

MAIDENHEAD WATERWAYS RESTORATION GROUP

(Registered Charity No: 1119150 and Company Limited by Guarantee No: 06166868)

This SUMMARY REPORT of the Group's activities to 31 March 2017 is provided for members' information at the 2017 A.G.M. A fuller report forms part of the Group's Financial Statements.

Review of the year's activities

During the year to March 2017 the activities of Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group (MW) again were closely linked with the regeneration of Maidenhead town centre: many of the town's significant Area Action Plan (AAP) developments are related to the waterways project. As restoration has proceeded there has been growing public recognition of the benefits the enhanced waterside environment will bring to the town.

Implementation of this community project is in the hands of Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), but overseen by a joint MW/RBWM Project Board which continued to meet throughout the year. Greenford Ltd were appointed as contractors for the first stages of construction, and construction started in July 2015. During the period to March 2017 significant progress was made but delays have occurred and costs escalated. Utility pipes and cables were found in locations not properly recorded, and consequent design modifications were not delivered in a timely manner. As a result the construction programme was flexed with work alternating between the northern and southern ends of York Stream. As each section was substantially completed it could then be landscaped.

The length between York Road and the GWR was the first to be reopened in spring 2016 after a replacement footpath had been laid. Almost immediately wildlife started to return to the area. Theresa May MP visited the project in August and inspected the newly opened section.

Work adjoining the iconic Chapel Arches site was paced by the rate of progress with Shanly Homes' adjoining commercial developments. Resolving conflicting expectations between the two schemes was at times challenging. It was further decided to open up views of all three large bridge arches leading to the need for some structural work to the bridge's newly-exposed foundations before full depth excavation could proceed. Progress with Shanly Homes Phase Three scheme at Chapel Arches will also determine when flow can fully be restored in York Stream as this will provide the missing link between the near completed up and downstream channel sections.

Fully submerged piles are being used for bank strengthening in some sections where space allows to increase the extent of soft green edges possible. Further landscaping will be implemented when the weir is installed and the water levels are fully raised. Alongside Hines Meadow car park, where the narrow hemmed-in channel can only be one-way, contractors were able to widen and flood-proof the Green Way path by setting the channel and path under the A4 in a concrete trough.

Construction of a weir is proposed to raise water levels throughout the 'Ring'. Boat rollers for small craft will be included in the weir design, together with a fish/eel pass to allow fish migration. The Moor Cut arm will be built last, to complete the 'Ring' and is not at this stage funded. A consequential benefit of construction work has been that flow diverted into the normally empty Moor Cut has filled that channel making it really attractive and indicative of the final scheme. Wildlife quickly colonised the flooded Moor Cut channel away from the disrupted work areas. The Lock in MW's planning consent will only be built after the 'Ring' has been completed and Bray Cut to the south deepened.

A joint initiative with Rotary launched a collection of exhibitions in an empty shop in Nicholson Centre in the summer and again in November. The Friends of Maidenhead group aims to encourage community participation in the town's regeneration. MW volunteers played a prominent part in staffing the events. An estimated 3,000 members of the public visited the exhibition, and a number have since joined the Waterways Group

In cooperation with The National Trust (NT) at Widbrook Common an outbreak of the invasive floating weed Azolla was tackled and a containment boom installed by MW to prevent its spread downstream. On Environment Agency advice the weed was 'seeded' with Canadian weevil larvae which eat only Azolla and which brought it fully under control. NT directly shared the cost of the specialist supplies required. Further limited herbicide spraying also was contracted to control the reeds in the feeder channels and help flow rates, while leaving the channel edge habitats undisturbed.

A cavalcade of two dozen canoeists ventured down the Bray Cut on 10th September 2016 and a well-attended AGM on 1st November reviewed the year and accepted the Report and Accounts. We were delighted to be assisted with new aerial images by Matthew Wilkinson, and with drone footage courtesy of Paulo Coll, AltaVista. MW's web site and social media have all been regularly updated.

With Peter Brett Associates, in July MW presented to civil engineering professionals where the project is attracting considerable interest for its unique aspects and regeneration potential. MW also hosted a meeting of the Maidenhead to Teddington Thames Catchment Partnership at the town hall in March 2017 and has undertaken other presentations to explain the aims of the scheme, what is involved and progress to date.

