



Press Release

4th of January 2021

Veolia confirms a £75,000 contribution towards building the Winding Hole to start the restoration of the Dudley No2 canal

The local community's ambitious plan to restore the Dudley No 2 Canal into a working canal has taken a significant step forward thanks to a generous £75,000 grant from The Veolia Environmental Trust. Veolia supports a wide range of community and environmental projects throughout England.

Plan included in Lapal Canal Trust planning application



The Winding Hole's prime function is to allow boats to turn and enter and exit the soon to be restored Dudley No 2 Canal. It will be an attractive calming water feature in the Heart of Selly Oak, to be used by all canal users including canoeists, paddle boaters and anglers. It will also be a convenient destination for trip boats to and from central Birmingham. A very pleasant 55 minutes journey along the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, a beautiful green corridor not yet seen by many residents.

The landowners – Canal & River Trust, Sainsbury's and M & G Real Estate have kindly given permission for the work to start, and we thank them for their support; work is planned to start at the beginning of March.

Lizzie Cooke Head of Grants Veolia Environmental Trust, said: “Veolia are delighted to support Lapal Canal Trust with £75,000 funding for the Winding Hole project at this crucial stage. Veolia is an enthusiastic supporter of environmental solutions that also supports local and environmental projects, so we look forward to seeing the benefits this worthy project will have on both the local and wider communities.”



Dr Andrew Hardie, Chair of the Lapal Canal Trust:

“We are very grateful for the generous donation of £75,000 from Veolia which will enable us to start constructing the winding hole, before we move on to the next phase of the canal restoration through to Selly Oak Park.



Andy Street Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority ‘Congratulations to the Trust on securing this funding. This is a hugely important project for Selly Oak and the wider region, and I endorse it wholeheartedly. Our canals provide a safe and enjoyable way for residents to exercise, commute and connect with nature. We are all grateful for their restoration work and I wish them every success with this project.’



Brigid Jones Local Councillor and Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council. ‘This is a significant step forward for a really exciting heritage project. The restoration of the Dudley No2 canal is a great example of partnership work that will benefit the Selly Oak community for years to come. I look forward to work getting underway next year.’



Adnan Saif Canal & River Trust Director for West Midlands

“The winding hole will open great opportunities for all kinds of water-based activities and will serve to increase the vibrancy and visitor attraction in Selly Oak and wider canal network. The Canal & River Trust is pleased to work with the Lapal Canal Trust to achieve this significant milestone, and on future developments.”

The project is supported by the Community Partnership for Selly Oak and forms part of CP4SO ambitious plans to preserve the many attractive old buildings in Selly Oak.

Note to Editors

For queries and higher resolution version of the pictures please contact John Lines, Press and Publicity officer at the Lapal Canal Trust.
Email: john.lines@birmingham.gov.uk Tel: 07766 923390



The Lapal Canal Trust was formed in 1990 it is a registered charity (no 1013845) and a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee, registered in England (no 2721675)

Additional Notes

1. Veolia Group is a French based transnational company with activities in three main service and utility areas traditionally managed by public authorities – water management, waste management and energy services. With nearly 179,000 employees worldwide, the Group designs and provides water, waste and energy management solutions that contribute to the sustainable development of communities and industries. We're innovators committed to focusing on carbon reduction by preventing pollution, preserving natural resources, protecting biodiversity, combating climate change and raising environmental awareness;

The Veolia Environmental Trust was established in 1997 under the Landfill Communities Fund. We support a wide range of community and environmental projects throughout England. The money we use for grants is made available through the Fund. Veolia has supported this initiative by contributing over £89 million since we were established, which to date has been used to award over 2,496 grants to projects. Applications are reviewed by the Trustees who make up our Board of Directors. They meet quarterly to consider applications and decide which projects should be supported.

2. The Lapal Canal Trust was established in 1990 by a group of environmental and canal enthusiasts with the objective of restoring the Dudley No 2 Canal from Selly Oak to Halesowen. The 12-mile-long canal was built in 4 years and opened in 1798, it included a 2-mile-long tunnel and the tallest Canal Embankment in the country, it was a remarkable feat of engineering.

In the early 1800s, Selly Oak industry was developed around the canal junction opened in 1798 and the community feels it is important to protect and restore this important heritage link with the past. The restored Dudley No 2 Canal stands to benefit the environment in several ways, from alternative transport links, to promoting leisure activities which benefit the wellbeing of the community: the canal route provides of a wildlife corridor and connects green spaces together. More information available on www.lapal.org and www.facebook.com/lapalcanaltrust

3. The Community Partnership for Selly Oak (CP4SO) is an umbrella organisation bringing together a number of groups in the ward for the purpose of injecting a local, community view into the planning process. The group also has direct representation from local residents and businesses. The turning area forms part of a local plan promoted by CP4SO to make Selly Oak a more attractive place to live. The plan includes a number of old 19th century listed buildings which could be attractive for visitors.

Member organisations are:

[Selly Oak St Mary's](#) Neighbourhood Forum.
Lodge Hill Rd Residents Association.
Friends of Westhill Playing Fields
Selly Park Property Owners Association
Weoley Hill Village Council
Warwards Lane / Ten Acres Residents Group
Langleys Rd Neighbourhood Watch
Tiverton Area Residents Association (Neighbourhood Forum)

Frederick Rd and Rachel Gardens Residents Association.
[Friends of Selly Oak Park](#)
[1st Ariel, 113rd Birmingham Scout Group](#)
Selly Oak Local History Group
Gristhorpe Rd Residents Group
Harborne Lane Allotments Association
[Selly Park South Neighbourhood Forum](#)

Selly Oak

Tourist Attractions

Thanks to help from Wendy Pearson

