



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP - 25TH NOVEMBER 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 was undertaken in July/August but unfortunately due to late breeding by nesting birds had to be abandoned on the Manor Road section. The weed cutting boat is due to return before the end of the calendar year.

1.2 Grass Maintenance

Grass cutting has been undertaken to programme through the year and the last cut of the year was undertaken in October.

2. 2014/2015 WORKS PROGRAMME

2.1 Towpath

Works will be undertaken shortly to raise a short length of canal bank to the rear of Brynhyfyd 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

Initial walkover investigations have been undertaken in the locality of Cwm Byr stream with a view to developing a system to control and maintain the excessive quantities of silt that are being carried into the canal. Recent monitoring suggests that these volumes have increased, and this work is ongoing.

2.4 Dredging

It is still planned to dredge the section of canal between Green Meadow Bridge and Darran Road Bridge in order to restore a navigable route through this section.

However, the disposal of the wet silt is a major issue as wet material cannot be taken to landfill. In order to overcome this issue the Engineering Projects Group have recently submitted a planning application to temporarily stockpile material at Risca quarry to enable it

to dry out before being disposed of. Although the planning application was successful, there is now an issue with National Resources Wales.

NRW maintain that in order to allow us to use the quarry as intended, we will require a waste processing permit, which would take up to 4 months to obtain. We are currently exploring other options in this respect.

2.5 **Tree Maintenance**

We are in the process of securing quotations for a tree survey over the full length of the canal. It is hoped to undertake all identified works this financial year.

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 now complete in terms of the extend of works identified for this financial year. The second phase of works to complete the relining up to the downstream end of the aqueduct is programmed to commence in April 2015 (budget permitting).

3. **FUNDING**

3.1 **Capital**

A capital budget allocation for 2014/15 has been fully committed. It is indicated that the budget allocation for 2015/16 will be £212,000, and this funding will be used to complete the channel leak repair at Pontywaun.

3.2 **Revenue**

The 2014/2015 budget allocation is £126,500, and at the time of writing, approximately £90,000 remains unspent.

Expenditure using the remaining budget is allocated to cover the cost of tree maintenance and dredging.

4. **BOATS**

4.1 No update in this respect.

5. **TERM SERVICE CONTRACT**

5.1 The current term service maintenance contract has now come to an end and will not re-tendered. Future maintenance works will now be undertaken by CCBC Network Contracting Services.

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