



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP – 23RD NOVEMBER 2010

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. MAINTENANCE UPDATE

1.1 Canal Channel

The weed cutting/channel clearance regime for the coming year will continue at the reduced frequency of two visits. Clearance will be undertaken on the following dates:

- July 2011
- October 2011

1.2 Grass Maintenance

The final cut of the season was undertaken in October, during this visit the canal verge cut was extended down to the waters edge and included the removal of all saplings and shrubs growing within this area. The first cut of next season will take place in early April 2011, although this will be reviewed nearer the date to take into account the influences of the prevailing weather conditions, which during 2010 delayed the germination of grass due to the unusually cold weather. Should there be no delay in grass germination subsequent cuts will be undertaken on the following indicative dates:

- 24th June 2011
- 20th July 2011
- 7th August 2011
- 11th September 2011
- 19th October 2011

2. 2010/2011 WORKS PROGRAMME

2.1 Towpath

All remaining lengths of towpath previously surfaced with a stone dust finished have now been surfaced with a tarmac finish

2.2 Access Enhancement

Improvement works to the access points at Pontywaun. The scope of works at this location will include the installation of vehicle and motorcycle barriers, areas of block paving, re-surfacing of the towpath from Pontywaun Feed to Pontywaun Bridge and the installation of litter and dog fouling bins.

2.3 Water Control

he installation of stank boards at Pontywaun Bridge is now complete,

2.4 Dredging

It is proposed to dredge a section of canal between the Dragon Teeth overflow and Green Meadow Bridge should sufficient budget remain available in January 2011.

2.5 Tree Maintenance

It is proposed to undertake general tree management works in January/February 2011, this will involve removal of damaged or diseased trees together with some ecological enhancement.

2.6 External Funding

The Countryside and Landscape Group secured external funding from WEFO in the sum of £50,000.00 for access enhancement. Elements of the works identified above have been funded from this source

3. 2011/2012 WORKS PROGRAMME

3.1 Towpath

It is proposed to investigate the use of asphalt preservation systems to treat the recently placed tarmac towpath, such systems have the potential to increase the durability of asphalt surfacing by up to 3 times their normal lifespan. There are a number of systems available, some of which are coloured and could satisfy the original aspiration for the towpath in providing a more natural appearance in keeping the aesthetics of the local environment.

3.2 Access Enhancement

All access points have now been improved in accordance the recommendations contained with the LTC Management and Enhancement Study.

3.3 Water Control

The installation of stank boards and depth gauges at Green Meadow Bridge; Penrhiw Bridge, Moriah Hill Bridge and Darran Road Bridge are programmed for this financial year.

3.5 Advanced Design

Advanced design works for relining schemes at Pontywaun Viaduct and the section of canal downstream of the viaduct, down to Pontywaun Bridge, are planned in order to have scheme cost surety and allow future funding bids.

4. FUNDING

4.1 Capital

It is understood that there will be no capital budget allocation for the 2011/2010 financial year.

4.2 **Revenue**

The 2011/2012 budget is forecast as being in the region of £150, 00.

Expenditure under this heading is allocated to cover the cost of grass and channel maintenance, tree maintenance, general cleansing, towpath repair, management cost and emergency response.

5. **BOATS**

- 5.1 All boats were removed from the canal by their owners last year, we have yet to receive any application from owners to put their boats back on the canal.

Author: K.J. Kinsey, Principal Engineer