

BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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**Canal Management Report**

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The BCA Canal Manager reports that:

Larger Works

- Failure of upper lock gates at lock 14, repaired within a week
- Emergency test exercise held at canal centre, very successful and disaster averted!
- Canal staff team awarded a team award by HCC and all went on a team building day at Runways End Outdoor Activity Centre
- Queens Ave bridge works completed to re-instate piling and re-support towpath
- Repairs to N. Warnborough sluice and new winding mechanism installed and leaks repaired
- Leaks repaired at Crookham silt dump, Woking step bridge and N. Warnborough swan bridge areas
- Minor leak repaired at warren close in Fleet
- Started summer towpath cuts
- Lock gates replaced at Lock 7
- Clear out of Brookwood Mile as part of principle lock inspections and repair works
- A month of offside and towpath winter cutting undertaken
- Tree safety works carried out to over 200 trees along the canal in Surrey and Hampshire and a major lack of self felled trees this winter as a result of all the proactive works.
- Lock 17 re-planked and new cills installed
- Lock repairs to various locks including paddle stops and paddle runners
- Security upgrades at Ash Lock and beautiful purple trailers to reduce theft!

Events/Visitor Services

- New seasonal email footers produced as part of helping to promote the canal. Feel free to use
- Galleon marine hosted at canal centre to enable continuation of their business during the landslip closure
- Winter moorings introduced at Canal Centre as a new income stream
- Photoshoot held for magazine

Staffing

- New maintenance officer for the canal centre and campsite, John Andrews
- New Lock keepers Carl Veness (full time throughout boating season) and Martin Ward (casual)
- 3 new casual staff covering the boat hire business Emma, Dan and Max.
- Broken bones played a feature again this winter with another 2 staff succumbing to injuries, not in work time, but this did affect staff capacity while they were mending.

Volunteers

- Very successful year of volunteers and record number of hours recorded (see KRIs)
- Lots of control of invasive species especially a blitz on bamboo this winter, particularly in fleet and Ash
- Planning and survey works underway for new moorings at Farnborough Rd car park in conjunction with canal society
- BCA workboats refurbished by Society's engineering team

- Miles of towpath cutting carried out over the winter

Management Team

- Drafting of tree specification for the next round of tree surveys

SCC / HCC Strategic Manager

The Strategic Manager reports that:

Surrey

- Lock principle inspections and resulting urgent structural works

Hampshire

- Piling works at Zebon copse swing bridge to improve boat landing areas
- Landslip works complete
- Ash embankment re-lining completed

Both counties

First round of bank protection works completed throughout Surrey and Hampshire.

The depth survey carried out last year is being analysed, with indications now being that there are longer sections of the Hampshire pound further out of tolerance than initially thought. Concerns have been expressed by Natural England that turbidity in addition to tree shade are impacting SSSI condition, further analysis may support or rebut this.

The unusually dry winter and spring has revealed that the water supply issue has not gone away, but has only been masked by our careful water management. The telemetry project is now 2 years behind schedule, but there is progress and there are tantalising glimpses of the great potential of the system; we are very grateful for the involvement of three particularly skilled volunteers from the BCS (Martin Leech, Keith Pratt and John How) to help this along.

Key Results Indicators

Key Results Indicators	KRI score
	% score and RAG status
Compliance with Precept	95.4
Income Maximising opportunities for both capital and sustainable revenue income (V3)	100
Safety A Canal that is well maintained and safe for users and neighbours	32.5

SSSI Condition Working towards a favourable condition SSSI	20	10
Usage of Canal Provide an attractive accessible and engaging experience for the users (V2, V5)	99	
Navigable Canal A restored (functioning) navigation and land based recreation resource, with a viable year round water supply.(V3, V5)	50	
Volunteers An inclusive and wide ranging volunteering programme. (V6)	50*	
Community Engagement Opportunities for outdoor learning and involvement.	35*	
Green Credentials Creates a sustainable resource and entity. Operations need to sustain rather than degrade the environment. (V1)	100	
Customer Feedback Monitored feedback that helps to improve services	75	

Poor performance

- Compliance with precept – high target, reflecting non-compliance by RBC and SHBC
- SSSI condition – condition assessment shows most criteria are not improving
- Community engagement* & Volunteers* – recording methods have changed for two major elements of these targets (volunteers hours / campers using campsite) in last 12 months making true comparison with previous data unreliable. A new baseline will be set for these targets and it is anticipated that this KRI will turn green next year, as in reality numbers of volunteers particularly have increased.

Average performance

- Safety – performance was affected by 3 leaks which required immediate attention; demonstrating the need to continue the capital programme.
- Navigability – a number of closures required by water shortage.
- Customer feedback – very high target set for reducing complaints.

Good performance

- Income – good performance from all income streams
- Usage of Canal – shows high numbers from a wide range of user groups
- Green Credentials – both landfill waste generated and fuel used reduced

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