

**Notice of Meeting
BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Date: Thursday, 16 October 2014
Time: 10.00 am

[There will be an informal public question time before the meeting commencing at 10.00am.]

Place: Mytchett Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, Surrey, GU16 6DD

Contact: Huma Younis
**(Room 122, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 2DN.
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[For queries on the content of the agenda and requests for copies of related documents]

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This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Huma Younis on 020 8213 2725.

Hampshire County Council

Councillor Keith Chapman
Councillor John Bennison
Councillor Brian Gurden
Councillor John Wall

Surrey County Council

Mrs Linda Kemeny
Ben Carasco
Mr Chris Pitt
Mr Colin Kemp

Hampshire Districts:

Hart District Council

Councillor Simon Ambler
Councillor Jonathan Glen
Councillor Stephen Gorys

Rushmoor Borough Council

Councillor Les Taylor
Councillor J H Marsh

Surrey Districts:

Guildford Borough Council

Councillor Gordon Jackson

Runnymede Borough Council

Councillor J M Edwards

Surrey Heath Borough Council

Councillor Paul Ilnicki

Woking Borough Council

Councillor K M Davis

Special Interest Groups

Basingstoke Canal Society

Martin Leech
Mr P Riley

Parish Councils

Alastair Clark

Residential Boat Owners Association

Julia Jacs

Natural England

Adam Wallace

Inland Waterways Association

Gareth Jones

John Cale Canal Cruises

John Cale

Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club

Liz Murnaghan

AGENDA

PART 1 - IN PUBLIC

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 26 JUNE 2014

(Pages 1 - 8)

The minutes will be available in the meeting room half an hour before the start of the meeting.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.

Notes:

- In line with the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, declarations may relate to the interest of the member, or the member's spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom the member is living as husband or wife, or a person with whom the member is living as if they were civil partners and the member is aware they have the interest.
- Members need only disclose interests not currently listed on the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
- Members must notify the Monitoring Officer of any interests disclosed at the meeting so they may be added to the Register.
- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

4 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

To receive either any questions or petitions.

Notes:

1. The deadline for Member's questions is 12.00 noon four working days before the meeting *[10 October 2014]*.
2. The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting *[9 October 2014]*.
3. The deadline for petitions was 14 days before the meeting, and no petitions have been received.

5 FINANCE REPORT: OUT-TURN FORECAST 2014/15 AND FORWARD BUDGET 2015/16

(Pages 9 - 22)

6 SSSI CONDITION STATUS REPORT

(Pages 23 - 26)

7 WATER STRATEGY GROUP REPORT

(Pages 27 - 28)

- 8 **CANAL MANAGEMENT REPORT** (Pages 29 - 32)

- 9 **BASINGSTOKE CANAL SOCIETY REPORT** (Pages 33 - 36)

- 10 **CANAL CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS- (REPORT TO FOLLOW)** (Pages 37 - 38)

- 11 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 26 February 2015 at 10am.

David McNulty
Chief Executive
Tuesday, 7 October 2014

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MINUTES of the meeting of the **BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held at 10.05 am on 26 June 2014 at Mytchett Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, Surrey, GU16 6DD.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting.

Hampshire County Council

Councillor Keith Chapman (Chairman)
Councillor John Bennison
Councillor Brian Gurden
Councillor John Wall

Hampshire Districts:

Hart District Council

Councillor Simon Ambler (a)
Councillor Jonathan Glen (a)

Rushmoor Borough Council

Councillor David Welch (a)
Councillor J H Marsh

Special Interest Groups

Basingstoke Canal Society

Martin Leech
Mr P Riley

Parish Councils

Alastair Clark

Residential Boat Owners Association

Julia Jacs

Surrey County Council

Mrs Linda Kemeny (a)
Mr Chris Pitt
Mr Colin Kemp (a)
Mr Ben Carasco (a)

Surrey Districts:

Guildford Borough Council

Councillor Gordon Jackson

Runnymede Borough Council

Councillor J M Edwards

Surrey Heath Borough Council

Councillor Paul Ilnicki

Woking Borough Council

Councillor K M Davis

Natural England

Adam Wallace

Inland Waterways Association

Gareth Jones

John Cale Canal Cruises

John Cale (a)

Martin Bowers

Basingstoke Canal Canoe Club

Liz Murnaghan

11/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Linda Kemeny, Ben Carasco, Colin Kemp, John Cale, Adam Wallace and Jonathan Glen.

12/14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 27 FEBRUARY 2014 [Item 2]

Declarations of interest:: None

Officers: None.

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The secretary would check that all organisations had been written to in order for deputies to be nominated.
2. Cllr Elaine Still had resigned, Cllr John Wall would be her replacement.
3. It was noted that Cllr Paul Ilnicki had sent his apologies to the previous meeting.
4. The committee was waiting on a nomination from Hart DC to replace Jonathan Glen.
5. The supplementary questions referred to on page 3 of the minutes were not attached; it was requested they be circulated with the minutes for this meeting.
6. It was noted during point six of 9/14 (land at Ash Lock) that the last conversation with Hants CC was two years ago, and the subject needed to be discussed with the MoD.
7. It was suggested that all parties should sign up to the Memorandum of Agreement (5/14) and for the subject to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That

1. The minutes of the meeting on 27 February 2014 be agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Actions/further information to be provided:

1. Secretary to ensure that all organisations had been contacted with a view to naming a deputy.
2. All parties to sign up to the Memorandum of Agreement & for the subject to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Committee next steps: None.

13/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

None.

14/14 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 4]

Declarations of interest: None.

Officers:

James Taylor, Senior Countryside Management Officer, Surrey County Council

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. A public question was asked about the current charges on the canal being twice that of the Thames. James Taylor would respond outside the meeting.
2. Following an incident involving a cyclist and a dog walker the speed and conduct of cyclists on the footpath was discussed. Limiting the speed was deemed unenforceable, and the grey, highways-style signs considered inappropriate on the basis some cyclists try to beat the suggested times. It was resolved that the signs would be removed and suitable alternative measures considered.
3. Mr Bowers asked about the commercial and navigation mooring fees for the canal. James Taylor replied that the commercial licences were set by the Estates Teams of both County Councils. Individual arrangements were in place with individual licence holders.

Actions/further information to be provided: None.

Committee next steps: None.

15/14 BASINGSTOKE CANAL FINANCE REPORT - FINAL ACCOUNTS 2013/2014 [Item 5]

Declarations of interest: None.

