

## BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### SURREY AND HAMPSHIRE CANAL SOCIETY REPORT – JUNE 2010

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report is for a three month period due to changes in meeting frequency agreed at the JMC

Structure surveys and Asset Management Plan have identified serious defects in structures, resulting in both County Councils allocating capital funding for repairs over a three year period 2010 – 2013. This is a significant commitment by the owners, fully supported by this Society in principal and active participation.

We accept that surveys on culverts, cuttings and depth profile are not completed; these may generate additional resource requirements when results are evaluated.

The concept of a call off contract jointly agreed, by the owners, enabling quick response in emergencies with shorter lead times in starting scheduled repair work is commended. The society advocates the earliest possible start in repairing serious defects and resumption of through navigation for 2011,

#### **2 WORK PARTY REPORT**

##### **Woodham**

Society working parties and visiting Groups have continued work on Lock Landings at Woodham, spot dredging and wood rubbing strips are outstanding at the time of writing, The wood component will be provided by the Canal Authority from suitable timber felled on the canal estate and processed on their band saw.

Work on Lock 1 Landings has been suspended until contractors have completed bank and towpath work.

##### **Work Boat**

The fitting out of an ex British Waterways Work Boat is almost complete, with a launch planned for July.

It is intended to operate this craft for waterway tasks as a multi functional construction and maintenance facility, such as access for off bank work and other enhancements on the canal.

## Future Programme

Lock 17 Upper Wing Wall repairs are scheduled for a summer start, it is prudent to maximise the better weather conditions and longer daylight hours, Society Volunteers and Waterway Recovery Groups will be supporting these works and I anticipate good progress.

### 3.0 RESOURCES

Volunteer support from March to May 2010 includes visiting groups and Society Volunteers.

SHCS WORK PARTIES	89 days
Visiting Groups	14 days
<b>TOTAL VOLUNTEER INPUT</b>	<b>103 days (3 month period)</b>

### 4.0 FINANCE

#### 4.1 Direct Contributions

Society contributions from January to March 2010

Fuel	£ 240
Work Parties	£ 5,233
Insurance	£ 2,540
Maintenance	£ 247

**Total Direct      £ 8,260**

#### 4.2 Contribution in Kind

Contribution in kind for period January to March 2010

103	Volunteer days at £50 per day	£ 5,150
<b>Total contributions</b>		<b>£ 13,410</b>

## 6.0 NAVIGATION ISSUES

### 6.1 Towpath Works

The proliferation of cycleway signs along the canal corridor has resulted in numerous complaints from residents, Society members, Village Associations and users.

The Society considers the use of Highway type signs being used is unacceptable and inappropriate for a Conservation and Industrial Heritage location,

We are working with the Towpath Improvement Steering Group seeking a change of policy that is acceptable to all user groups.

A recent meeting of this group identified a number of possible actions, the Society will evaluate these and report back.

### 6.2 STRUCTURES

A progress report on Asset Management will have been presented prior to our report, as indicated in my introduction; the Society supports the initiative for implementing an early start on the structural repairs. Good construction conditions improve efficiency, minimise waste and overall costs, a summer start is desirable.

Peter Redway  
June 14th 2010