	£6,250	£6,250	
Lock 23 and associated structures to include towpath construction as a community link	£27,727	£10,800	
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	£37,677	£22,323	= £60,000

Estimated material/contract costs at purchase values would attract a further 20% VAT totalling £12,000 which the Trust would need to fund from reserves pending recovery from quarterly returns to HMRC. Additionally, our conservative estimate for volunteer management and labour time effectively generate "match funding" totalling £84,000 over two years.

We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss these proposals in fuller detail which you may require for putting to a meeting of Councillors.

Yours sincerely,

P.H.Buck, Director (engineering)

The Trust is a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee and is registered as a charity (No 702429) and enrolled as an environmental body with ENTRUST under the Landfill Tax regulations (No.882012). VAT registration No. 823 8213 41.

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