Officers:

Jane Lovett, Honorary Treasurer, Basingstoke Canal Authority

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. General reserves had increased to £304,640, which the committee felt comfortable with.
2. Recommendations 1 and 2 were both agreed. It was proposed to add the further recommendations:
 - All parties to focus on establishing income from various sources
 - Turn deficit into surplus

- Only have a backlog on maintenance for so long.
3. Philip Riley had asked for the £50,000 that Surrey had removed from the revenue budget to be reinstated, which Cllr Chapman encouraged to take up directly with Surrey CC.
 4. Houseboat income was discussed and Mr Riley reminded the meeting of the Deputy Chair's previous commitment to raise this within Surrey CC.

RESOLVED: That

1. All recommendations were agreed.

Actions/further information to be provided:

1. Mrs Kemeny to take up the issue of houseboat income with Surrey CC.

Committee next steps: None

16/14 BASINGSTOKE CANAL FINANCE REPORT - SMALL BODIES ANNUAL RETURN AND GOVERNANCE STATEMENT [Item 6]

Declarations of interest: None.

Officers:

Jane Lovett, Honorary Treasurer, Basingstoke Canal Authority

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Basingstoke Canal is required to submit an annual return by 30 June 2014 summarising its financial activities for the past financial year broken down into the Accounting Statements, the Annual Governance Statement, the external auditor's certificate and opinion and the internal auditor's report.
2. Due to a printing error, Appendix A appeared on page 31 instead of page 23, and Appendix C appeared on page 29 instead of page 26.

RESOLVED: That

1. All recommendations were agreed.

Actions/further information to be provided: None.

Committee next steps: None.

17/14 CANAL REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE [Item 7]

Declarations of interest: None.

Officers:

Lisa Creaye-Griffin, Countryside Group Manager, Surrey County Council

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. Possible uses for the site that were financially sustainable and didn't impinge the nature of the location were being discussed outside the meeting, with a more in-depth update to be tabled at the next board.
2. Short stay accommodation and an interactive attraction were being considered. Open days with paper based activities was also suggested as a money-making possibility, along with encouraging donations, bequests, and selling a notional stake in the canal to members of the public.

RESOLVED: That

1. The verbal update be noted.
2. Officers to come back with further information at the October meeting

Actions/further information to be provided:

Officers to provide an update report for the meeting in June 2014.

Committee next steps:

The Committee to consider the update report at its next meeting in June 2014.

18/14 BASINGSTOKE CANAL SIGNAGE GUIDELINES [Item 8]

Declarations of interest: None.

Officers:

Fiona Shipp, Canal Manager, Basingstoke Canal Authority

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The lack of boat accompanying the figures on the opening page was commented upon, although it was explained that the design had been agreed by the Board and a boat had been incorporated into the background.
2. All Members were in agreement that the document sent out the right message, and the colour, script, message and artwork of the document were all impressive.

RESOLVED: That

1. The report be noted.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee next steps:

None.

19/14 CANAL MANAGER'S REPORT [Item 9]

Declarations of interest: None.

Officers:

Fiona Shipp, Canal Manager, Basingstoke Canal Authority

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. Work on the moorings was currently three months behind.
2. Staffing changes were taking effect. The departing Phil Allen was thanked for his hard work on the canal.
3. The rollout of the new licence fee was in its second stage covering April to March. Some fees were available online.
4. A full tree survey would be starting on 14 July.
5. A blue/green algal bloom had recently affected the canal in parts of Hampshire due to the run off after winter. No further reports had been received but this would be closely monitored.
6. Following a botanical survey the canal SSSI had moved from unfavourable position to unfavourable recovery, which was considered good news. The current boat limit of 1,500 per year was expected to increase should the SSSI levels continue to improve.
7. Work would begin on the car park charges in Reading Road, Fleet, in July. This was not expected to generate a significant profit over the next year due to installation charges.
8. Work to fix the winter's landslip was on track to be completed for the start of the boating season next year. A design to resolve the slip had almost been finalised, planning permission had been requested and an ecological survey would be required. Cllr Chapman was determined for the work to be completed; where the funds would come from would be agreed at a later time. There would be restrictions on boats during the works, as soon as dates were confirmed they would be widely circulated.
9. The possibility of utilising charity funding via the Inland Waterways Association channels to acquire another weedcutter was discussed.

10. The Chairman thanked the Canal Manager and the Canal Centre staff for the report and their hard work throughout the winter months.

RESOLVED: That

1. The report be noted.

Actions/further information to be provided:

1. Gareth Jones to put Fiona Shipp in touch with the appropriate person to obtain a weedcutter through charitable funding.

Committee next steps: None.

20/14 CANAL SOCIETY REPORT [Item 10]

Declarations of interest: None.

Officers:

Philip Riley, Basingstoke Canal Society
Martin Leech, Basingstoke Canal Society

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The BCA's weedcutter had been used for approximately 40 hours on the canal, equating to some £5,000.
2. The John Pinkerton 11 had been a great ambassador for the canal, but would be leaving in early August. Mr Riley offered all members the opportunity for a trip on the boat prior to its departure. There was a high level of interest, and Mr Riley would arrange the visit outside the meeting.
3. The lack of a joined up policy on planning and the need for an officer to look into planning reports and provide advice on how to overcome obstacles.
4. It was agreed that the Magna Carta anniversary would provide a great opportunity for the Canal, with lots planned throughout both counties and the canal providing a link between Odiham and Runnymede. It was suggested that all councillors engage with the Authorities in order to make the most of the opportunity.
5. The opportunity to build visitor centres was encouraged, although the projected needed impetus and additional resources. Mr Riley would come up with a more definitive programme.

Actions/further information to be provided:

1. Mr Riley to organise a trip for interested parties on the John Pinkerton 11.

Committee next steps: None.

21/14 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING [Item 11]

The Committee noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 16 October 2014 at the Mytchett Canal Centre.

Cllr Chapman thanked colleagues for their attendance.

Meeting ended at: 11.30 am

Chairman

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Basingstoke Canal Authority Joint Management Committee
Date:	16 October 2014
Title:	Out-turn Forecast 2014/15 and Forward Budget 2015/16
Reference:	
Report From:	Report of The Honorary Treasurer

Contact name: Jane Lovett, Finance Business Partner, Hampshire County Council

Tel: 01962 847518

Email: Jane.Lovett@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief Members on the financial position of the Basingstoke Canal Authority. In summary members are asked to:

- review and agree the out-turn forecast for the current year 2014/15;
- agree the budget for 2015/16 for submission to individual constituent authorities.

1.2 Net revenue costs are incurred by Hampshire County Council (HCC) and recharged to Surrey County Council and the Riparian Districts in the manner agreed by the Joint Management Committee. Capital expenditure is currently being funded by Hampshire and Surrey County Councils for specific repairs and improvements.

1.3 The out-turn forecast shows the Canal will draw £45,000 from the reserve during 2014/15, the cost of the tree survey. For 2015/16 some savings still need to be identified to achieve a balanced budget.

