

Paper from Bp Stortford respecting the new Tolls.

To the Trustees of the River Lee;-

Sirs,

At a meeting of the Commissioners of the River Stort & others held this day at Bishops Stortford, It was Resolved that they cannot consistant with their duty forbear to acquaint you, they are unanimous in Opinion That if the proposal which has been made to you to double the Tolls on the River Lee, at the present places of receiving them should take place, it will not only be an injury to the River Lee but attended with consequences of great detriment to the River Stort particularly in Loss of the present Tolls on the Articles of Coals and flour and will be directly against the Clause in the last Act of Parliament for improving the Navigation of the River Lee which expressly says nothing shall be done to the prejudice of the Navigation of the River Stort. They desire further to observe that if it is found necessary to increase the Tolls on the River Lee in a reasonable degree, the places of taking it may be properly attended to, it having been found by Experience the present places fix'd upon, are in many instances partial and unequal & of course highly improper to be further adopted, particularly in the Case of the River Stort Barges coming into it, of necessity navigate only about two thirds of the River Lee are compell'd to pay as much Tolls as those who make use of the whole of that River, which might be remedied by fixing a place for receiving Tolls at or above the Rye.

We are Gentlemen

Your most obedient Servants

Bp Stortford
12th Janry 1779.

(Signed) Wm, Unwin, Wardell Baynes, Joseph Smith, J Smith, *F Bird*, Thos Campin, W Hill, George Juby, John Searle, John Patkin, T Robinson, *Dr Johns*, Frd Jones, E W Woodh--