



20th of November, 2015

Careys complete first part of the project to restore Harborne Wharf.

On the 15th of October Birmingham City Council Planning Committee unanimously approved the planning application by the Lapal Canal Trust to remove spoil and to repair canal side walls in the Harborne Wharf section of the Dudley No 2 canal, by the 29th of October all 18 planning conditions were discharged so that work could start on the 4th of November.

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.

Before



After



The Lapal Canal forms part of the Dudley No 2 Canal opened in 1798, built primarily to carry coal from Dudley to London. The through link was closed in 1917 following the collapse of the Lapal Tunnel and competition from the railways. By 1950's the remaining part of the canal was abandoned. Reopened the the Lapal Canal 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.

Restoration of the first part of the canal from the Worcester and Birmingham Canal to Harborne Wharf is part of the development of the Harvest Partnership. Completion of the link to the Worcester and Birmingham canal will allow the Harborne Wharf canal basin to be filled with water. The basin will be 120 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.

Careys used the canal tunnel beneath Harborne lane to remove the 2000 cubic meters of soil from Harborne Wharf. The work required the use of an 8 ton excavator which was small enough to traverse the tunnel and two dumper trucks, each with 4 cubic meters capacity requiring a total of 500 journeys. The main activity was completed in 8 days with 3 days for preparing and tidying.



Peter Best, Chairman of the Lapal Canal Trust commented “The Lapal Canal Trust is hugely grateful to Careys Directors and the Carey Foundation for agreeing to support the Trust as part of its initiative to support local communities, and in particular would like to thank the team in Selly Oak, managers John and Clive, excavator driver Colin, and the truck drivers Sam, Robert and Paul, also the Careys support staff in Selly Oak”



Careys Core Team



Canal Basin looking West



Canal Basin looking East with slip way



Reinstalling the Tunnel Safety Fence

The Trust would also like to acknowledge the help received from Birmingham City Council Planning Department, including Ecology and Conservation Officers; the local Councillors and the very supportive planning committee members; the Parks Department for agreement to do work in the park and the Highways Department for permission to use the tunnel and District Engineer for temporary path closure. In addition the Trust received help from the Canal and River Trust, Inland Waterways Association, local canal societies, Archaeologist Alex Jones and Conservation Structural Engineer Charles Shapcott

Particular thanks to the Headley Trust who provided a grant to help meet the cost of applying for planning permission