1.4 To enable reporting to fall in line with HCC's new systems and processes the format of the appendices, mainly the categories of reporting have changed since the last report. Expenditure categories will remain relatively unchanged however income has been re-categorised into six distinct areas, Appendix B gives a breakdown of what is included within each area.

2. Out-turn Forecast 2014/15

The out-turn forecast for 2014/15 is set out in Appendix A which shows a draw on the reserve of £45,000 to cover the cost of the tree survey. The original budget savings to be identified of £29,345 have been covered by savings of £7,800 over a number of expenditure headings and additional income, mainly from mooring fees and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) grant funding.

2.1 The budget for partner contributions was originally set at £543,847 and was based on the formula for contributions. The out-turn forecast has been reduced by £27,202 following notifications to date from partners of their planned contributions and assumptions that the remainder will make contributions at the same level as in 2013/14 (Appendix A).

2.2 The out-turn forecast revenue expenditure shows an increase of £93,000 against the original budget. Employee, Premise and Supplies and Services budgets have been reduced, whilst costs included under Canal Maintenance have increased. The reasons for these changes are explained below:

- **Employees (-£1,500)**

A small reduction in staffing costs is anticipated by the end of the financial year due to changes in the year to seasonal lock keepers. The out-turn forecast includes a 1% cost of living increase and an increase in employer's pension contributions, following the pension actuary valuation.

- **Premises (£-2,000)**

The original Premises budget included cleaning material which has moved category and now sits under Supplies and Services.

- **Canal Maintenance (£71,500)**

The Canal Maintenance budget is now held separately from other premises costs to provide more clarity. The budget had been increased by £4,500 from the original budget due to the transfer of operational equipment and research expenditure from the Supplies and Services budget.

Unplanned expenditure of £22,000 for destination signs, vegetation clearance and graffiti removal to improve canal paths for cyclists and pedestrians, will be fully funded by a grant from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

An additional £45,000 will be spent to cover the tree survey which was budgeted to be carried out during 2013/14, with the underspend being transferred to the reserves. The cost will be covered by draw from the unallocated reserve at the end of 2014/15.

- **Transport (£0)**

The transport out-turn forecast is in line with the original budget, the only change to this would be due to any large unforeseen repairs being required on Canal vehicles.

- **Supplies and Services (-£4,400)**

This reduction represents budget transfers to other headings.

- **Savings to be Identified (£29,354)**

The original budget showed savings to be identified which have now been covered with savings of £7,800 over a number of expenditure headings and additional income of £21,554 coming mainly from mooring fees and Higher Level Stewardship grant income (HLS).

2.3 The out-turn forecast figure for income has increased by £48,200. Income categories have been adjusted to fit the new HCC reporting structure and

details on these changes are highlighted in Appendix B. The following paragraphs set out reasons for changes (excluding re-classifications)

- **General Fees and Charges (£1,800)**
There is an anticipated increase in Angling fees of £1,800 by the end of the year.
- **Grants & Contributions – Partnership Contributions**
The partner contributions have not all been received or confirmed for 2014/15; therefore the out-turn forecast has been set based on agreed formula contribution with the anticipated shortfall shown as a reduction in expenditure. Fleet Town Council and Church Crookham Parish Council will no longer make a contribution; instead the Canal will need to submit a grant application for funding each year. This budget assumes these applications will be successful.
- **Grants & Contributions – Other (£33,400)**
Additional grant income of £22,000 is anticipated from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund to cover the cost of destination signs etc. and will offset the additional costs included in the Canal Maintenance section above. A further £11,000 will be received from HLS for the annual grassland maintenance and project work covered in section 5 of the report, which was not previously included in the budget.
- **Rental Income (£8,000)**
Rental income from mooring fees has increased around £8,000 due increase mooring capacity and the restructured pricing model introduced in April 2014.
- **Sales Income (£3,700)**
An increase of £2,800 in event sales and £900 in shop sales is anticipated by the end of the financial year.
- **Miscellaneous Income (£1,200)**
Unexpected income of £1,200 has been received in relation to filming on the canal.

3. Forward Budget 2015/16

- 3.1 The budget for 2015/16 has been prepared and is set out in Appendix A. It is anticipated that staff will receive an annual pay award of 1%, and there will be some incremental salary rises. It is further assumed that although other prices will increase due to inflation that they will be covered by efficiencies and cost management and therefore no allowance has been made for non-pay inflation overall.
- 3.2 Contributions from the individual partner authorities in 2015/16 have been based on the previous formula contribution with the anticipated shortfall shown under expenditure, as the updated Memorandum of Agreement has not yet been signed.
- 3.3 Total revenue expenditure is expected to be £718,800 with the key assumptions in arriving at this figure shown below alongside comparisons to the 2014/15 out-turn forecast where relevant:

- **Employees (£8,300)**
The budget for employee costs has increased by £8,300 when compared to the 2014/15 out-turn forecast. This is due to additional cost to be incurred to cover incremental, inflationary (assumed at 1%) and employer pension contributions increases.
- **Premises (£700)**
Premises costs are expected to be £700 higher to allow for some small inflationary increases.
- **Canal Maintenance (-£67,500)**
The budget for Canal maintenance has been kept at the same level as for 2014/15 to help ensure the Canal infrastructure is adequately maintained. The reduction from out-turn forecast relates to the one off costs for the Tree Survey £45,000 and the destination signage covered by a one off grant in 2014/15 of £22,000.
- **Transport (£1,700)**
It is anticipated that the number and types of vehicles will remain the same in 2015/16 with inflationary increases to cover increase fuel and hire costs.
- **Supplies and Services (£1,000)**
There are a number of changes across various headings within the Supplies and Service budget which has resulted in an overall increase in the budget for the year against the out-turn forecast figure for 2014/15.
- **Savings to be Identified (-£6,300)**
The Canal forward budget has been prepared with further savings needing to be identified to meet a balanced budget. Further details of how the £6,300 shortfall will be met will be included in the February 2015 report.
- **Shortfall in Partner Contributions (£3,800)**
The budget has been compiled taking into account past shortfalls in partner contributions. Whilst it is hoped that all partners will pay in full, it is important that the Canal does not commit to expenditure it may not be able to finance. This figure represents what may not be received based on last years contributions and has increased due to a budget for Odiham Parish Council's contribution of £4,036 being reinstated following agreement that they would continue to contribute. A reduction of £200 relates to the remove of the contribution from Rotherwick as the Parish does not fall along the Canal.

3.4 The income budget for 2015/16 has been set £13,300 lower than the figure in the 2014/15 out-turn forecast.

- **General Fees and Charges (-£2,400)**
A reduction in camping fees of £7,000 is due to the Farnborough Air Show not taking place in 2015/16 and has been partly offset by an increase in Boat License fees of £4,000 due to the restructured pricing model introduced in April 2014, along with a number of small changes across other headings.

