

## Information

## Sheet

LAPAL CANAL TRUST

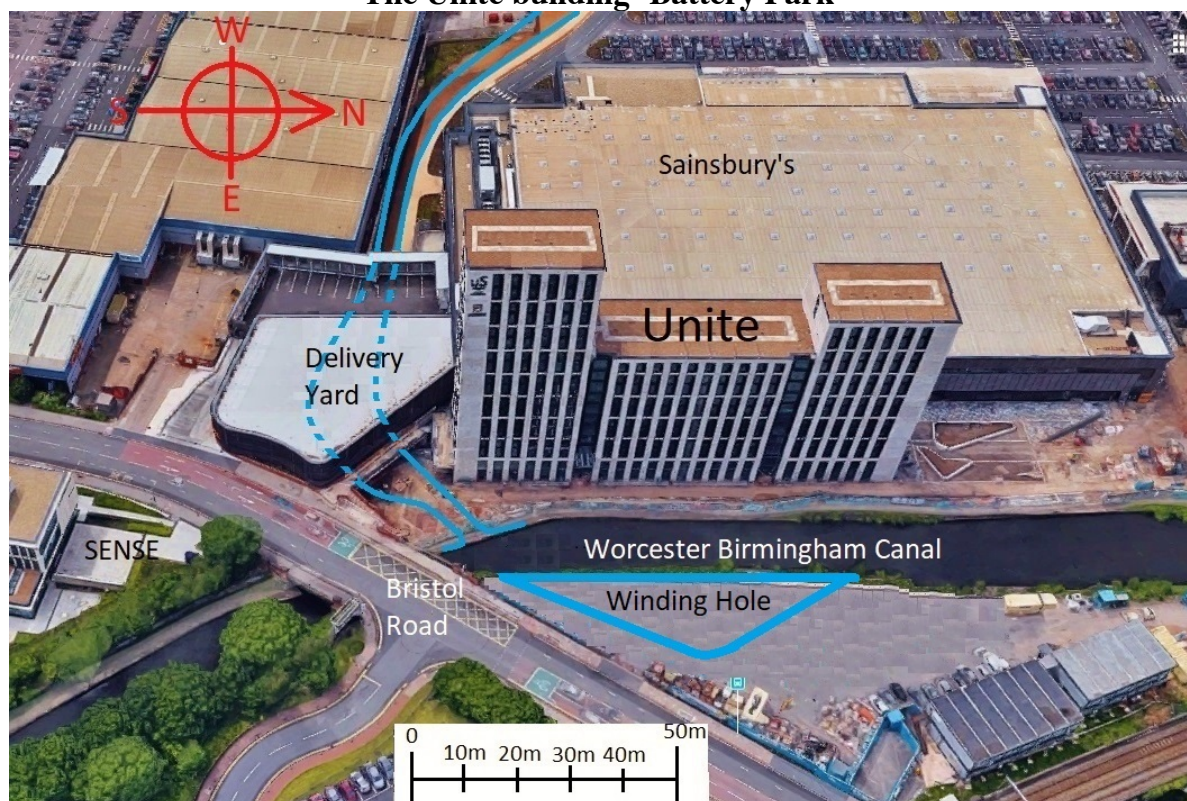


10<sup>th</sup> of February 2020

### **‘Unite Students’ make a £20,000 contribution to the building of the Winding Hole**

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 £20,000 donation from ‘Unite Students’, the UK’s leading supplier of purpose-built student accommodation. Working closely with the University of Birmingham and the Canal and Rivers Trust since the start of last year, Unite have organised volunteer groups to help clean up the canal and tow path to create a safer and more pleasant environment for their students and the local community. Their impressive new student home, Battery Park, opened in September 2019, and overlooks the Winding Hole. The building houses a total of 418 students and is already full; in total ‘Unite Students’ provides accommodation for 74,000 students in 27 cities across the UK. Planning approval needed for the work on the Winding Hole to start was given in November. The new owner M & G Real Estate has given permission for the work to start, and work should start later this year.

