

Dear Member/Supporter,

Welcome to the latest issue of Flow, the newsletter for **MW** members and supporters of the Maidenhead waterways project. Two milestones for the group are fast approaching - the introduction of new data protection rules (limiting our ability to keep you informed, without your explicit consent); and the ongoing review of **MW's** future role and relationship with RBWM.

Data protection - New data protection rules come into force next month. Trustees have established a new Privacy policy for the charity (see the footer on our web home page) setting out how we use and store your personal data. You should by now also have received a personal invitation to verify and confirm **by opting-in** to how you want us to use your personal data in future. **Please respond** to the invitation, or there is a risk we could be forced to stop sending you information that you may value.

RBWM and the Waterway - MW's Trustees met with RBWM's leadership last month to seek clarity on RBWM's commitment to completing the York Stream arm of the waterway; its willingness to fund further stages of the consented waterway 'Ring' plan; and also its longer term strategy for the waterway, in the context of an emerging Borough Local Plan that is set to run to 2033. **No further funding** has been budgeted in the just approved 2018/19 budget, leaving only slippage from 2017/18 likely to be available to fund any further works this year. The next iteration of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, designed to underpin the Borough Local Plan, also appears unlikely to include any funding for further stages of the waterway.

RBWM's leadership was **unable to reassure Trustees** on any of the key concerns raised, but is considering appointing consultants to review the cost of alternative navigation options for Moor Cut, for possible implementation in a few years' time in conjunction with the JV plans for Reform Road. Trustees feel that appointing consultants to look at Moor Cut is premature, until we have clarity on what RBWM will first complete in York Stream and the navigation standard it will support. RBWM leaders are being pressed to confirm the latter, while **MW** reserves its position.

A separate briefing will be provided to members once the picture is clearer. **MW** Trustees expect to have to review and potentially modify the group's charitable objects if, as feared, our and the council's long term strategy and aspirations for the waterway differ and cannot be aligned.



MW Short Video - Notwithstanding the current long term uncertainties, we are delighted to announce the launch of a professional standard **short video** that tells the story of the waterway project so far and its key role in the rejuvenation of Maidenhead town centre. We are grateful to Theresa May MP, PM for providing content for the video, for her long term support for the project and for her acknowledgement of the many volunteers who have made the project possible thus far. The video has been produced for **MW** - without charge - by

local video specialist Michael Wadley, in cooperation with member/producer Andrew Ingram, and can now be viewed at... <https://youtu.be/K9LqkATGxWc> Please share the link freely with your friends and via social media - many of our volunteers feature in the film...!

Channel Works - Greenford left site in January and only minor snagging and finishing off work has been undertaken since. RBWM still plans to tender the Green Lane weir works shortly, with a view to commencement on site in the summer if the funding position allows. Construction of the weir and fish/eel pass requires an impoundment licence and other consents from the Environment Agency, the first of which is currently being processed and may dictate the final timings.

Moor Cut - With the temporary dam now removed and the flow returned to York Stream, the Moor Cut channel has emptied once more and is drying out. When the weir is built at Green Lane, the water will be raised and should back up the Moor Cut channel towards Town Moor. It is however unlikely to fully join up with York Stream to create even a shallow 'Ring', until the Moor Cut is itself deepened per the planning consent. Without a freshening flow, water quality in the closed off Moor Cut is a real concern and the upper sections may stagnate until Moor Cut is fully excavated.

Chapel Arches - Shanly Group has completed demolition of the low level Hines Meadow car park and is now moving ahead with removing the Colonnade. **MW** has in the meantime secured planning consent to lower to full depth the hard invert under the open eastern arch under Chapel Arches bridge, while funding discussions on implementation between RBWM and Shanly Group continue. Unless agreement can be reached to lower the hard invert at the same time as Shanly Group's Phase 3 works, the danger is of a **permanent limit** to navigation in the York Stream with a maximum water depth of only 0.5m, barely more than the 0.42m minimum initial standard committed in the planning consent. The channel depths up and downstream of Chapel Arches have already been built by RBWM to 1.3m, in accordance with the long term strategy set out in the planning application.



Countryside and JV sites - RWBM's JV partner Countryside is expected to submit its first planning application shortly, for the first stages of the York Road area. We understand they have responded to consultation feedback on their initial proposals (shown here) and will now be proposing fewer tall buildings and more public open space adjoining the waterway. **MW** will respond in due course once we see the improved designs.

Other Volunteers - We always need more volunteers to join our regular channel clearances and help with other tasks. If you can offer just *a few hours a month* to help with any aspect of the group 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 Trustees

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