

AINA CASE STUDY

HEALTH, WELLBEING, RECREATION AND SPORT

Walking along the waterway in Worksop



The towpath in Worksop is now a safe and well drained route into the town centre

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Investing in towpath improvements for people of all ages and all abilities

Towpath improvements in Worksop on the Chesterfield Canal provided walkers, cyclists and disabled visitors with an attractive traffic free route into the town. A grass verge was also set aside between the path and the water for use by local anglers.

Almost 1.5km of towpath between a pub and the town centre were enhanced over an eight week programme which was part funded by the European Regional Development Fund with support from Nottinghamshire County Council and a grant from the Veolia Environmental Trust who awarded a grant of £40,000 through the Landfill Communities Fund. Total costs were £231,000.

The popular path was muddy and prone to puddling in wet weather but the improvements created a safe well drained route and were a continuation of earlier works between Shireoaks and the edge of town. The work was carried out by the Canal & River Trust who explained: "The Chesterfield Canal is popular with people living and working in Worksop but heavy use meant that the path was ready for additional investment to cope with modern usage. It's an important project that really benefits the town and people of all ages and abilities who are keen to use the canal as part of their everyday lives."

The local paper invited comments on their Facebook page: "I think it's great. The canal is part of Worksop's heritage and should be looked after and used." "On a nice day it costs nothing to take the family for a lovely stroll down the canal. Look at the fish and the wildlife."

The Department for Communities and Local Government managed the European Regional Development Fund Programme which was established by the EU to help local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which support local business and help create employment opportunities. The Landfill Communities Fund operates by using 5.6% of the tax currently imposed on each tonne of waste deposited in landfill sites to support a wide range of environmental projects. The Veolia Environmental Trust forms part of the Fund, which is regulated on behalf of HM Government's Revenue & Customs by ENTRUST.

Each of these funding streams can be successfully used to benefit waterway projects and AINA members should aim to remain aware of developments and changes in such grant programmes.