### **The Unite building ‘Battery Park’**



**Victoria Simmons**, Area Manager of Birmingham at Unite Students, comments:

“Our top priority is keeping our students safe and providing a brilliant experience; we want to extend this to the local community in the areas surrounding our student home. Working closely with the University of Birmingham and local charities, we are working to make a positive impact that benefits a wide range of people. We look forward to continuing this work going forwards, bringing in more



University of Birmingham and local charities, we are working to make a positive impact that benefits a wide range of people. We look forward to continuing this work going forwards, bringing in more student involvement to help with their integration into the local community and spread these efforts even

further.”



**Dr Andrew Hardie**, Chair of the Lapal Canal Trust, comments: “We are very grateful for the generous donation of £20,000 from Unite Students 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.

*Plan approved by Birmingham City Council*



developed around the canal junction 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 provision of a wildlife corridor and connecting green spaces together. The Winding Hole allows boats to turn, enter and exit the soon to be restored canal.

MEMBER OF THE



## About Unite Students

**UNITE  
STUDENTS**

Unite Students is the UK's largest owner, manager and developer of purpose-built student accommodation serving the country's world-leading higher education sector.

we now provide homes to c. 74,000 students across 174 properties in 27 leading university towns and cities.

Our people are driven by a common purpose: to provide the students who live with us a 'Home for Success' and to be the

most trusted brand in the sector. We do this through quality service, quality people and quality properties, all designed on the basis of an excellent insight into students' needs and preferences. Unite's accommodation is high quality, safe and secure, and located where students want to live. Students live predominantly in en-suite study bedrooms with rents covering all bills, insurance, 24-hour security and high-speed Wi-Fi.

Unite is the founder of and major donor to the Unite Foundation, a charitable trust established to support talented students facing challenging financial circumstances through the provision of free accommodation annual scholarships. The Foundation has so far provided scholarships for 434 young people working in close collaboration with 27 partner universities. Founded in 1991 in Bristol, Unite Group is an award winning Real Estate Investment Trust



accommodation annual scholarships. The Foundation has so far provided scholarships for 434 young people working in close collaboration with 27 partner universities. Founded in 1991 in Bristol, Unite Group is an award-winning Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), listed on the London Stock Exchange and a member of the FTSE 250 Index. For more information, please visit Unite's corporate website [www.unite-group.co.uk](http://www.unite-group.co.uk), [www.linkedin.com/company/unite-group-plc/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/unite-group-plc/) or the Unite Foundation [www.unitefoundation.co.uk](http://www.unitefoundation.co.uk)

### About the Lapal Canal Trust.

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. More information available on [www.lapal.org](http://www.lapal.org) and [www.Facebook.com/lapalcanaltrust](https://www.facebook.com/lapalcanaltrust)

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

### Additional Note

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 19<sup>th</sup> century listed buildings which could be attractive for visitors. We want to encourage the use of the canal for the 55-minute journey from Selly Oak to Brindley Place and Birmingham City Centre. The turning area is conveniently located next to the bus stop and the railway station.



### Community Partnership for Selly Oak (CP4SO)

The Community Partnership for Selly Oak 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.

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**Member organisations are:**

[Selly Oak St Mary's](#) Neighbourhood Forum.

Frederick Rd and Rachel Gardens Residents Association.

Lodge Hill Rd Residents Association.

[Friends of Selly Oak Park](#)

Friends of Westhill Playing Fields

[1st Ariel, 113rd Birmingham Scout Group](#)

Tiverton Area Residents Association (Neighbourhood Forum)

Warwards Lane / Ten Acres Residents Group

Harborne Lane Allotments Association

Langleys Rd Neighbourhood Watch

[Selly Park South Neighbourhood Forum](#)

Selly Oak Local History Group Selly Park Property Owners Association

Weoley Hill Village Council

Gristhorpe Rd Residents Group