- **Grants and Contributions - Other (-£24,500)**
The reduction is due to £22,000 one off payment received from the Local Sustainable Transport fund in 2014/15 and a £2,500 reduction in HLS funding linked to project work.
- **Rental income (£11,000)**
An increase in mooring fees of £11,000 is expected as a result of the restructured pricing model and increased mooring capacity completed during 2014/15.
- **Other Miscellaneous Income (-£1,200)**
No miscellaneous income has been budgeted for 2015/16.

4. Capital Expenditure Programme

- 4.1 The current position on the main capital schemes are detailed in Appendix C, showing projected spend for 2014/15 and 2015/16.
- 4.2 To enable reporting to fall in line with Hampshire County Councils new systems and processes, expenditure categories have been updated to mirror those set up within the accounting system, the changes are detailed at the bottom of Appendix C.
- 4.3 **Hampshire** - £110,000 underspend from the 2013/14 core capital contribution has been carried forward and added to the £1,000,000 core contribution for 2014/15.
- 4.4 A scheduled spend of £1,036,000 has been set for 2014/15, including continuing work in relation to the Dogmersfield landslip and culvert works at various locations along the Hampshire section.
- 4.5 Procurement of the telemetry equipment is underway and it is anticipated that once received it be around 6-8 months until the system is fully operational.
- 4.6 To date £33,600 has been spent on bank works and £5,600 for containers to house the emergency pumps. The new work boat will be ordered shortly with an estimated cost of £52,000.
- 4.7 **Surrey** - £40,000 overspend from the 2013/14 allocation has been offset against the £500,000 core contribution for 2014/15.
- 4.8 A schedule spend of £527,000 has been set for 2014/15, with the majority of the budget covering embankment works at various locations on the Surrey section.
- 4.9 Emergency pumps have been purchased from the equipment budget at a cost of £52,745 and will be housed in the containers purchased through the Hampshire fund at various locations along the canal.
- 4.10 The remainder of the £32,000 carried forward from the Surrey Estates capital fund linked to the Canal centre redevelopment, will be spent during 2014/15 with £15,000 spent in the year to date.

5 Special Projects

5.1 The current position on externally funded special projects managed by the Canal is shown in Appendix D.

- Odiham Castle – funds stand at £3,600, with £2,500 ring fenced until the end of 2016/17, to be spent on the replacement of interpretation signs due to vandalism or general wear and tear if required during the year.
- Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) funding

Surrey - HLS Rural Payments Agency

Annual Grassland Maintenance – receipts of £2,500 are anticipated for 2014/15, with £1,250 received to date. Maintenance work on the grassland is expected to continue under the current agreement until 2021 with receipts used to offset the staffing costs incurred by the Canal during 2014/15.

Other projects –

Previously identified tree felling project work is planned for either Deepcut or Mytchett with work to be completed by October 2014 to qualify for HLS funding.

Hampshire - HLS Rural Payments Agency

Annual Grass and Woodland Maintenance – receipts of £5,600 are anticipated for 2014/15, with £2,800 received to date. Maintenance work on the grassland is expected to continue under the current agreement until 2022. Receipts will offset the staffing costs incurred by the Canal during 2014/15.

Other projects –

The majority of work planned for 2014/15 will be tree related with a combination of felling and tree surgery planned at Rushmore flash. Funding of £2,600 is expected from HLS, these funds will be used to offset some of the staffing costs associated with the project.

6 Reserves

6.1 A detailed breakdown of reserves is shown in Appendix E.

6.2 As agreed at the last Joint Management Committee meeting in June 2014, a number of allocated reserves have been incorporated into the main unallocated fund, with only the Dredging and Silt Disposal reserve remaining, with funds of £24,078. The unallocated fund now stands at £280,562, with total reserves totalling £304,640.

6.3 A draw of £45,000 is forecast for the unallocated reserve in 2014/15. This is to cover the cost of the Tree survey due to be carried out during the year. It is anticipated that £1,100 will be received in interest at the end of the year on the balance held by Hampshire County Council.

- 6.4 The unallocated reserve will stand at £236,662 at the end of the year, with the dredging reserve remaining unchanged at £24,078, giving a total reserve figure of £260,740 at the end of 2014/15.
- 6.5 The forward budget has been set anticipating a balanced budget and therefore the only movement will relate to anticipated interest on the balance held of £900, reflecting the lower balance. This will give a reserve figure of £261,640 at the end of 2015/16.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 This report indicates that due to the current economic climate the Basingstoke Canal continue to face on going financial challenges. Savings and additional income have now been identified in the current year in order to achieve a balanced budget, apart from an agreed draw to cover the cost of the tree survey. There are still small savings to be identified in order to balance the 2015/16 budget.
- 7.2 Additional mooring along the canal has increased income to enable the Canal continues to maintain good standards, although financial constraints on the budgets of partners continue to create pressures.

Recommendations

- 1 That members support the out-turn forecast for 2014/15.
- 2 That the proposed budget for 2015/16 be agreed and accepted.
- 3 That all partner authorities be urged to make their full contributions and to honour the agreed scale contributions for 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Actual Outturn 2013/14 £		Original Budget 2014/15 £	Forecast Outturn August'14 £	Variance against Budget £	Actuals 31 Aug'14 £	Forward Budget 2015/16 £
	<u>Expenditure</u>					
395,446	Employees	399,200	397,745	(1,455)	152,240	406,000
34,983	Premises	32,300	30,300	(2,000)	7,372	31,000
142,531	Canal Maintenance	153,000	224,500	71,500	85,842	157,000
65,203	Transport	59,300	59,300	0	24,371	61,000
41,451	Supplies & Services	42,400	38,000	(4,400)	10,347	39,000
0	Savings to be identified	(29,354)	0	29,354	0	(6,255)
0	Shortfall In Partner Contributions	27,002	27,202	200	0	31,038
679,614	Total Revenue Expenditure	683,848	777,047	93,199	280,172	718,783
	<u>Income</u>					
102,235	General Fees & Charges	89,300	79,200	(10,100)	55,092	76,800
516,645	Grants & Contributions - Partner Contributions	543,847	543,847	0	153,188	547,683
18,983	Grants & Contributions - other	1,200	34,600	33,400	635	10,100
24,036	Rental Income	23,701	43,700	19,999	25,599	54,700
29,866	Sales Income	25,800	29,500	3,700	9,668	29,500
0	Other Miscellaneous Income	0	1,200	1,200	1,200	0
691,765	Total Revenue Income	683,848	732,047	48,199	245,382	718,783
(12,151)	Contribution (to)/from Reserves	0	45,000	45,000		0
	Partner Contributions					
153,188	Surrey County Council	153,188	153,188	0	0	153,188
34,960	Guildford Borough Council	39,076	34,960	4,116	0	39,076
8,000	Runnymede Borough Council	16,869	8,000	8,869	0	16,869
10,000	Surrey Heath Borough Council	26,283	10,000	16,283	0	26,283
53,276	Woking Borough Council	53,276	53,276	0	0	53,276
153,188	Hampshire County Council	153,188	153,188	0	153,188	153,188
30,000	Hart District Council	30,924	30,000	924	0	30,924
3,048	Crookham Village Parish Council	3,048	3,048	0	0	3,048
6,750	Church Crookham Parish Council	6,750	6,750	0	0	6,750
240	Dogmersfield Parish Council	240	240	0	0	240
18,309	Fleet Town Council	18,309	18,309	0	0	18,309
4,036	Odiham Parish Council	0	4,036	(4,036)	0	4,036
0	Rotherwick Parish Council	200	0	200	0	0
250	Winchfield Parish Council	250	250	0	0	250
41,400	Rushmoor Borough Council	42,246	41,400	846	0	42,246
516,645		543,847	516,645	27,202	153,188	547,683
	General Reserves					
(291,457)	Opening Balance	(304,640)	(304,640)			(260,740)
(12,151)	Contribution (to)/from Reserves	0	45,000			0
(1,032)	Interest on Balances	0	(1,100)			(900)
(304,640)	Closing Balance	(304,640)	(260,740)			(261,640)