Presentations were made to key Councillors setting out MW's long term strategy for the waterway, including future stages that could - subject to funding - eventually allow narrow boats to access the Ring via Bray Cut. Progress was made on resolving outstanding planning consent conditions.

The waterside amphitheatre alongside the Library opened at the end of November 2107. In March Furze Platt Scouts supported the waterways by building a number of bat boxes to be installed beside the streams.

Late in 2016 RBWM launched its final consultation on the updated Borough Local Plan. MW made some submissions where proposals may affect the waterway. RBWM also proceeded with the selection of a Joint Venture partner for the development of four Area Action Plan sites, York Road, West Street, the Magnet, and Reform Road, three of which adjoin the waterway. Just after the period under review, Countryside Properties PLC was announced as the JV partner. MW looks forward to working closely with them to progress the waterways project.

At nearly fortnightly intervals during the year volunteer work parties organised by Ian Caird continued to address blockages and excessive reed growth in the feeder channels, to help flow into the 'Ring'. Work took place both at Widbrook and along Cookham's Strande Water. In addition special clearance events were arranged for corporate partners - Adobe, Alnylym Pharmaceuticals, and VINCI group's Taylor Woodrow division, whose help included a valuable professional survey of levels at Widbrook.

Monthly monitoring of ground water and stream levels along the route, together with measurements of flow at key points continued under the direction of John Morgan, Chair of the Technical Group. The technical team have engaged with South East Water (SEW) and the EA to explore the effects of deep aquifer water extractions, and in particular its impact on flow from the feeder channels. In partnership with RBWM submissions are being prepared to encourage mitigation measures by SEW.

By their periodic reviews of the activities and progress of the charity Trustees continued to take account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The charity maintains an ongoing relationship with relevant authorities and keeps in touch with local environmental and community groups to maximise the benefits for the residents of Maidenhead and the surrounding areas.

Post Year End Events

MW featured as a prominent exhibitor at the Friends of Maidenhead shop which reopened in June and July 2017 with an estimated 2,500 visitors.

In May we welcomed a team from Taylor Woodrow who assisted in channel clearance, followed by an enthusiastic group of 24 from SUEZ UK's HR team in July and another from LexisNexis Risk Solutions in September. These have usefully supplemented the regular, fortnightly clearance parties of MW volunteers.

We worked with Claires Court school to design a 2-day community programme in July 2017 for their Year 10 (14-15 yrs) pupils based around the waterways project.

Construction of the new Library footbridge bridge, temporarily put on hold while the funding was resolved, has resumed with an autumn completion target. Overall four out of eight sections of the York Stream channel now are substantially completed, with the public footpaths reopened. Railings, escape ladders and safety chains have been added. Three other sections should be handed over by the end of 2017, leaving just enlargement of the section behind the Colonnade awaited (being undertaken by Shanly Group).

Design for the Green Lane weir has been agreed and will be tendered with a view to construction starting in 2018, after Greenford's current works conclude.

MW has now started to engage with RBWM's joint venture partner, Countryside: the channels adjoin three of their four development sites –St Cloud Way/Magnet; York Road; and Reform Road.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

To enhance public benefit the Charity aims:

- To plan and build a navigable Waterway that passes through Maidenhead Town Centre, and to secure funding allowing the project to be implemented in Stages
- To construct a weir to raise water levels, adding a lock when it is timely.
- To establish a maintenance programme for the restored areas of the 'Ring' and to ensure adequate flow into the 'Ring' from feeder channels
- To improve accessibility along the Waterway, protecting and extending public foot and, where feasible, cycle paths.
- As part of the council's overall AAP, to increase the number of 'pocket parks' beside the restored Waterway, for use by the general public.
- To protect and enhance the environment for wildlife along the Waterway
- To develop sponsorship and a sense of ownership of sections of the Waterway by local businesses and land-owners.
- To ensure the waterway design and its associated facilities benefit the widest possible range of potential users of the restored waterway.

The Group's long-term plan remains to provide navigable links to the Thames, initially to the south via Bray Cut, and eventually to the north via Widbrook.

With the consented works already underway MW's technical group is developing a detailed strategy for the long-term evolution of the restored navigation.

Trustees continue to be aware of the need to identify other funding sources. Opportunities will also be sought for developers of property adjoining the waterway further to contribute directly towards the project.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The major source of funding in the period again was from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead which funded the detailed design under a novated contract, and also construction under a direct contract with the contractors, Greenford Ltd. The Charity's remaining direct contracts still are funded by RBWM under an agreed Protocol.

