



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP – 25TH FEBRUARY 2016

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. MAINTENANCE UPDATE

1.1 Canal Channel

Weed cutting/channel maintenance undertaken in October resulted in a fish kill incident which was featured in the local press. This was thoroughly investigated and while there was some evidence of a small loss of fish, it is believed that there was an element of exaggeration in the reporting and that this was very isolated in nature. Steps to prevent this happening in the future will be put in place.

1.2 Grass Maintenance

The first cut of the season is programmed for March 2016 which will include the amended regime for the Manor Road section.

2. 2015/2016 WORKS PROGRAMME

2.1 Towpath

No works planned for this year.

2.2 Access Enhancement

No works planned for this year.

2.3 Water Control

No works planned for the remainder of this financial year.

2.4 Dredging

A contract is out to tender to undertake dredging along the section of Canal downstream of Green Meadow Bridge during March/April 2016.

2.5 Tree Maintenance

A tree survey over the full length of the Canal has been delayed due to resource issues within the Engineering Projects Group and will be undertaken as soon as resources allow.

2.6 External Funding

Officers within CCBC's Economic Development section are currently working with neighbouring authorities to compile bids in attempt to secure funding for further improvements at key areas along the Canal and it is understood that this is progressing well and in this respect the use of the Canal capital funding as match funding is being considered.

2.7 Channel Leak Repair

The second phase of works to complete the relining up to the downstream end of the aqueduct and possibly the aqueduct itself will be out to tender with a return date of 17th February 2016. It is hoped that CCBC can secure permission to undertake works to the aqueduct and to this end a planning application will be submitted shortly. The works are now programmed to start in March 2016 and the start has been delayed to allow the capital funding to be used as match funding should CCBC be successful in securing external funding.

2.8 Emergency Works

There have been no defects requiring emergency action identified during this period.

3. FUNDING

3.1 Capital

A capital budget allocation for 2014/15 was under spent by £17,000 which has been carried forward to the 2015/16 budget. The budget allocation for 2015/16 has been confirmed as £212,000, plus the £17,000 carry over, giving a total budget of £229,000. This funding will be used to complete the channel leak repair at Pontywaun.

3.2 Revenue

The 2014/2015 budget allocation was £126,500. This was under-spent by £361.00, and the budget for 2015/16 is confirmed as £128,454. Expenditure using this budget will be focused on tree and channel maintenance.

For the financial year 2016/17 onwards it is proposed to offer 20% of the revenue budget up as a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) saving. The revised budget going forward would then be £100,000. This is only possible because of the recent capital funding received which has allowed improvements along a number of problematic sections of the canal, and anticipated future capital funding.

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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