Old Format		Original Budget 2014/15		
	Income	£		
a	Boat licenses	24,100	d. Rent & Hire of Facilities	
b	Sales	6,100	1 Camping	45,000
c	Angling	11,200	3 Mooring	3,000
d	Rent & hire of Facilities	58,300	3 Gate/Garden license	300
e	Group Activities	19,700	1 Dry Dock	1,600
f	Fibre Optic Cable	20,401	1 Hire of Barn/Container	1,400
g	Donations	200	1 Function Room	5,500
h	Interst/Other Income	0	2 Tea room Electricity	1,000
	Total Revenue Income	140,001	1 School Activities	500
i	Partner Contributions	543,847		58,300
		683,848		

New Format		2014/15 Budget	2014/15 Outturn	2015/16 Budget	2013/14 Actuals
		£	£	£	£
1. General Fees & Charges					
7003	Education guided & self guided visits	d 500	500	500	977
7112	Campsite fees	d 45,000	45,000	38,000	57,646
7151	Admin fees	0	100	100	81
7192	pump out fees	0	100	100	61
7239	Angling fees (sio 3558741)	c 11,200	13,000	13,000	11,704
7239	Boat licenses (sio 3558754)	a 24,100	12,000	16,000	20,702
7400	Dry dock	d 1,600	1,500	1,600	1,337
7400	Hire of Barn & container	d 1,400	1,000	1,000	1,475
7400	Function room hire various sio's	d 5,500	6,000	6,500	8,252
		89,300	79,200	76,800	102,235
2. Grants & Contributions					
6793	Donations	g 200	22,100	100	519
7188	Elec recharge for Tea room	d 1,000	1,500	1,500	5,500
7190	HLS recovered cost to offset staffing costs		11,000	8,500	12,964
6543	Partner contributions	i 543,847	516,645	547,683	516,645
		545,047	551,245	557,783	535,628
3. Rental Income					
7410	Mooring	d 3,000	23,000	34,000	7,542
7418	Rents (gate & Garden license)	d 300	300	200	306
7418	Rents (fibre optic cable Hants)	f 20,401	20,400	20,500	16,189
		23,701	43,700	54,700	24,036
4. Sales Income					
6588	Shop sales	b 6,100	7,000	7,000	8,378
6586	Sale of Tickets (main inc from Santa Cruises)	e 19,700	22,500	22,500	21,488
		25,800	29,500	29,500	29,866
5. Other Miscellaneous Income					
7203	Miscellaneous income	0	1,200	0	0
		683,848	704,845	718,783	691,765

	Surrey County Council Estates	Surrey County Council Countryside	Surrey Vegetation Scheme	Hampshire County Council Capital Fund	Hampshire Emergency Repair Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 31st March 2014	(32,334)	40,166	(9,507)	(110,421)	(22,059)	(134,155)
Core Capital Contribution	0	(500,000)	0	(1,000,000)	0	(1,500,000)
Expenditure						
Bank Works	0	369,250	0	832,000	0	1,201,250
Water Management	0	30,000	0	58,750	0	88,750
Equipment	0	52,745	0	52,941	22,059	127,745
Canal Structure	0	75,000	9,507	92,000	0	176,507
Consultancy	32,334	0	0	0	0	32,334
Total cost of planned starts 2014/15	32,334	526,995	9,507	1,035,691	22,059	1,626,586
Balance as at 31st March 2015	0	67,161	0	(74,731)	0	(7,570)
Core Capital Contribution	0	(500,000)	0	(800,000)	0	(1,300,000)
Expenditure						
Bank Works	0	43,000	0	63,250	0	106,250
Water Management	0	79,500	0	709,500	0	789,000
Equipment	0	87,500	0	37,500	0	125,000
Canal Structure	0	255,500	0	62,500	0	318,000
Consultancy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total cost of planned starts 2015/16	0	465,500	0	872,750	0	1,338,250
Balance as at 31st March 2016	0	32,661	0	(1,980)	0	30,682
Core Capital Contribution	0	(500,000)	0	0	0	(500,000)
Expenditure						
Bank Works	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Management	0	361,250	0	0	0	361,250
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canal Structure	0	19,000	0	0	0	19,000
Consultancy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total cost of planned starts 2016/17	0	380,250	0	0	0	380,250
Balance as at 31st March 2017	0	(87,089)	0	(1,980)	0	(89,069)

Bank Works - Embankment repairs, including Tree works
Towpath re-instatement
Dogmersfield landslip work
Hardbank boat mooring

Water Management - Telemetry system
Stopgates and stop planks
Weir and sluices
Dredging

Equipment - Various equipment

Canal Structure - Culvert works
Lock structure works

Consultancy - Engineering & legal services

Basingstoke Canal - Special Projects Reconciliation

	Odiham Castle Scheme	HLS Rural Payments Agency SCC	HLS Rural Payments Agency HCC	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 31st March 2014	(3,600)	0	(0)	(3,600)
Expenditure				
Grassland Maintenance		2,519	5,636	8,155
Special Projects		0	0	0
Bank Repairs		0	0	0
Consultancy		0	0	0
Tree Work		10,000	2,578	12,578
Signage & maintenance	0			0
HLS Grasslands Income		(2,519)	(5,636)	(8,155)
HLS Income		(10,000)	(2,578)	(12,578)
HLS Match Funding		0	0	0
Balance as at 31st March 2015	(3,600)	0	(0)	(3,600)
Expenditure				
Grassland Maintenance		2,519	5,636	8,155
Special Projects		0	0	0
Bank Repairs		0	0	0
Consultancy		0	0	0
Tree Work		0	0	0
Signage	0			0
HLS Grasslands Income		(2,519)	(5,636)	(8,155)
HLS Income		0	0	0
HLS Match Funding		0	0	0
Balance as at 31st March 2016	(3,600)	0	0	(3,600)
Expenditure				
Grassland Maintenance		2,519	5,636	8,155
Special Projects		0	0	0
Bank Repairs		0	0	0
Consultancy		0	0	0
Tree Work		0	0	0
Signage	0			0
HLS Grasslands Income		(2,519)	(5,636)	(8,155)
HLS Income		0	0	0
HLS Match Funding		0	0	0
Balance as at 31st March 2017	(3,600)	0	0	(3,600)

