



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP – 25TH OCTOBER 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 March/April 2013, and subsequent cuts will follow a 4-week cycle for the remainder of the year up to October.

Following representations from various sources, a review of the grass cutting regime has taken place and changes made accordingly. 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, and this has been adopted on the grounds of public safety.

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. The option being developed will consist of a composite construction formed from reinforced concrete walls, piled walls and a synthetic liner. It is hoped to commence these works towards the end of March 2013.

3. **FUNDING**

3.1 **Capital**

It is understood that there will be no capital budget allocation for the 2013/2014 financial year.

3.2 **Revenue**

The 2013/2014 budget is in the region of £350,000, which includes a carry over from 2011/12 and 2012/13.

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.

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 will commence.

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