



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP - 26TH FEBRUARY 2015

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 was completed on the Manor Road section just before Christmas. Further weed cutting is programmed for the Navigation Road to Darran Road section before the end of March, which has to be done by hand due to access issues. The removal of all debris and undergrowth from the aqueduct section is also programmed to be undertaken by the end of March.

1.2 Grass Maintenance

Grass cutting has been undertaken and is programmed to re-start in March 2015, and will continue on a 4-weekly cycle up to October 2015.

2. 2014/2015 WORKS PROGRAMME

2.1 Towpath

Works were completed before Christmas to raise a short length of canal bank to the rear of Brynhyfryd Terrace. These works were undertaken to address a long-standing problem with overtopping during periods of heavy rainfall.

2.2 Access Enhancement

No works planned for this year.

2.3 Water Control

It is understood that Natural Resources Wales are looking into re-routing the Cwm Byr stream back along its original course. It is hoped that if this is done successfully then the issue of excessive erosion and consequential silt generation will lessen and possibly stop.

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. We are still 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. Any identified works will be undertaken in Autumn 2015.

2.6 **External Funding**

There are no external funding sources available at present.

2.7 **Channel Leak Repair**

The second phase of works to complete the relining up to the downstream end of the aqueduct will be tendered in March and is programmed to commence after the Easter holidays in April 2015 (budget permitting).

2.8 **Emergency Works**

During the stormy conditions experienced in January, a section of timber fencing adjacent to the section of towpath between Gelli Avenue and Thistle Way suffered damage, to the extent that the full length has to be replaced. This work is currently ongoing.

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 £45,000 remains unspent.

Expenditure using the remaining budget is allocated to cover recent emergency works, further channel maintenances as identified and disposal of channel-dredged silt.

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.

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