Two local businesses who have supported channel clearance initiatives also made generous donations towards the group's funds, McFarlane Telfer £400, and Adobe £626. Maidenhead and District Chamber of Commerce selected MW as its Charity of the Year and we were delighted to receive £965 via their Gala Dinner at Moor Hall on 4th March. Membership subscriptions contributed to the costs of routine administration.

Expenditure by the Charity continued to be focused on promoting the Waterway restoration project, on progressing channel design, and on monitoring and improving the supply of water into the Maidenhead 'Ring'. In 2017-18 MW will be engaged in similar activities, and in longer term planning for an extended waterway.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017
(incorporating income and expenditure account)

	2016-17	2016-17	2016-17	Prior Year
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2015-16
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Total
	£	£	£	Funds
				£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations, grants, sponsorship and legacies	4,108	0	4,108	4,763
RBWM S106 Grant	0	63,079	63,079	54,274
Other income	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>4,108</u>	<u>63,079</u>	<u>67,187</u>	<u>59,037</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Cost of Generating Funds				
Costs of generating Voluntary income	552	0	552	200
	<u>552</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>552</u>	<u>200</u>
Charitable Activities				
Development, promotion and maintenance of waterway				
– S 106-Funded Projects	0	63,079	63,079	54,274
– other project expenditure	1,189	0	1,189	5,422
	<u>1,189</u>	<u>63,079</u>	<u>64,268</u>	<u>59,696</u>
Governance Costs	877	0	877	857
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>2,618</u>	<u>63,079</u>	<u>65,697</u>	<u>60,753</u>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING)				
RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	<u>1,490</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,490</u>	<u>(1,716)</u>
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD				
AT 1 APRIL	<u>26,179</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>26,324</u>	<u>28,040</u>
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD				
AT 31 MARCH	<u><u>27,669</u></u>	<u><u>145</u></u>	<u><u>27,814</u></u>	<u><u>26,324</u></u>

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those passing through the statement of financial activities.

The statement of financial activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

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BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

	2016-17		Prior Year 2015-16	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		0		0
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors		14,530		15,140
Cash at bank and in hand		27,814		25,430
		42,344		40,580
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year		(14,530)		(14,246)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		27,814		26,324
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		27,814		26,324
INCOME FUNDS				
Restricted funds		145		145
Unrestricted funds		27,669		26,179
		27,814		26,324

For the year ending 31 March 2017 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- the directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts,

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board on 28 September 2017	Richard Davenport))) Trustees) David Snelgar)
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Richard Curry, an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, completed his independent examination of the Group's Financial Statements on 28 September 2017

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ANALYSIS OF TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	Prior Year	
Includes the following	2016-17	2015-16
	£	£
Cost of Generating Funds:		
Cost of generating voluntary income	552	200
	<u>552</u>	<u>200</u>
Charitable Activities:		
Channel Design & Project Management (S 106 funded)	63,079	54,274
Sundry project costs	1,189	5,422
	<u>64,268</u>	<u>59,696</u>
Governance Costs:		
Sundry office costs	232	205
Insurance	454	449
Website costs	72	54
Other	<u>119</u>	<u>149</u>
	<u>877</u>	<u>857</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>65,697</u>	<u>60,753</u>

CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS

At the year-end the Trustees had authorised further expenditure of approx. £15,000 which was contracted to Portmead Ltd for project management.

Funding for all such contracts had been agreed in advance by RBWM and they are being funded via S106 developer contributions held by RBWM for that purpose under our financial protocol.

Section 106 GRANTS Grants were received from The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) funded from S106 (Town and Country Planning Act) developer contributions under a financial protocol set up for that purpose between MW and RBWM. To access those funds MW applies to RBWM with a schedule of expenditure to be approved. Only when funding is confirmed does MW enter into contracts with suppliers, usually via a process of competitive tendering. RBWM reimburses MW following sight of the supplier's invoice which normally is settled without delay.

RBWM is now directly contracting for and paying continued detailed design costs, as well as all construction related costs for implementation of the project. Where RBWM is directly contracting and paying for design and implementation costs, MW does not report such sums either as Resources Expended nor S106 Grants received.

A fuller report forms part of the Group's Financial Statements.

Please contact the Group if you wish to receive the 2017 Financial Statements.