



MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP - 18TH JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. MAINTENANCE UPDATE

1.1 Canal Channel

Weed cutting/channel clearance is to be programmed for late summer due to issues experienced last year with nesting birds.

1.2 Grass Maintenance

Grass cutting has been re-started with the first cut in March 2015 and will continue on a 4-weekly cycle up to October 2015.

2. 2015/2016 WORKS PROGRAMME

2.1 Towpath

Works were completed before Christmas to raise a short length of canal bank to the rear of Brynhyfryd Terrace. These works were undertaken to address a long-standing problem with overtopping during periods of heavy rainfall. The works appear to have resolved the issue, as no further complaints have been received post-construction.

2.2 Access Enhancement

No works planned for this year.

2.3 Water Control

It is understood that Natural Resources Wales are looking into re-routing the Cwm Byr stream back along its original course. There is no further update to report in this respect.

2.4 Dredging

A short section of canal channel between Green Meadow Bridge and Darran Road Bridge was dredged in March 2015 to restore a navigable route through this section.

Due to issues with the disposal of the wet silt, the dredged material was placed against the far bank within the canal channel.

2.5 **Tree Maintenance**

We will be seeking quotations for a tree survey over the full length of the canal this month. Any identified works will be undertaken in Autumn 2015.

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.

2.7 **Channel Leak Repair**

The second phase of works to complete the relining up to the downstream end of the aqueduct will be tendered in July 2015 and is programmed to towards the end of August 2015/possibly early September 2015 to mitigate the impact on water levels and users of the canal.

2.8 **Emergency Works**

Over the recent Spring Bank Holiday period a hole opened up within the towpath adjacent to the Pontywaun Overflow, it appears to be associated with the previous leak in this area and further seepage associated with the upper portion of the overflow structure. The resulting hole within the towpath was backfilled and will be subject to further close monitoring.

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.

Please note that for the financial year 2016/17 onwards it is proposed to offer 20% of the revenue budget up as an 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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