

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 2015 is provided for members' information at the 2015 A.G.M. A fuller report forms part of the Group's Financial Statements.

Review of the year's activities

Once again the year's activities of Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group (MW) were closely linked with the regeneration of Maidenhead town centre. In turn many of the town's significant Area Action Plan (AAP) developments were linked to the waterways project.

In 2014, preparing for the start to waterway construction anticipated in 2015, streamside trees and shrubs were cleared between Railway Arches and Chapel Arches. Removal of scrub revealed the extent of bank-side litter; MW marshaled about 50 volunteers to clear rubbish from the site in April 2014. Much later in the year removal by The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) of more trees in preparation for the Stafferton Way Relief Road construction led to a further litter pick in March 2015 by more than 40 people again comprising other volunteer groups, MW members, and the public.

For the first time in many years York Stream dried out in summer 2014. Larger fish that moved into the channels during the winter floods became trapped as levels fell, water temperatures rose and oxygen levels reduced. The Environment Agency undertook an emergency fish rescue in July, moving more than 10,000 fish to nearby deeper water. On investigation it became apparent that the exceptionally heavy rains of the previous two winters had created a build-up of debris at many locations along the northern feeder channels. MW organised a series of some ten channel clearance events with volunteers, supported on several occasions by teams supplied by the riparian landowners on whose land the obstructions occurred. Many obstacles were removed and the flow eventually improved. MW bought various items of equipment, and further work parties will be ongoing.

Effective from 1 July 2014 the detailed channel design contract between MW and Golder Associates (GA) was novated (i.e. benefits and obligations legally transferred) from MW to RBWM. This recognised several features: that the project is for public and community benefit, funded mainly from public sector revenue; that RBWM increasingly wished to coordinate the project into Maidenhead town regeneration; and that companies tendering for significant contracts would prefer the financial reassurance of dealing with a local authority. GA now has direct responsibility to the Council rather than to MW.

From an initial list of ten RBWM finally received only two fully compliant bids for construction of the entire York Stream arm of the waterways. The first stage will be limited to the A4 to railway section. RBWM and MW completed a joint assessment and Greenford Ltd was selected for Stage 1. The design consultants struggled to satisfy the EA over the pre-commencement conditions, many of which relate to later stages of the build. Some aspects of the design have had to be revisited resulting in a delayed start to channel work.

In August 2014 Shanly Group (SG) started piling work in earnest on the former cinema site next to the waterway at Chapel Arches. An extensive programme of groundwater pumping began early in 2015. Pumping continued for longer than anticipated, also contributing to a delayed start to channel construction. The public can now start to see the potential benefits of a widened waterway basin at this key location as the new channel walls take shape. SG's planning application for a small amphitheatre on the Library lawn was approved, and when built should enrich this public area. An information display case provided by SG on their site hoardings opposite the Colonnade, was stolen by vandals, but replaced and is proving very useful.

Nearby RBWM has completed demolition of two streamside buildings in St Ives Road and the public were invited to comment on its architect's early ideas for the site. It is a key part of the York Road Opportunity Area, also bordering the stream, and of which the restored waterway is to be an integral part.

MAIDENHEAD WATERWAYS RESTORATION GROUP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

The Stafferton Way road extension began and a new bridge crossing over Moor Cut will be constructed. The bridge design (clearance above the stream) was agreed with MW to avoid conflicting with the long term navigation potential of the waterway.

Also reflecting the scheme's public benefit RBWM agreed to underwrite the maintenance of the restored waterway, either for MW to manage, or undertaking the work direct if more economic.

In May two local councillors joined MW Trustee Alasdair Pettigrew, British Canoeing's Andy Maxted and Engage Watersports to explore the Bray Cut. And in September 27 canoeists joined our Canoe Cavalcade. This offered a rare insight into the important Widbrook feeder channel that we have been clearing to improve flows.

In February, prior to the fish spawning season and in anticipation of an early start to channel construction, a temporary dam was installed where York Stream separates from Moor Cut. Approximately 23,000 fish were rescued and re-located downstream. The improved flow, following continued channel clearances, was diverted down Moor Cut which is now flowing down to Green Lane. Moor Cut is looking really attractive and indicative of the final scheme; ducks are nesting there and enjoying the filled channel in place of York Stream

Monthly monitoring of ground water and stream levels along the route, together with measurements of flow at key points continued under the capable overall direction of John Morgan, Chair of the Technical Group.

In October 2014 RBWM extended their funding envelope to enable MW to continue to engage Chris Mitchell of Portmead Ltd as project manager. The monthly RBWM/MW Project Board meetings continued throughout the year.

MW hosted visits from Claires Court Year 5 and also 4th Taplow & Hitcham Guides, taking each on a walking tour of the waterway route. Furze Platt Senior School Year 10 included the waterway in a geography project.

MW wishes to remain non-partisan, and to work with the local authority regardless of political control. Therefore Parliamentary candidates, and a number of prospective District Councillors were approached. Two Parliamentary candidates, including Theresa May, MP, accepted an invitation for a site visit and briefing on the channel and MW's plans.

