

Dear Member/Supporter,

Welcome to the latest issue of **Flow**, the newsletter for **MW** members and supporters of the Maidenhead waterway project.

Additional Project Funding - RBWM last month approved another £1.6m for the project, to allow the key next stage of the waterway - the Green Lane weir and fish pass - to be tendered and built. The request went to full council as a mid-year budget addition, because an interim allowance only was included at budget time, while the overall project costs were being fully re-assessed. Although part of our planning consent, the weir requires a separate impoundment licence from the Environment Agency which is being progressed. Subject to this, and to the tender process, we envisage the weir being built around the end of 2018. Once in place it will lift water levels throughout the town centre, filling the already completed new channels.

Channel Works - Work on the channel below the GWR towards Green Lane is nearing completion. In the meantime, the foundations for the new Library footbridge have been completed and the bridge itself is being fabricated off site. It is due to be lifted into place around the end of this month, allowing the resurfaced footpath to the High Street to be re-opened. Excavation to full depth alongside the Library is now underway and Greenford is due to complete that area and vacate the St Ives Road compound around the end of this year.



Chapel Arches - Agreement has been reached between Shanly Group and RBWM on the final bridge re-facing and new parapet. We anticipate the work commencing shortly, ahead of the demolition of the Colonnade and start of its Phase 3 (Chapel Arches North). Meanwhile it is good to see the first commercial tenant is open at Chapel Wharf - an artisan bakery and café overlooking the water basin.

AGM - Formal notices for this year's AGM are going out this week and will confirm the meeting at 7.30pm on 7th November at St Mary's church hall, in central Maidenhead. Please diary the date - we will be reviewing project progress, adopting **MW's** annual accounts and appointing Trustees for the coming year before breaking for an informal session when refreshments will be available.

Waitrose Community Matters - We were delighted to come first in September's community awards (green discs) scheme at Waitrose Maidenhead and look forward to receiving the £500 grant. Our thanks go to everyone that voted for us.

Canoe Cavalcade - We are holding our annual canoe cavalcade down Bray Cut on ***Saturday 14th October***, setting off at 10.00am at Green Lane to 'battle' our way down to Bray Lake. If you are a canoeist and fancy joining us, please contact Alasdair Pettigrew at alasdair.pettigrew@gmail.com

Channel Clearances - After taking a breather in August, we resumed our **MW** clearances in the feeder channels to improve flow into the town centre. Last month we were joined by an energetic team from LexisNexis. More corporate partners are sought to share the burden of ongoing clearance work to keep up the flows. If you can introduce us to a potential partner or join an occasional clearance outing *please get in touch* at the EMail below.



RBWM/Countryside Joint Venture (JV) - At a dedicated workshop last month **MW** brought the Countryside team up to speed on the overall waterways project, the current consent, progress to date and the Constraints and Opportunities as we see them in relation to the three (of four) waterside sites in the town centre that the JV proposes re-developing. Countryside is aiming to get planning applications together by February next year for two priority sites - West Street and York Road - the latter facing onto and directly linking to the newly enlarged waterway.

Borough Local Plan (BLP) - RBWM's response to **MW's** submission at Regulation 18 was disappointing, so we have resubmitted our concerns under the Regulation 19 consultation which has just closed. Our comments will now go to the inspector in the next stage for consideration. We are asking for the waterway to be given more prominence in the final BLP, with greater clarity on the scope of project the BLP will be expected to facilitate, plus explicit protection for the water supply on which the project critically depends.



Cubs explore the waterway - We were pleased to host a visit to the waterway by 24 cubs from 13th Maidenhead on 27th September. Walking the route from Homebase to Town Moor, the MW hosts explained the project and its key role in the future of their home town. Despite the showers everybody enjoyed the walk, the high points being the grey heron near the GWR and using their torches to look out for bats at Town Moor...!

2017/18 Subscriptions - Member subs for 2017/18 are now overdue. If you haven't yet paid, please do so - into our bank account or per <http://maidenheadwaterways.org/TopMenu/mwmembership.aspx>.

Other Volunteers - If you can offer *a few hours a month* to help it would be appreciated, we can usually match interests to needs. Please get in touch at **EMail:** contactus@maidenheadwaterways.org or via the **Web Site:** www.maidenheadwaterways.org

Best regards,

Richard Davenport
Chairman of the Trustee

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