

Deadline extended for Wappenshall Wharf funding bid

THE Heritage Lottery Fund has given the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust until December 12, 2016, to submit a Round 2 application and raise match funding of £500,000 to restore the warehouses and basin at Wappenshall Wharf.

Total anticipated project cost is £1.5 million and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant will contribute £1 million towards this as long as SNCT can raise the balance.

The extension is partly in recognition of the quality of the project and partly because the HLF has deemed progress towards match funding to be satisfactory under the present difficult financial circumstances.

The trust has raised £140,000 so far and still needs to find £360,000. An appeal to members and the boating community has resulted in pledges or donations of nearly £45,000 and successful applications to charitable bodies has reached almost £95,000.

A spokesman said: "We still have hopes that Telford and Wrekin Council, who own Wappenshall and have leased



The warehouses at Wappenshall Wharf. PHOTO: SNCT

it to us, will be able to find some funds to help but, like all local authorities, they are short of money.

"We have a new plan to make a direct appeal to local people and we have applied for £100,000 of European funding with the support of Telford and Wrekin and of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership."

Grant applications are also being made to newly identified grant-giving charities and the trust hopes to encourage philanthropic individuals to take an interest.