



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP – 20TH JUNE 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 will re-commence this year. Clearance will be undertaken on the following dates:

- July 2014
- October 2014 (if required)

1.2 Grass Maintenance

Grass cutting has been undertaken – the last cut was on 20th May 2014 and the next scheduled cut is for the 17th June 2014.

Subsequent cuts will be on a monthly basis up until October at which time they will be suspended for the winter months.

2. 2014/2015 WORKS PROGRAMME

2.1 Towpath

Works are programmed to raise a short length of canal bank to the rear of Brynhyfryd 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.

2.4 Dredging

Dredging works are planned for 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. Results of the Planning application are expected in approximately eight weeks.

2.5 Tree Maintenance

Budget permitting, it is planned to undertake a tree survey over the full length of the canal and undertake recommended maintenance work.

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 programmed to continue into July. The timing of these works have allowed the use of the 2014/2015 budget so that the first two phases of work can be completed. Works have progressed well and are now approaching the final phases that can be accommodated within the budget.

3. FUNDING

3.1 Capital

A Capital budget of £212,000 has been allocated for the 2014/2015 financial year and this funding will be used to progress the channel leak repair at Pontywaun. Initial indications are that this level of funding will be sustained during the financial years 2015/16, although given the current economic climate there can be no guarantees in this respect.

3.2 Revenue

The 2013/2014 budget allocation was £124,000 and, at the time of writing, £3500 remained unspent. The remaining budget will be used to undertake a long standing repair to a damaged wall at Navigation Street, and form a ramp into the canal at this location to allow the weed cutting boat access to the canal channel. The 2014/2015 budget allocation is £126,500.

Expenditure under this heading is allocated to cover the cost of grass and channel maintenance, tree maintenance, general cleansing, towpath repair, management cost and emergency response.

4. BOATS

4.1 No update in this respect.

5. TERM SERVICE CONTRACT

5.1 The current term service maintenance contract has been extended by 6 months to allow procurement of a new contract.

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