



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP - 21ST JUNE 2013

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. MAINTENANCE UPDATE

1.1 Canal Channel

The weed cutting/channel clearance regime for the coming year will continue at the reduced frequency of two visits. Clearance will be undertaken on the following dates:

- August 2013
- October 2013

1.2 Grass Maintenance

The first cut of this season was undertaken in early April 2013, subsequent cuts will follow a 4-week cycle for the remainder of the year up to October.

The new grass-cutting regime has now been adopted. The strip of grass that extends from the edge of the towpath down to the canal waters edge will now be cut on each visit, this as been adopted on the grounds of public safety.

- 1.3 Works have been ongoing through March and April to implement the repair of a leak found within the liner at Pontygriag Bridge. The repair involved the replacement of 20m of liner, the construction of a concrete invert to the canal channel and the placement of recycled plastic cover boarding facing the bridge abutment walls, total cost £60k.

2. 2013/2014 WORKS PROGRAMME

2.1 Towpath

No maintenance works planned for this year.

2.2 Access Enhancement

No works planned for this year

2.3 Water Control

No further water control measures planned for this year.

2.4 **Dredging**

No dredging planned for this year.

2.5 **Tree Maintenance**

A tree survey over the full length of the canal is to be commissioned during the new financial year to allow tree maintenance works to be undertaken through the Winter period 2013/2014.

2.6 **External Funding**

There are no external funding sources available at present.

2.7 **Channel Leak Repair**

Design works are ongoing to develop a re-lining scheme at the Pontywaun section, although, due to funding restriction this will now be limited to a 70m section centred around the Pontywaun overflow. The option being developed will consist of a composite construction formed from reinforced concrete walls and a synthetic liner. It is hoped to commence these works towards the end of July 2013.

3. **FUNDING**

3.1 **Capital**

A Capital budget of £250k has been allocated for the 2013/2014 financial year, this funding will be used to progress the channel leak repair at Pontywaun.

3.2 **Revenue**

The 2013/2014 budget is £152k, budget carry over from 2011/12 and 2012/13, which had accrued to a sum of £214k, has been reallocated to working balances and lost.

Expenditure under this heading is allocated to cover the cost of grass and channel maintenance, tree maintenance, general cleansing, towpath repair, management cost, emergency response and the repair of the leak at Pontywaun. In this respect recent expenditure to repair a leak at Pontygriag Bridge as taken a substantial slice from this budget amounting to some £60k in total.

4. **BOATS**

The Islwyn Canal Association was recently granted a licence for the operation of a trip boat. The boat, the Islwyn Lily, will be moored at Whysoms Wharf, it is not clear at this time when regular trips commence.

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