



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL – CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP – 25TH JULY 2019

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

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 was undertaken in March and then on a 3 to 4 weekly cycle up until the final cut planned for September/October. The amended cutting regime was implemented in March and to date no adverse comments have been received.

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

The proposed cleansing of all culverted sections of the canal planned for March/April, and installation of stop boards at key locations along the Canal, together with depth gauges was not progressed due to resource and funding issues.

5.2.4 Dredging

Dredging of the Green Meadows Bridge to the Drill Halls Channel is now on hold due to funding issues.

5.2.5 Tree Maintenance

The extensive tree maintenance works necessitated by the discovery of Ash Dieback over the full length of the canal are now complete. There are no further phases of maintenance planned, only that in reaction to tree falls.

5.2.6 External Funding

Officers within CCBC's Regeneration and Planning Division as part of the Monmouthshire and Brecon 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 in the autumn. The length of Canal to be addressed in this phase will extend from the downstream terminus of Phase 1 down to the Pontywaun overbridge. Phase four works planned for the upper section of the deeps is to be combined with phase three and issued as one contract.

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

The installation of a clay bund was undertaken in early July to alleviate the issue of low water resulting from the leak at Pontywaun aqueduct. The bund was positioned slightly upstream of the secondary intake to allow the feed to be turned on and bring water levels back up to normal level.

5.3. FUNDING

5.3.1 Capital

A capital budget allocation for 2019/20 is £212k plus the £361k carry over from 2018/19, giving a total budget of £573k. This funding will be used to complete the Phase 3 channel

lining works at Pontywaun/Phase lining the Deeps, and match funding for the Adventure Triangle funding mentioned above.

5.3.2 Revenue

The budget for 2019/20 is £54,550 and current spend commitments should see this spent in full. Funding for 2019/20 forms part of the MTFP infrastructure savings for 2019/20.

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