



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP – 16TH JUNE 2016

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. MAINTENANCE UPDATE

1.1 Canal Channel

Weed cutting/channel maintenance will be reviewed this year given the issue with the reported fish kill in October. It is likely that we will limited this exercise to one visit and closely coordinate this with our Ecologist colleagues with regards to timing and supervision.

1.2 Grass Maintenance

The first cut of the season was undertaken in March 2016. Unfortunately Grounds Maintenance staff did not follow the amended cutting regime for the Manor Road section and cut this down to the water's edge. This has been the subject of several meetings since this incident, including a joint meeting between Officers and local residents to confirm and agree the extent of the cutting along the canal side of the towpath. The agreed limits in this respect are a 1m metre strip immediately adjacent to the towpath, and the only deviation from this will be the immediate areas surrounding the slipway, bridges and seating areas.

2. 2016/2017 WORKS PROGRAMME

2.1 Towpath

No works planned for this year.

2.2 Access Enhancement

No works planned for this year.

2.3 Water Control

No works planned for the remainder of this financial year.

2.4 Dredging

Dredging along the section of canal downstream of Green Meadow Bridge to Darran Road Bridge was successfully completed during April/May 2016. Approximately 650m³ of silt was removed during this exercise.

2.5 **Tree Maintenance**

A tree survey over the full length of the Canal has been delayed due to resource issues within the Engineering Projects Group and will be undertaken as soon as resources allow.

2.6 **External Funding**

Officers within CCBC's Economic Development section are currently working with neighbouring authorities to compile bids in an attempt to secure funding for further improvements at key areas along the Canal and it is understood that this is progressing well and in this respect the use of the Canal capital funding as match funding is being considered.

2.7 **Channel Leak Repair**

The second phase of works to complete the relining up to the downstream end of the aqueduct (and possibly the aqueduct itself) went out to tender with a return date of 17th February 2016. Planning approval and subsequent approval from Cadw has now been received subject to a number of conditions. The contract has now been awarded and the contractor is Alun Griffiths. A pre-contract meeting will be held shortly and it is hoped that works will commence early in July 2016.

2.8 **Emergency Works**

There have been no defects requiring emergency action identified during this period.

3. **FUNDING**

3.1 **Capital**

A capital budget allocation for 2015/16 was under spent by £209,000 which has been carried forward to the 2016/17 budget. The budget allocation for 2016/17 has been confirmed as £212,000, plus the £209,000 carry over, giving a total budget of £421,000. This funding will be used to complete the channel leak repair at Pontywaun.

3.2 **Revenue**

The 2015/2016 budget allocation was £128,454 and was fully spent. The budget for 2016/17 is confirmed as £100,000. Expenditure using this budget will be focused on tree and channel maintenance.

4. **BOATS**

4.1 No update in this respect.

5. **CANAL MAINTENANCE**

5.1 All future routine maintenance works will now be undertaken by CCBC Network Contracting Services. Major works will be procured via tender.

Author: K J Kinsey, Acting Engineering Projects Group Manager