



## **MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP – 28TH FEBRUARY 2019**

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Canal Working Group Members on all matters relating to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 This report details the current and planned maintenance and any capital works planned for the forthcoming year. Details are given on current funding availability and a general statement is provided outlining any current operational issues regarding the usage and the condition of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 For information only.

### **5. THE REPORT**

#### **5.1 MAINTENANCE UPDATE**

##### **5.1.1 Canal Channel**

Weed cutting/channel maintenance for 2019 is not planned as yet, this will be considered later in the year in consultation with all relevant stake holders.

##### **5.1.2 Grass Maintenance**

The first cut of the season is planned for March, the exact date will be weather dependant but it could extend into March if the cold snap of 2018 is repeated.

#### **5.2. 2019/2020 WORKS PROGRAMME**

##### **5.2.1 Towpath**

There are no planned towpath works for 2019.

### **5.2.2 Access Enhancement**

There are no planned access maintenance works for 2019.

### **5.2.3 Water Control**

It is proposed to undertake cleansing of all culverted sections of the canal during March/ April, install provision for stop boards at key locations along together with depth gauges.

Installation of a new control valve at the Manor Road emergency feed is currently under consideration and is likely to be in place before the Summer.

Works to the Nant Carn Feed are programmed for mid-summer.

### **5.2.4 Dredging**

Dredging of the Green Meadows Bridge to the Drill Halls Channel is planned for the yearly 2020.

### **5.2.5 Tree Maintenance**

Extensive tree maintenance works are currently ongoing; this has been made necessary by the discovery of Ash Dieback over the full length of the canal. This is likely to have a significant impact on the wooded fringes of the canal. To date this works as been completed along the section between Halls Road Pontywaun and Navigation Road, Risca, it is anticipated that the remaining length of the canal down to Harry Roberts Bridge will be completed before the end of March.

### **5.2.6 External Funding**

Officers within CCBC's Regeneration and Planning Division as part of the Mon & Brec Canal Adventure Triangle bid have successfully secured funding to the value of £678,571.00, all works associated with this funding are to be completed by December 2020. Officers are currently looking at priorities in this respect.

### **5.2.7 Channel Leak Repair**

The third phase of works is being designed at present and will be tendered Late spring /early summer. The length of Canal to be addressed in this phase will extend from the downstream terminus of Phase 1 down to the Pontywaun overbridge.

There is currently an issue with water loss at the aqueduct and officers are reviewing options to deal with this, and as such it is planned to implement remedial works at the same time as the phase 3 works.

### **5.2.8 Emergency Works**

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

## **5.3 FUNDING**

### **5.3.1 Capital**

A capital budget allocation for 2018/19 is £212k plus the £149k carry over from 2017/18, giving a total budget of £361k, anticipated funding for 2019/20 is £212k. This funding will be used to complete the Phase 3 channel lining works at Pontywaun, and match funding for the Adventure triangle funding mentions above.

### 5.3.2 Revenue

The budget for 2018/19 was £105k and current spend commitments should see this spent in full. Funding for 2019/20 forms part of the MTFP infrastructure savings for 2019/20 and as such will be reduced to £50k.

### 5.4. BOATS

5.4.1 No update in this respect.

### 5.5 Conclusion

A full programmed of works for the coming year has been identified with funding in place to achieve these objectives.

## 6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 No assumptions have been made regarding the information contained in this report.

## 7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

7.1 No requirements in this respect, information only.

### 7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

The reports content contributes towards or impacts the Corporate Well-being Objectives, which are:

Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The canal provides a linear park suitable for users of all abilities who wish to engage in various forms of activity.

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being. The canal provides a linear park suitable for users of all abilities who wish to engage in various forms of activity.

## 8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 This report contributes to the following Well-being Goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act:-

- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language

It is also consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that we will seek to consider the long-term impact of the management of the Canal and its impact on residents, service users and visitors and ensure that the Council as a public body meets its regulatory duties and corporate objectives.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no equalities implications.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no financial implications.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 There is no requirement to undertake consultation given the nature of this report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

13.1 No requirements in this respect, information only.

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Consultees: None