



PRESS RELEASE

Basingstoke Canal Towpath Re-opening

The first phase of a project to renovate the Basingstoke Canal towpath has been completed.

The Mayor of Rushmoor, Councillor John Marsh, officially re-opened the section of the Basingstoke Canal towpath between Wharf Bridge (or A325 Bridge) and Eelmoor Bridge in Rushmoor on Wednesday, 2nd November.

The project, which is being carried out by the Rushmoor Strategic Partnership aims to transform the towpath into a wider, safer, more weather resistant path.

The re-opening took place at the canal by Wharf Bridge, Aldershot involving canal users and guests, including representatives from TAG Aviation, who provided financial support towards the project. Guests were then treated to a trip on board the 'John Pinkerton' narrowboat, courtesy of the Surrey and Hants Canal Society, along the waterway to view the improvements.

Councillor Peter Moyle, chairman of the Rushmoor Strategic Partnership and Leader of Rushmoor Borough Council, said: "This project is a great example of how a successful partnership can make a real difference in the Borough. I hope that the new towpath will enhance the enjoyment of everyone who uses it."

The last phase will further extend the renewed towpath to Norris Bridge to complete the renovation of more than two kilometres of scenic pathway regularly used by numerous walkers, cyclists, runners and anglers throughout the year. This phase will also include several improvements, including an amenity area near Eelmoor Bridge that the Rushmoor Rotary Club will be developing over the winter.

The Rushmoor Strategic Partnership (formed in 2002) is the local strategic partnership for Rushmoor and brings together major agencies in the district (public, private and voluntary) to work together to make Rushmoor a better place to live, work and visit. Other projects include:

- supporting initiatives which seek to raise levels of educational attainment

- introducing measures to encourage hotels to locate to the area
- developing a project to demonstrate the benefits of sustainable energy

For further information about the Partnership please visit www.rushmoorsp.com



Photo Caption: *The Mayor of Rushmoor, Councillor John Marsh, officially re-opens the renovated towpath.*

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