The October annual general meeting was well attended, members and guests receiving an update on progress and accepting the charity's accounts for 2013/14. A lively Q&A was followed by a chance to chat with officers and other members. The Group may need to review the objects of the Charity as the picture on MW's ongoing role becomes clearer.

Through 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

Post Year End Events

Trustees are saddened to report the death of Sir Nicholas Winton, MBE, an inspiration to the group, and its patron for many years. We shall miss him.

MAIDENHEAD WATERWAYS RESTORATION GROUP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Mindful of the need to take full account of environmental and community issues MW was delighted to welcome Dan Evans as a new voluntary adviser on environment matters. A former Desborough pupil, Dan holds a Biology Degree and an MSc in Aquatic Resources Management. He is currently working for the Taylor Woodrow division of the Vinci Group as an Environment Manager as part of the Crossrail project.

Early in August 2015 contractors Greenford Ltd began construction of the Stage 1 channel works - to widen, deepen and line the York Stream arm of the waterway. Greenford started work in the York Road to Maidenhead Library section of the channel and will extend north and south thereafter until Stage 1 is complete and further Stages are able to be contracted.

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.

- As construction gets underway 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 aspiration remains to provide navigable links to the Thames, initially to the south via Bray Cut, and eventually to the north via Widbrook.

Now that the detailed design stage is almost complete 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 to contribute directly towards the project.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The major source of income once again was from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. RBWM funded the Charity via S106 developer contributions, earmarked for the project under an agreed Protocol. In addition MW was awarded £10,000 via a public vote on the Maidenhead Participatory Budget. RBWM holds those funds to further the scheme.

MW received £250 from McFarlane Telfer, and £100 from an Inland Waterways Association raffle. Membership subscriptions contributed to the costs of routine administration.

Expenditure by the Charity continued to be focused on promoting the Waterway restoration project, and determining the detailed design of the scheme after securing conditional planning approval in December 2012. In year 2015-16 the focus will turn to construction.

MAIDENHEAD WATERWAYS RESTORATION GROUP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015
(incorporating income and expenditure account)

	2014-15 Unrestricted Funds £	2014-15 Restricted Funds £	2014-15 Total Funds £	Prior Year 2013-14 Total Funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations, grants, sponsorship and legacies	2,082	50	2,132	13,688
RBWM S106 Grant	0	77,311	77,311	369,192
Value of Donated Services	0	0	0	600
Activities for Generating Funds	0	0	0	0
Bank deposit interest	3	0	3	31
Other income	100	0	100	13
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	2,185	77,361	79,546	383,524
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Cost of Generating Funds				
Costs of generating Voluntary income	62	0	62	834
Other fundraising costs	0	0	0	0
	62	0	62	834
Charitable Activities				
Development, promotion and maintenance of waterway				
– by Donated Services	0	0	0	0
– S 106-Funded Projects	0	77,311	77,311	369,192
– other project expenditure	1,009	0	1,009	237
	1,009	77,311	78,320	369,429
Governance Costs	985	0	985	1,395
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	2,056	77,311	79,367	371,658
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	129	50	179	11,866
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 APRIL	27,766	95	27,861	15,995
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 MARCH	27,895	145	28,040	27,861

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.

MAIDENHEAD WATERWAYS RESTORATION GROUP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2015

	2014-15		Prior Year 2013-14	
Notes:	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		0		0
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors		14,946		64,553
Cash at bank and in hand		27,452		27,861
		<u>42,398</u>		<u>92,414</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year		(14,358)		(64,553)
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		28,040		27,861
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>28,040</u>		<u>27,861</u>
INCOME FUNDS				
Restricted funds		145		95
Unrestricted funds		27,895		27,766
		<u>28,040</u>		<u>27,861</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2015 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
26 August 2015

Richard Davenport)
)
) Trustees
)
David Snelgar)

Richard Curry, an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, completed his independent examination of the Group's Financial Statements on 26 August 2015.

MAIDENHEAD WATERWAYS RESTORATION GROUP
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	Prior Year	
Includes the following	2014-15	2013-14
	£	£
Cost of Generating Funds:		
Cost of generating voluntary income	62	834
	<u>62</u>	<u>834</u>
Charitable Activities:		
Planning Research & Consultancy (Donated Services)	0	0
Channel Design & Project Management (S 106 funded)	77,311	369,192
Channel Design & Project Management	0	0
Sundry project costs	1,009	237
	<u>78,320</u>	<u>369,429</u>
Governance Costs:		
Office costs (Donated Services)	0	600
Sundry office costs	257	136
Insurance	454	454
Website costs	122	68
Other	152	137
	<u>985</u>	<u>1,395</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>79,367</u>	<u>371,658</u>

CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS Trustees had authorised further expenditure of £25,000 excluding VAT. £17,000 was contracted to Portmead Ltd for project management, £1,500 to Elcot Environmental for treating and monitoring Japanese Knotweed, and the remainder related to contracts substantially complete at 31 March 2015 but not yet fully invoiced.

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.

The scale of reported S106 grant funding in the year fell back substantially, compared with the Prior Year, due to the novation of the main Golder detailed design contract to RBWM effective 1st July 2014. As a consequence 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 2015 Financial Statements.