

BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

SURREY and HAMPSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY

ADDENDUM REPORT SEPTEMBER 2009

STRUCTURES and ASSET MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Our main report has been written on the presumption that a presentation would be made to members on the condition of the canal structures and draft Asset Management Plan.

Detailed analysis of structure surveys and recommended remedial works are in progress and will, I understand be presented at our February meeting.

We welcome and support the initiative for urgent remedial works scheduled for 2009/10, by both County Councils.

The surveys confirm that serious defects have been identified in structures, with repair work being recommended in year one, I anticipate that some serious defect repairs will also be carried forward to subsequent years.

POLICY

The Society advocates the adoption of a pro-active policy;

- 1, Repairing the serious defects, identified as Safety Risks, as a matter of urgency.
2. Programmed repairs for lower risk defects, recommended for attention in future years , repair closures timed so as to allow periods of navigation prior to probable summer water restrictions when closures would have least adverse effect on use.
3. Re-opening the canal for navigation on completion of the serious defect repairs will achieve
 - Revenue continuity
 - User confidence
 - SSSI recovery, assisted by boat movements and associated weed control.
 - Reduction in structure deterioration by avoiding extended drying out.

FINANCE

Management decisions on budgets will be almost complete when a structures presentation is scheduled at our next meeting, any funding submissions by officers need to be made by at least the first round of budget meetings.

The Society urges members to fully support finance bids for Capital Funding for canal structural repairs, a three year programme is, in our opinion essential for forward planning.

The Society will support adoption of practical policies which provide for funding, repairing and using the canal whilst reducing risks to users and owners.

SUMMARY

- The owners, must, by example accept responsibility for years of deterioration
- It is essential that enhanced water supplies are identified and procured, thus reducing structure deterioration
- It should be anticipated that structures will require capital expenditure into future years
- Full and active support by all members is essential if we are to achieve a fit for purpose, vibrant and sustainable waterway for all user groups.

Peter Redway
Chair SHCS
September 2009

