



5<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015

## Careys support for the Lapal Canal Trust

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November work started to restore the Harborne Wharf in Selly Oak Park. Birmingham City Council Planning Committee unanimously approved this important stage of the Lapal Canal restoration from Selly Oak to Halesowen.

Peter Best, Chairman of the Lapal Trust commented **“Particular thanks to Careys and to Councillors Peter Douglas Osborn and Keith Linnecar who spoke enthusiastically in support of the restoration project, also to Alison Powell Planning Officer and Sue Amey District Parks Manager.”**

The Planning Permission allows the Trust to remove up to 2000 cubic meters (100 lorry loads) of rubble and subsoil which had accumulated in the Harborne Wharf canal basin since the mid 1950's when the canal was closed. Completion of the link to the Worcester and Birmingham canal will allow the canal basin to be filled with water. The basin will be 100 meters long and 20 meters wide at its widest point and will also be used as a temporary mooring and turning point for canal boats.

The headquarters of the 113th Ariel Scout Group in Selly Oak is located next to the canal and the scouts will help to build the slipway for safe access for canoes. John Moody Acting Group Scout Leader commented, **“This will be a huge benefit for the Scouts, we can't wait to get the basin full of water, it will allow training to be carried out safely.”**

The work has only been made possible by the generous help of contractors P.J Carey, part of the Carey Group, and The Carey Foundation. Careys is the main contractor on the adjoining Battery site being developed by The Harvest Partnership, a joint venture between Sainsbury's and Land Securities. Careys have agreed to move the spoil without charge using the canal tunnel under the road bridge opened in 2008, as this will avoid disruption to the park and there will be no additional road traffic.

Andrew Schofield Chairman of Friends of Selly Oak Park and member of the local Community Action Group (CP4SO) commented **“This is a fantastic opportunity and we are very grateful to Careys for their generous help to the local community.”**

The Lapal Canal forms part of the Dudley No 2 Canal opened in 1798, this was mainly to carry coal from Dudley to London. The link was closed in 1917 following the collapse of the Lapal Tunnel and competition from the railways. The Lapal Canal when reopened will be a significant tourist attraction and complete what will be a popular circular route around Birmingham; restoration will create many jobs and will be an important amenity for walkers, cyclists, fishermen and boaters.



**Harborne Wharf**



**View from Harborne Lane of one of the oldest Canal Bridges in Birmingham**