Basingstoke Canal Reserves 2013-16

5

	Unallocated Reserve	Dredging & Silt Disposal	General Reserves Total
	£	£	£
Balance as at 31st March 2013	(237,814)	(24,078)	(291,457)
Income (Interest on Balances)	(1,032)	0	(1,032)
Plus Net Contribution For The Year	(12,151)	0	(12,151)
Transfers from other reserves	(29,565)	0	0
Balance as at 31st March 2014	(280,562)	(24,078)	(304,640)
Income (Interest on Balances)	(1,100)	0	(1,100)
Planned use of reserve	45,000	0	45,000
Balance as at 31st March 2015	(236,662)	(24,078)	(260,740)
Income (Interest on Balances)	(900)	0	(900)
Planned use of reserve	0	0	0
Balance as at 31st March 2016	(237,562)	(24,078)	(261,640)

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Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee
16 October 2014



Conservation Management Plan - Change to SSSI status

Decision Paper

Lead officer: James Taylor
Telephone: 01483 517538
Email: james.taylor@surreycc.gov.uk

Key Issue

To authorise officers to request Natural England to consider re-assessing the SSSI status as recommended by the Conservation Steering Group.

Summary

As a result of surveys carried out in 2012 and subsequent analysis of this data by Dr John Eaton, it is felt that the condition of the canal SSSI has changed significantly enough to warrant a re-assessment of its official status: a change from 'unfavourable declining' to 'unfavourable recovering'

Officer's recommendation

That the JMC commends Dr Eaton's detailed study, and authorise officers to submit his report together with a letter requesting Natural England to re-assess the officially recorded condition of the Basingstoke Canal SSSI.

1. Introduction and Background

A re-assessment¹ of the condition of the SSSI has been carried out by Dr John Eaton of Liverpool University; a leading British expert on botany in canals. Dr Eaton's assessment is against the Conservation Objectives (COs) and Favourable Condition Tables (FCTs) provided by Natural England for the Basingstoke Canal SSSI (which are set out in Appendix 2 of the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Management Plan 2008).

Data has been drawn from Groome & Hall 2012 Survey of the Wetland Flora of the Basingstoke Canal. Their field survey methodology very broadly followed the procedures set out in Common Standard Monitoring Guidance for Canals (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2005, but not against the specific Conservation Objectives and Favourable Condition Tables of the Basingstoke Canal.

Dr Eaton has used Groome & Hall's very detailed data as far as possible to construct a Condition Assessment of the two Canal SSSI units (Canal East and Canal West). In addition, some older reports on vegetation and habitat were used to attempt to test for trends in the Condition of the SSSI up to 2012.

The SSSI includes designated features other than channel vegetation (invertebrate assemblages, off-channel areas and Pondtail Heath). These were not part of the survey remit of Groome & Hall and no recent data are available on them. No assessment of them is made here.

¹ Dr Eaton's report is entitled "AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE CHANNEL VEGETATION COMPONENT OF THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL SITE OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN 2012 by Dr J.W.Eaton University of Liverpool 25th April 2014 - incorporating amendments to the Introduction received from members of the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Steering Group up to 27th May 2014".

2. Discussion

Dr Eaton's report concludes that overall condition of the SSSI is "Unfavourable" because 7 out of 14 assessments for Canal West and 8 out of 15 for Canal East remain unfavourable; Norris Bridge, Hampshire, being the dividing point between the two SSSI parcels of Canal East and Canal West.

Two attributes for which condition appears to be deteriorating are: emergent fringe widths in Canal East, and overall species richness in Canal West. However, set against the latter there is a re-appearance of submersed vegetation along the 6 km of Canal West, in the form of a continuous population of milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). This length has been devoid of submersed plants for many years. Milfoil can function as a pioneer coloniser, probably originating from seed which drifts downstream, sinks into the canal bed and germinates there. If it maintains the 2012 colonisation it is likely to increase population density along the margins of the navigation channel and provide habitat for secondary colonisers to develop. This is a potentially major development towards recovery within Canal West.

The other attribute for which decline is recorded is the continuing spread of non-native species in both SSSI units. This is an apparently inevitable national trend. Dr Eaton concludes that what can be done to control it is being done effectively by the BCA and its volunteers; Dr Eaton especially mentions the control in the spread of Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*). It is notable that elsewhere the presence of quite dense populations of non-native species also support the largest numbers of native species.

On the positive side, the quantity of native aquatic vegetation is increasing for the first time for many years, perhaps in part a response to the reduction in shading, following bankside tree management in recent years. The previously noted spread of milfoil in Canal West is a part of this process.

The Canal has maintained a strong alkalinity gradient, and recreational pressures from boating and angling remain within the limits set by the Conservation Management Plan and are therefore considered "Favourable". Water turbidity (cloudiness) however continues to be poor.

Floating mats of algae and/or duckweeds were absent from Canal West, but present at the eastern end of Canal East. Canal East however has supported mats of floating vegetation for at least 30 years and it should be noted that although technically this requires its condition to be reported as "Unfavourable", these mats are largely composed of a recognised natural community of duckweeds (*Lemna minor*, *Lemna trisulca*) and crystalwort (*Riccia fluitans*) and do not prevent some of the richest submersed plant communities along the whole canal from developing beneath them.

Dr Eaton concludes that balancing the limited declines against recoveries or improvements in condition that a conclusion should be reached that the overall condition of the SSSI should now be **"Unfavourable, recovering."**

This conclusion is based on the detailed assessment of a very thorough botanical survey by a leading expert in the field, and represents a major success for the way conservation has and is being managed on the Canal, and reinforces the need to continue with the policies and work programmes contained in the Conservation Management Plan.

3. Consultation

This has been consulted on at length with the Conservation Steering Group (an advisory group made up of appropriate officers, key stakeholders and experts from the Environment Agency and Natural

England). The Conservation Steering Group recommend that Dr Eaton’s report is submitted to Natural England, and they are invited to use it to formally re- assess the Canal SSSI’s condition.

