



Press Release

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

## M & G Real Estate helps the Selly Oak Community with the Restoration of the Dudley No 2 Canal.

An agreement has been reached between M & G Real Estate, Sainsbury's, the Canal and River Trust and the Lapal Canal Trust to construct a new turning area in Selly Oak. This will enable canal boats to turn and enter and exit the to be restored Dudley no 2 Canal that used to link Selly Oak to Halesowen and the coal fields in Dudley.

The Dudley Canal junction with the Worcester Birmingham Canal was opened in 1798, and gave rise to the important Industrial Centre of Selly Oak.

**Dr Andrew Hardy**, Chair of the Lapal Canal Trust expressed his appreciation of the help received from all the parties involved. Especially M & G Real Estate and Sainsbury's who have donated their leases in favour of the Canal and River Trust who owns the Freehold. The Canal and River Trust have kindly agreed to maintain the new turning area.



The new water feature completes the development of Whitehouse Wharf and forms part of the Selly Oak Shopping Centre owned by M & G Real Estate, and provided as a public amenity. The new area will be an attractive calming water feature in the heart of Selly Oak, to be enjoyed by all canal users - including canoeists, paddle

boarders, and anglers. It is large enough to be a convenient destination for trip boats to and from central Birmingham. A very pleasant 55 minutes journey along the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, taking in a beautiful green corridor not yet seen by many residents.

**Rupert Milne** M & G Director Responsible for the development, said: “We are very pleased to have the opportunity of supporting this community project and to help make Selly Oak a more attractive place to live and work. We look forward to working with the Lapal Canal Trust to restore the canal across our shopping centre and opening the route to Selly Oak Park.”

**Hugh Humphreys OBE** CEO of Lapal Canal Trust, commented: “We have so many people to thank for bringing us to this point. First the community represented by the community Partnership for Selly Oak (CP4SO), and in particular Canal & River Trust and the main leaseholders and their lawyers who have worked so hard over the last 15 months to prepare the rather complex legal arrangement. Special thanks to our lawyer Toni Weston of Gowling WLG who have supported our project over many years. Also thanks to the CBRE who are responsible for managing the site, they quickly produced a requested Condition Report and the Technical Review carried out by Hollis Global.

The work to construct the new area could only be possible because of the generous support of the 50 charities, companies, and individuals who have helped to fund the project. The larger funders are Veolia, Garfield Weston, Headley Trust, Landsec, Unite Students, Jabbs, the Rowland Trust, and the four Cadbury Family Trusts.”

The detailed design was completed by Tony Gee & Partners LLC appointed by our contractor Land and Water Services who are due to start work on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.

## Note to Editors

For queries please contact

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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 Information.

**M&G Real Estate** is a global real estate investment manager, providing integrated services for fund management, asset management and property management. M&G Real Estate, part of M&G Investments, is the real estate investment arm of Prudential plc in the UK and Europe.

**CBRE Group, Inc.** is an American commercial real estate services and investment firm. The abbreviation CBRE stands for Coldwell Banker Richard Ellis. It is the world's largest commercial real estate services company providing services to real estate investors and occupiers. covering facilities management, project management, and consulting services.

**Tony Gee & Partners** is a global civil engineering company providing highly technical design engineering consultancy services to a wide range of global clients. They delivered the major components of the Falkirk Wheel, and received a 'Project of the Century Award' from the International Federation of Consulting Engineers Centenary Ceremony in 2014.

**Hollis Global** is an international independent real estate consultancy bringing together different experts covering every dimension of real estate consulting. "We are surveyors, engineers, technical specialists, consultants and project managers, all working together so you can get more out of your real estate."

**Land and Water Group** are an award-winning civil and environmental engineering experts who creatively and sympathetically deliver effective solutions for the maintenance and management of the UK's coastal, canal and river networks.

**Gowling WLG** Is an international law firm with more than 1,500 legal professionals around the world, it helps clients to overcome complex business challenges with in-depth knowledge in key global sectors and a suite of legal services.

**Community Partnership for Selly Oak (CP4SO)** Is an umbrella organisation bringing together 15 groups in the ward for the purpose of injecting a local community view into the planning process. And to promote the regeneration of Selly Oak for the benefit of the whole community.