

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

**SUBJECT: MONMOUTHSHIRE, BRECON AND ABERGAVENNY CANALS TRUST REGENERATION MANAGERS REPORT NOVEMBER 2010**

**REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### 1. MAINTENACNE

Since the last report, the Trusts restoration team supported by the Waterway Recovery Groups summer camp have been clearing years of tree and scrub growth from the walls, spillway, and ground around Tredegar, Ty Cock Bottom, Lower Brake and Shop Locks in preparation for structural surveys and restoration in the near future. Silt and debris has also been cleared from Tredegar Lock chamber.

Projects have also continued to maintain open access along the towing, bridal way and footpaths at the Cefn Flight of Fourteen Locks outside of the sites restoration scheme.

Funding these and future project is so important to keep the partnerships objectives of a fully navigable canal from Brecon to Newport and Cwmcarn including access to the Bristol Channel and beyond a reality.



Through the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canals Regeneration Partnership the Trust has been engaged in preparing funding applications etc,

### European Convergence Fund

Following the recent submission of the expression of interest the Canals Regeneration Partnership have recently had feed back from WEFO confirming that they are now happy with the expression of interest application. They think it is a good project which they would like to support. They will now be writing up an appraisal to that effect. While not wanting to raise our expectations, they will be advising that the partnership starts on the business plan as although the priority is currently committed they are expecting funding to come available in the programme in the not too distant future. The following strategic projects are included in the application.

A. Restoration of canal structures from Five Locks to Pontnewydd including Five Locks

## Road

- Canal Bridge (TCBC)
- B. Pentre Lane Canal Bridge (TCBC)
- C. Navigation Road to Gelli Avenue & Thistle Way Road Bridges (CCBC)
- D. Ruskin Avenue (NCC)
- E. Dredging, Canal Relining and Environmental Works (TCBC)

Torfaen County Borough Council are leading this project on behalf of the MBC Restoration Partnership the value of which is 10 million pound investment

## **Heritage Lottery Fund**

Application has been submitted to the HLF to restore Tredegar, Ty Coch (Bottom), Lower Brake, Shop Brake, Rachel's, Cabin and Ty Coch (Top) Locks, which is being considered by the Heritage Lottery. Value £500,000.00

## **Trusthouse Charitable Trust**

The Trust with support from TCBC submitted an application and received a site visit by an Officer of the trust on Friday 17th October attended by Heidi TCBC and myself. Tom gave an overview of his education projects at the Canal Centre. The officer was quite impressed. The application has been successful. Value £25,000.00

## **Landfill Credit Fund**

The Trust has made an application to be considered for future funding from Newport Waste Ltd

Whilst the above projects have been progressed trials of a new Stop Plank material have taken place with the help of Andy (NCC) and attended by Kevin (BW)

The trial took place at Gwasted Lock, it was successful but some modifications suggested by BW would improve the water seal between each plank. The material is a combination of a Recycled Plastic Product and metal. The manufacturer agreed to making the improvements before undertaking further trials.



## **Cefn Flight of Fourteen Locks Restoration (Phase 1)**

Although restoration of the lock chambers is now complete, stop plank recess and planks are being installed above locks 20 & 18. Included in these works is the replacement of a timber boat fender above lock 20. Evidence indicated that the approach wing walls to the lock chamber have been rebuilt a number of time probable due to the impact of passing boats making it necessary for the timber fender. The contractors are aware of some other structural works still to be completed.

The earth required to bund the pond below lock 17 is to wet to complete at the moment, so will be completed sometime next year.

Good news for the Trusts restoration team is that Cadw have given permission for them to give

the lock gates and metal work a weather protected coat of paint.



Locks 19-20 Prepared for a coat of paint



Culvert under towing path below lock 17

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