



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP – 28TH FEBRUARY 2014

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. MAINTENANCE UPDATE

1.1 Canal Channel

Weed cutting/channel clearance works will re-commence this year. Clearance will be undertaken on the following dates:

- July 2014
- October 2014 (if required)

1.2 Grass Maintenance

The first cut of this season will be undertaken during the week commencing 24th March 2014. This cut will include removal and treatment of all saplings growing along the canal fringes on the towpath side of the channel.

Subsequent cuts will be on a monthly basis up until October at which time they will be suspended for the winter months.

2. 2013/2014 WORKS PROGRAMME

2.1 Towpath

Works are programmed to raise a short length of canal bank to the rear of Brynhyfryd Terrace. There is a long-standing problem with overtopping during periods of heavy rainfall and this year there have been two requests for the provision of sandbags.

2.2 Access Enhancement

No works planned for this year.

2.3 Water Control

Investigation works are programmed to determine the cause of the excessive quantities of silt that are being carried into the canal via the Cwm Byr stream. Recent monitoring suggests that these volumes have increased.

2.4 Dredging

Dredging works are planned for the section of canal between Green Meadow Bridge and Darran Road Bridge in order to restore a navigable route through this section.

2.5 Tree Maintenance

Budget permitting, it is planned to undertake a tree survey over the full length of the canal and undertake recommended maintenance work.

2.6 External Funding

There are no external funding sources available at present.

2.7 Channel Leak Repair

Works to repair the leak within the Pontywaun section of canal started the first week of February and are programmed to continue into June. The timing of these works have allowed the use of the 2014/2015 budget so that the first two phases of work can be completed.

3. FUNDING

3.1 Capital

A Capital budget of £212,000 has been allocated for the 2014/2015 financial year and this funding will be used to progress the channel leak repair at Pontywaun. Initial indications are that this level of funding will be sustained during the financial years 2015/16, although given the current economic climate there can be no guarantees in this respect.

3.2 Revenue

The 2013/2014 budget allocation was £124,000 and, at the time of writing, £3500 remained unspent. The remaining budget will be used to undertake a long standing repair to a damaged wall at Navigation Street, and form a ramp into the canal at this location to allow the weed cutting boat access to the canal channel. The 2014/2015 budget allocation is £126,500.

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.

4. BOATS

No update in this respect.

5. TERM SERVICE CONTRACT

The current term service maintenance contract is due to end this month. Provision has been made to extend it by 6 months to allow procurement of a new contract.

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