

**MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL
CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP
20TH SEPTEMBER 2005**

EXTERNAL GRANTS

1. The MBCRP has highlighted a potential opportunity to make application for Lottery funding via the Living Landmarks programme for works that would result in restoration of sections of the regional canal network.
2. Two bid categories are proposed under the Living Landmarks portfolio of projects. Project bids between £10 and £25 million will be determined by expert panel whilst bids over £25 million will be determined by national TV poll similar to the BBC Restoration programme format.
3. Discussion within the MBCRP has acknowledged that any canal-orientated bid would be most unlikely to generate sufficient public support to win a national TV poll. Accordingly, it has been agreed that any prospective bid should be made to the £10 to £25 million fund. The lottery award will be up to a maximum of 75% of overall project cost and the residual amount will need to be funded through a combination of other sources and/or directly by the Authority.
4. Deadline for submission of initial round of bidding for Living Landmarks is 6th January 2006. It has been agreed at MBCRP that Torfaen Borough Council will act as lead bid partner in developing the submission for funding.
5. MBCRP Officers are currently scoping the size of the potential bid. In simple terms this involves a review of an historic Heritage Lottery bid for the main line plus the addition of the works on the Crumlin Arm that have been highlighted in Stage 2 of the Corridor Study's Action Plan. Caerphilly Officer have initially tabled the full package of works to remove obstructions to navigation within the bid at an overall cost of some £12 million including appropriate allowances for professional fees. These Stage 2 works do not include the cost of providing a marina facility at Risca (additional £3.1m).
6. The bid, if approved at Stage 1 would be developed through 2nd and 3rd Stages, for implementation in 2008. It is envisaged that the Stage 2 bid will be the point when detailed costs are prepared and submitted.
7. It should be noted that there is a significant likelihood that the overall cost of the combination of works proposed by Torfaen, Newport and CCBC will exceed the £25 million of grant available. Therefore, in due course before formal submission of the bid it should be anticipated that the Council will be faced with a need to prioritise the content of its portion of the bid and possibly curtail or remove certain of the proposed works from the final bid for Lottery funding.
8. ICA has with agreement of the Authority been actively seeking grants for enhancement of the Canal. The ICA have been successful in obtaining £1400 from the Environment Trust to provide additional seating along the Canal towpath and are currently awaiting confirmation on progress and success of an application to the Big Lottery Fund for funding up to £20,000 for interpretation of heritage and heritage and other minor improvements along the Canal corridor.

9. The Crosskeys and Pontywaun Environmental Strategy developed by Groundwork Caerphilly and the Authority in association with local communities has been awarded £1 million of ERDF funding. A number of the Strategy's proposals incorporate works on and leading to the Canal and detailed discussions between Groundwork and the Council's Engineering Division are to be progressed to ensure that the Crosskeys and Pontywaun Strategy complement rather than conflict with the Canal Corridor Study's Action Plan.