

From Derek Twigg MP - July 2022

You will recall that I convened a meeting of all the key players to seek a resolution to the Sankey Canal crisis. I chaired that meeting this morning in Widnes. I am delighted to report that it was a positive and productive meeting.

Warrington Borough Council put forward an engineering solution to the water supply issue that would put water into their section and the Widnes section. Peel L&P announced for the first time at the meeting that they could agree in principle to assisting, as the engineering solution lies on what is now their land.

Steve Rotheram (LCR Mayor) was in attendance at my invitation, and he advised that the engineering solution could assist against coastal flooding in other parts of the region and therefore bring a benefit to the wider region.

There are some finer details to work out and the canal has to have repair works carried out to it but I am delighted that a workable solution to the water supply issue has been found. There is much scope for community volunteer involvement going forward and I will put groups such as the Spike Island and Widnes Canal Restoration Group in touch with the Groundwork Trust, who advised me at the meeting that they are willing and able to assist local groups.

I'd like to thank Andy Carter MP (Warrington South), Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram, Warrington Borough Council, Halton Borough Council, the Environment Agency, United Utilities, Groundwork Trust and Peel L&P for attending and for their assistance. They have agreed to continue working together to drive the solution forward under the direction of Steven Broomhead (Warrington Council CEO) and Stephen Young (Halton Council CEO).

I will continue to work on this, staying closely involved and keeping you informed as the solution moves forward."