

Dear Member/Supporter,

Welcome to the latest issue of [*Flow*](#), the newsletter for **MW** members and supporters of the Maidenhead Waterways project.

[Data protection](#) - New data protection rules came into force last next month. We have all been bombarded with requests for consent from companies and other organisations - some that we never realised had our contacts..!! There is confusion about how the new rules should be applied, with some organisations requiring an opt-in to stay in touch, others taking an opt-out approach. **MW** has a new Privacy Policy for how we hold and use personal data and Trustees have elected to adopt the more cautious opt-in approach, but will keep things under review. If MW has not yet heard from you with your contact preferences, the covering email contains a final appeal - otherwise, thank you for being among the 75% of our members who have replied.

[PM's Update Tour](#) - **MW** leaders were delighted to host another update tour of the waterway for our local MP and PM Theresa May. We reviewed the finished sections of the waterway, which are greening up nicely, saw the new Library bridge and amphitheatre then ended up with Theresa welcoming the team at the new Bakedd cafe/bakery next to the restored Chapel Arches bridge and water basin. John Morgan, myself and David Snelgar are pictured with the PM on the new Library footbridge next to the amphitheatre.



[RBWM and the Waterway](#) - RBWM has confirmed funding for the next stage (weir/fish pass etc) of the York Stream arm of the waterway. Although ***no new funding*** was committed in the 2018/19 budget, funds unspent from previous years should allow this stage to be completed. A tender has been issued, but weir construction is dependent on Environment Agency approval of the licence needed to 'impound' (i.e. enclose) the stream. Despite their support for the planning consent in 2012, and the national fish pass committee subsequently agreeing the detailed design, a final decision on the licence has been delayed until 31st July, while the Environment Agency considers again the water supply situation and the wider implications of the plans. Once built, the weir will lift water levels to fill the newly enlarged York Stream channels and will also back up into Moor Cut to extend the waterside area there, albeit with shallow water until such time as it too is deepened.

Funding to complete the Moor Cut arm now looks unlikely for some years, as RBWM has decided to prioritise infrastructure spend elsewhere. In the meantime **MW** is pressing it to at least complete the York Stream in 2018/19, removing obstacles to allow navigation by small boats. With **MW's** planning consent for the waterway due to expire - partly implemented - in July 2020, a fundamental review of the strategy and design for the Moor Cut arm will be required, potentially in conjunction with the Countryside JV plans for the council owned Reform Road site. We have invited RBWM to develop and

re-commit to a fresh long term strategy for the entire waterway route, in the context of radically increased growth plans for Maidenhead in the emerging Borough Local Plan.



York Rd Plans - Countryside has now submitted its planning application for the York Rd site that adjoins the waterway, immediately downstream of the Library. We are studying the detailed plans, but in principle welcome the proposals which feature and will extend the waterside area, with less building mass and more public open space than originally proposed. The development will be on the site of the former waterways works compound, which is presently being used as a temporary car park for RBWM staff.

Chapel Arches - Shanly Homes has completed demolition of the Colonnade and will shortly commence excavation and then piling of the area, before construction of its Chapel Arches Phase 3.

MW's request to lower the hard invert under the open eastern arch at the same time is now ***in jeopardy***, as neither RBWM nor Shanly Group is willing to fund the works. Unless urgently resolved, it is likely to become a ***permanent limitation*** to navigation in the York Stream, frustrating whatever long term strategy RBWM adopts or agrees for the maximum size of boats which will eventually be able to use the waterway.

Channel Works - There is nothing to report other than completion of the fencing on the approach to the new Library footbridge. In the meantime RBWM's landscaping team have taken over maintenance of the paths and banks, which are greening up nicely. The wild flowers planted near Town Moor are doing well, but elsewhere they are battling to compete with nettles and thistles, so will need some more work in the autumn after the wildflowers have set.



MW subscriptions now due - If you haven't yet paid your 2018/19 subscription, please do so now either by post or directly into ***MW's*** bank account - instructions are on the web site.

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

New Trustee - We are pleased to welcome Andrew Ingram to MW's Trustee board, replacing Alasdair Pettigrew who stood down due to work commitments and will now become a Special Adviser.

Best regards,

Richard Davenport
Chairman of the Trustees

June 2018