4. Financial and value for money implications

There are no direct financial implications for the submission of the report to Natural England.

The positive progress of the SSSI condition from “Unfavorable, declining” to “Unfavorable, recovering” has implications that may lead to further grant funding being made available for conservation work on the Canal where it furthers the policies contained in the Conservation Management Plan, for example through Higher Level Stewardship, or a scheme which replaces it.

5. Equalities & diversity implication

5.1. None

6. Crime & disorder implications

6.1. None

7. Conclusion and recommendation

7.1. Officers recommend that Dr Eaton’s proposal is submitted to Natural England, together with a request to use it for re-assessing the formal condition of the SSSI.

8. What happens next

8.1. If accepted Dr Eaton’s proposal will be submitted to Natural England for verification.

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BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 16 October 2014

Water Strategy Group Report

Lead Officer: John How (Inland Waterways Association / Basingstoke Canal Society)

7

Two major topics progressed;-

- Abstraction Licenses - Renewal for next 10 years.
- Telemetry for Canal

Abstraction Licence

The existing (10 year) abstraction licence for both Woodham and St John's pumping stations are due to end by March 2015. The JMC is reminded that in 2011/12 the EA agreed to double the existing abstraction licence at Woodham from 1.7Ml/day to 3.4Ml/day as a temporary permit, until a new 10 year licence was requested in 2015.

Work had already commenced on the justification for continuing with the current abstraction volumes, but with the ever increasing problems of water stress in the South of England, we had expected some difficulty in convincing EA to grant the higher abstraction rate for the future.

We are delighted to report that the EA have written confirming that they will look favourably at granting new 10 year abstraction licenses for the present (increased) volumes, without any additional justification.

James Taylor has now made the application based on previous data (SCC are the holders of these licenses), so as to initiate the EA approval process now, before any changes to EA approach or personnel.

Telemetry

A contract has been awarded to Aquamatix Ltd for 'Telemetry', following the single tender action approval, thanks to the instructions/help from Keith Chapman and Andy Smith.

Project design, installation and commissioning are to be completed before Easter 2015 (start of the boating season). This will be followed by a 5 year 'User Agreement' for designated people to view particular data on a hosted website, plus some areas on the hosted website to be available to the public.

The Project will be the first in UK (and probably the world), for Canal operations to provide and integrate;-

- Live data of Water levels at nine specific locations throughout the canal, to be viewed through a

secure website from a tablet; any smart phone or pc. This will provide the duty Ranger with live water level statues and where potential problems might be developing.

- Full automated control of the two back pumping stations (Woodham and St John's), plus monitoring of the third area drainage pumping station at Frimley. This ensures minimal energy/costs and enhances our ability to demonstrate enhanced water management/reduction.
- Use the Water Balance Model (WBM) produced by Southampton University, on the website to view the whole water situation for the canal, lapsed by 24 hrs, based on rainfall data gathered from the EA systems. This will provide greater opportunities to manage water resources on a day to day basis. In addition with trend data (2016 onwards) we expect to provide a 3 month look ahead for any water problems, particularly if the canal is expected to close due to water shortages.
- Innovative concepts for this project include;-
 - The whole project using todays emerging technology of the 'Internet of Things' (IOT).
 - The specialist equipment for water level sensors; logic units and SIM cards to transmit to the hosted website all disguised as normal Canal structures to prevent vandalism
 - The SIM cards are 'data only' transmitting units, that only require 2G connectivity (can search for the strongest network signals) and will cost nominally 70p/month to run, not the normal £10/month for most 'voice' SIMs.

Work continues to investigate additional water sources and/or water storage facilities.

BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Date: 16 October 2014



Hampshire
County Council



Canal Management Report

Lead Officers: James Taylor / Fiona Shipp
 Tel: 01483 517538 / 01252 370073
 Email: james.taylor@surreycc.gov.uk / Fiona.shipp@hants.gov.uk



BCA Canal Manager

The BCA Canal Manager reports that:

Works

- We now have 4 boats on the new moorings at the canal centre with others being lined up as we complete each section and work our way down the waiting list.
- The 1st summer towpath cut was completed over 64 miles and the end of summer cut is due to start over the next couple of weeks.
- Annual Japanese Knotweed spraying has been underway along the canal. Each stand is either sprayed or injected each year. A full invasive species survey last summer helped us ensure we not missing anything.
- We have managed to acquire a new area of land from the MOD at Ash Lock (on a lease) and we have carried out several weeks of work of groundworks to prepare this site for arrival of new emergency equipment.

Staffing

- Sadly after 3.5 years we will be losing Rachael Thomas from our Administration team next month as she will be leaving us to have a baby and start a new life in Wales. She will be missed. Rachael's position has been filled through re-deployment from Hampshire and Sue Doyle will be starting with us for her handover at the end of September.
- 2 new lock keepers came and then left and have been replaced by two new ones (Matt and James) and hopefully a third about to start and see us through to the end of the season.

Volunteers

- The Tuesday volunteer group have worked their way through all the locks giving them a full spruce up and re-paint which has helped give our visiting boaters a positive welcome.
- The canal society have installed a new visitor mooring at Brookwood Country Park and also reinstated 800m of towpath through this stretch of canal.
- We will be holding the 2nd lengthsman workshop here in November. The workshops are aimed at giving opportunities for the lengthsman to learn more about how we manage the canal. The 1st workshop focused on water management. This 2nd one will focus on tree management and the other volunteer teams have also been invited to attend.

Weedcutter

- The weedcutter run by the Canal Society volunteers has been tackling weed in the Woking and woodham areas all summer keeping the canal open through this stretch. Literally moving tonnes of weed.

Boat Audit

- We have carried out a boat audit working through the unlicensed boats on the canal. This has been a visual look at gardens from the towpath followed by door knocking. Reminding anyone with boats of the licence requirements. We have unearthed several unlicensed powered boats and helped encourage either removal from the canal of the more derelict ones or payment for the others.

Management Team

- The tree survey has been completed over 7 weeks and already the most dangerous trees have been removed from the full length. 600 others have been identified for more minor works which we hope to have carried out this winter. The full report should be with us over the next few weeks. There were no signs of ash dieback or sudden oak death which was good and overall they felt that the tree stock was in good condition.
- Visiting boat numbers have been good this season and have at least equalled last year where we had 100 visiting boats through. We will report more accurately at the end of the season.
- Water levels have been really good this summer with regular rainfall to top us up and hence there has been a lack of Navigation updates. No news is good news however!

