

MONMOUTHSHIRE & BRECON AUTUMN USER FORUM – OCTOBER 18TH

HELD AT BRECON THEATRE

Peter Birch, the Acting Service Manager (PB) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Julie Sharman who is currently on maternity leave had sent her apologies, likewise Jon Griffiths, the Acting General Manger also sent his apologies as he was out of the country on BW business.

PB set out the format of the meeting.

A presentation was given by Chris Morgan and Richard Dommnett of the Monmouthshire Brecon & Abergavenny Canal Trust outlining the works which had been carried out and the proposed works for 2005.

LICENCE & MOORINGS SYNDIACTE GROUP

Q. A request for moorings to be changed to “offside”. Since Sustran has opened the towpaths are now like a racetrack. The H& S for boaters and other users on the towpaths is now very unsafe. The offside would be better for everyone.

A. *It is difficult on the Mon & Brec to develop new marinas. BW are at the moment looking at new sites which could be developed into mooring sites.*

Q. IS the Waterways Code sent to Anglers/Cyclists?

A *Anglers receive a copy with the Waterway Wanderers Ticket and cyclists receive a copy with their cycling permit. Info needs to be publicised on permitted cycling areas. BW need to look at other ways of enforcing the cycling issue.*

SITE RULES FOR MOORINGS

A. PETER – Please can you fill in the answers here, I lost it!!!

Q. If someone buys a boat and then moves it to a new mooring can they go on the waiting lists?

A. Yes

Q. IS it possible for us to have a copy of your waiting lists|?

A. *Yes, we need to work more closely with the Boat Clubs to check waiting lists.*

Q. How long will it take for the National Agreement to be changed?

A. *PB will ask the Director in charge of Licence & Moorings to give a date.*

Q. Is it true that a fee will be charged for people who sell their boats with a mooring?

A. *This idea was suggested but it will not be taken forward.*

PRE-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

Q. More visitor moorings are required in the rural areas.

A. *BW are looking at areas where VM could be sited and we will be working with user groups to identify possible sites. A programme will be worked out for spot dredging and bank repairs.*

Q. Is any enforcement been carried out regarding “overstayers” ?

A. *Colin Cope is looking at this issue and will be issuing invoices to people who overstay on VM.*

Q. What is the position with dredging in winding holes?

A. *An amount of money is to be put aside in 2005 budget for spot dredging. It may be possible to include further dredging in future years.*

Q. Vegetation Management?

- A. *It is a big issue nationally. BW acknowledge that tree management on the M & B is a big problem. Volunteers have helped out with this work and BW are looking for new resources to counteract this problem.*
- Q. Rubbish/Disposal facilities?
- A. *Steve O'Sullivan is working on this area. He is currently identifying possible new sites for services.*
- Q. It would be helpful if you could better information on who to contact for specific queries.
- A. *We will provide guidance on who deals with which areas both at Govillon and Northwich.*
- Q. We have a club member with a dilapidated boat which is sinking. Can anything be done about it?
- A. *Section 8(5) can be assigned to this craft which means that it can be moved to a place of safety. Please contact Colin Cope if you are unable to contact the owner.*
- Q. We have not received stoppage lists?
- A. *Stoppage lists were not issued to every boater this year. Copies are available on the Waterscape website or from any of the waterway offices.*
- Q. Why do boat owners on the M & B receive emergency stoppage notices for all areas?
- A. *We will check the circulation list for emergency stoppages and ensure that this does not occur.*
- Q. Stoppage at Llanfoist?
- A. *We have found a significant leak which needs attention. The stoppage dates will not be affected.*
- Q. Is there any plan for the dredging to go further?
- A. *We are taking a different approach to dredging. Dredging has been affected by budget cuts, but we are now able to ring fence money for spot dredging. Major dredging works will come out of a "national" pot. An amount has been allocated to W & BC for 2005. There will be one major dredging contract on the Shropshire Union and a smaller contract on the Mon & Brec which will be carried out by a local contractor.*
- Q. Why do you need a budget for a spot dredger when the dredger is on site all the time?
- A. *We are now being asked to show the total cost of all works carried out. If the dredger is being used then other works are not getting done.*
- Q. At the last meeting it was stated that a weed cutting boat would be available?
- A. *There is a weed cutter on the Montgomery Canal. We do not have any plans at the moment for it to come onto the Mon & Brec. We will look into this matter further.*

PB thanked everyone for attending the meeting .

The Spring User Forum will take place on April 18th 2005.