

Dear Member/Supporter,

Welcome to the latest issue of *Flow*, the newsletter for members and supporters of the waterways project. We hope you are enjoying the Easter break and fine spring weather.

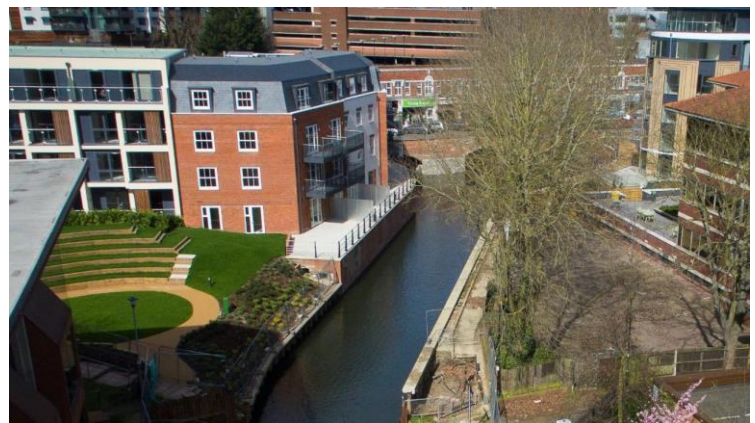
JV Development Partner - RBWM has just announced *Countryside* as its partner to develop the next four Area Action Plan sites ... York Road, West Street, the Magnet and Reform Road. York Road and Reform Road sites adjoin the waterway. We expect to be consulted in the final plans as they emerge, to ensure they make the most of and directly contribute to future phases of the waterway.



Channel Works - Construction of the channel (pictured) between Stafferton Way and Green Lane, is progressing well. Work has also started between Stafferton Way and the GWR tunnels. Once the channel by the Library is completed (see below) the currently contracted channel works will conclude, leaving just the section of York Stream immediately behind the Colonnade to be built by Shanly Group as part of its Phase 3 works, due to get underway mid-year. The design for the Green Lane weir has been agreed and it will be tendered with a view to construction starting in early 2018, after Greenford's current works conclude.

Library Bridge Delay - Complications with the foundation design have caused the Library footbridge to be delayed. To avoid delaying final excavation of the bed this section of channel down to York Road will now be completed before the bridge is craned into place from the bank. Once this section of channel is complete, Greenford will clear and vacate the St Ives Road compound, which is destined to become a temporary car park ahead of the York Road redevelopment.

Chapel Arches - Channel works to the Library are now complete, with the water at interim level pending installation of the downstream weir at Green Lane. The basin area is to be handed over to Shanly Group to allow them to reface the c1825 bridge and renew the parapet. A planning application is pending for an access ramp down from the western terrace for boat loading and access to the newly excavated arches for boat storage. This super drone shot looking north towards the bridge clearly shows the waterway and amphitheatre and is courtesy of Paulo Coll, AltaVista.



See a fascinating MW produced 3-4 minute long 'fly through' of all the completed waterway sections, work in progress and next stages on Youtube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCmG_dp9Oh0

Borough Local Plan (BLP) - The final version of the BLP is now expected to be approved by RBWM in May. We await to see what changes have been accepted by the council in response to issues and concerns raised by MW and others during the consultation held over Christmas. Once agreed this Regulation 19 version of the BLP will be consulted again, but only for soundness/legal compliance (not policy content), before submission to an inspector and adoption around the end of the year.

Bat Boxes - We enjoyed a frantic but fun evening on 2nd March with Furze Platt Scouts building bat boxes, to be installed along the waterway to encourage bats to forage and potentially roost nearer to the town centre. Pictured are David Howell and David Allen with the scouts and their leaders, showing off the completed bat boxes. MW donated the materials, briefly explained the project and provided a design guide for the bat boxes.



Chamber of Commerce - We were delighted to join the Chamber of Commerce's Gala Dinner at Moor Hall on 4th March, where MW was announced as its Charity of the Year. Theresa May MP/PM was the guest speaker and spoke warmly of the waterway project and the volunteer team that has brought the project from a vague vision to reality. The proceeds of a raffle and auction (>£900) were donated to MW from the evening and we hope to engage more local businesses in the project.

Thames Catchment Partnership - MW hosted the Maidenhead to Teddington Thames Catchment Partnership in the town hall on 16th March. After a presentation on the waterway project, MW members led a site visit to view the works. The Catchment Partnership includes many user groups and other bodies (including the EA) with an interest in the Thames. Maidenhead's waterway is officially a side channel of the main river, with the same Public Right of Navigation.

Channel Clearances - We continue regular clearance events in the feeder channels to improve summer flows into the town centre. Targeted channel clearances will be an ongoing requirement to keep up flows into the restored waterway 'Ring'. If you are reasonably fit and able to join an occasional clearance outing *please get in touch* at the EMail below.

Other Volunteers - We always need more volunteers to help with the project, freeing up others to focus on managing contractors, our links with RBWM and the EA. 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: **EMail:** contactus@maidenheadwaterways.org or via the **Web Site:** www.maidenheadwaterways.org

Best regards,

Richard Davenport
Chairman of the Trustees

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