SCC / HCC Strategic Manager

The Strategic Manager reports that:

Capital works

Major works are planned in the capital programme for this winter in both Counties. Planning of the various projects are not as far ahead as we might have liked to see at this stage, mainly due to lack of resource provided by engineering services in both Counties, and procurement difficulties particularly in Hampshire. The following items are due to take place during the winter of 2014-15:

Hampshire

- **Dogmersfield landslip** – a deal has now been struck with the adjoining landowner who will carry out works to the slip on his land leaving HCC to install sheet piles at waters edge and reinstate the canal channel and towpath. Planning consent may be required for this work. HCC's works are unlikely to occur until January 2015, and these works are likely to close the channel for at least 8 weeks. The Strategic Manager has reminded Engineers of the importance of the navigation being open in time for Easter 2015.
- HCC Engineering Consultancy have been instructed to carry out repairs to two **culverts** under the Canal which the inspection identified as being in poor condition – these are located either side of the Dogmersfield slip on a design and build basis; but they appear to have made no progress with programming this work to date.
- **Swan Bridge** – HCC engineers have appointed Atkins to arrive at a design for the replacement of the failing piling and slumping towpath and reinstatement of a suitable depth channel. If a permanent solution to the land instability at Swan cannot be installed in time for the 2015 season the Strategic Manager has requested Engineers to consider a temporary fix to ensure that both navigation and towpath are in acceptable condition during the Magna Carta celebrations in May 2015.

Surrey

- The 2009 Embankment Survey identified a number of embankments requiring remedial work on a prioritised basis. The following **embankments** are those next in the priority list:
 - Frimley Lodge Park - Mytchett Canal Centre -800m of soft bank protection

- Canal Centre – Mytchett Place Bridge – 100m of hard bank protection
- Further investigation is also required on the Rive Ditch (Woking) and Horsell Sluice outfall **culverts**, and once re-inspected repairs may need to be programmed urgently.
- A new set of **lock gates** will be purchased from capital for Lock 10.

Both counties

- **Ash Embankment** is due to be drained down in January for SCC Structures whilst they carryout the overdue principle inspection of the A331 Aqueduct. We have decided that during the drain down we will arranged for a contractor to re-puddle the clay lining above two minor leak sites one situated on each side of the county border.
- Following from the Parson Brickerhoff principle **tree hazard inspection**, mentioned above, a contractor will be employed to work through the list of identified tree works.
- A contract is now in place for Aquamtix to supply a **telemetry system** to measure and record water levels at key points, provide rangers with palmtop data 24/7 and provide remote pump control for the Woodham and St John's back pumping systems.
- **Purchase of emergency use equipment** – SCC have purchased two new trailable pumps, HCC will purchase a new light-weight trailable workboat, a supply of stop planks plus containers to store them in.

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REPORT TO JMC OCTOBER 2014

1. Recent work on the canal

In September the Society organized a very successful work camp on the canal when 20 volunteers from the Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) spent a week working in the Brookwood Country Park area. The existing wooden landing stage at the Country Park was extended and around 800m of towpath was re-surfaced. The volunteers came from all over the country and many of them used part of their annual holidays to work on the canal. The Society is particularly grateful to Hampshire County Council for making the Runways End Activity Centre available to accommodate the work party.



Extended landing stage (right of centre) and resurfaced towpath (left) at Brookwood Country Park

The Society's own volunteers have continued to undertake weed cutting in the Woking area using the BCA's weedcutter (below) which the Society has renovated at its expense. The use of volunteers for this work has produced considerable savings for the owners of the canal. We have calculated that the volunteer time spent to date would have cost the BCA around £7K at commercial rates, which already exceeds the cost of renovation and repairs.

The work party is now removing the remaining logs from the area adjacent to the Dogmersfield slip in readiness for the repair work to be carried out this winter. So far about £1200 has been raised towards the Canal from the sale of logs, with many more to be disposed of.

Work on the Society's barn at Colt Hill (which is used as the operating base for the John Pinkerton trip boat) was finally completed in the summer. The Society has also offered to repair a permissive footpath in Dark Wood, Greywell for the Earl of Malmesbury. This path

provides an important link between the bridleway over Greywell Tunnel and the towpath leading westwards towards Basingstoke.



Removing hydrocotyle weed from the Canal in Woking



Removal of logs from the Dogmersfield landslip

2. Canal Society volunteer inputs

Since the June meeting of the JMC, Society work parties and visiting groups (including two WRG volunteer workcamps) have undertaken around 280 man-days work or approximately £22K Equivalent Value in Kind (EVIK). The Society has also invested around £15K of its charitable funds in the purchase of materials and the hiring of plant and equipment for the works undertaken by WRG at Brookwood Country Park, and £1.5K on improvement works at Lock 28. A further £1K approx. has been spent on weedcutter operational maintenance.

3. John Pinkerton Canal Cruises

At the beginning of August, the original *John Pinkerton*, which had given 37 years of excellent service (during which it earned over £³/₄m all of which has been re-invested into the canal) finally left the Basingstoke for a new career on the Kennet & Avon Canal.



The John Pinkerton finally leaving the Canal

Between Easter and mid-September, the *John Pinkerton II* has operated 120 private charters giving the opportunity for over 3800 passengers to enjoy the tranquility of the Basingstoke Canal. Public trips have again proved popular, boosted by a variety of themed trips including fancy dress for children, Jazz & Ale for adults, and a cruise to the Old Thatch NGS Open Day. These have raised the passenger numbers by a further 1450, making a total of 5250 so far this year.

The Dogsmersfield landslip forced us to retain JP1 to run the bi-annual July Air Show charters, and we made further use of it to invite councillors, from the wards through which the canal runs, to view the canal from a different perspective.

The *John Pinkerton II* is operated by a crew of four, all members of the Society. This represents a volunteering effort of over 2000 man-hours so far during 2014, raising funds dedicated solely to the maintenance and improvement of the Basingstoke Canal.

4. Planning

The Canal Society has repeatedly urged the JMC to use its influence with the riparian districts to ensure that the canal derives tangible benefits from new developments on adjoining land. This is especially important at the present time given the unprecedented number of developments which are coming through the pipeline. The introduction of Neighbourhood Plans provides a further opportunity to secure some additional value for the canal. However, to date, the Canal Partnership has failed to obtain any tangible results despite the fact that the Canal Society has cited several examples of success in these initiatives on other waterways. We can only record our considerable disappointment that important opportunities continue to be missed.

5. Milestones Museum

The Canal Society has now arranged for a display of the history of the canal to be included in the exhibits at the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke. The arrival of the canal in Basingstoke in the last decade of the eighteenth century marked a step change in the transport network of north Hampshire. The new display records this important development in the history of the town and its surrounding area and rectifies a long standing omission in the story of local transport.



Society member John Ross, who with Roger Cansdale assembled the Milestones display

Philip Riley
Chairman
The Basingstoke Canal Society

For the committee to receive an update on the progress of the redevelopment of the Canal Centre site.

Report to Follow

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