

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 26 FEBRUARY 2018

UPDATE ON BASINGSTOKE CANAL PROPOSALS

Summary

This summary report is provided at the request of the Chairman in order to update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee considered a presentation on the Basingstoke Canal at its meeting on 27 February 2017 and made recommendations to the Executive for its meeting on 23 March 2017. The Executive resolved

- That (i) Officers look into which improvements could be made to the Basingstoke Canal in the town centre and its environs to increase the number of boats on the canal and encourage those boaters to use local amenities; and
- (ii) Officers look into which improvements can be made across the length of Woking-owned Canal to make the movement corridor safer and more efficient.

The following progress has been made:-

Town Centre

Town Quay

The outline of the proposal for Town Quay is attached at Appendix 1.

Agreement has been reached with Surrey County Council, as joint canal owner, for this work to be undertaken this year alongside the Woking Town Centre Integrated Transport project for which funding is allocated by Surrey County Council and supported by the Council and EnterpriseM3.

Work will be undertaken during 2018/19 subject to the determination of the Planning Applications related to the link bridge below as ideally the physical works will need to be coordinated.

Chobham Bridge Towpath Link

The outline of the proposal for Town Quay is attached at Appendix 2.

Agreement has been reached to pursue this proposal as part of the approved Woking Town Centre Integrated Transport project for which funding is allocated by Surrey County Council and supported by the Council and EnterpriseM3.

Two planning applications have been submitted, one for the link bridge and one for art work alongside the canal, both await determination.

Work will be undertaken during 2018/19 subject to the determination of the Planning Applications.

Lightbox Barge

The outline of the proposal for the Lightbox Barge is attached at Appendix 3.

Whilst discussions have been held with the Lightbox which is supportive of the ambition the design has not yet been progressed as officers consider what further funding sources may be available. It is unlikely that the Lightbox barge will be progressed further until 2019/20.

Canal Boat Basin

The outline of the proposal for the Canal Basin is attached at Appendix 4.

There have been a number of confidential discussions with potential developers that would enable the building of the Boat Basin with adjoin leisure and recreational uses. Any proposals would have to satisfy Green Belt considerations and the Common Land status of the site. Discussions continue and a formal update on proposals, if secured will be submitted to the Council's Executive, as landowner, for consideration and if agreed will be subject to obtaining all necessary consents.

Lockfield Drive Bridge

As part of the work to improve connectivity between the canal and the town centre a proposal is being jointly developed with Surrey County Council to secure funds, through EnterpriseM3 for a pedestrian and cycle bridge alongside the Lockfield Drive road bridge. This will enable pedestrians and cyclist to link to the canal from an extended pedestrian and cycle corridor alongside the current Woking Town Centre Integrated transport works use the area reserved for highway adjacent to the Cap Gemini building.

The bid is being submitted in March and hopefully the Council will find out if funds are allocated by June. If approved the works will be designed in 2018/19 and necessary consents obtained with work being scheduled for completion in 2019/20.

Across the Borough

Less work has been done across the wider canal network; this is due to capacity to do so. The only significant area that is being progressed is the integration of the Canal towpath with the regeneration proposals for Sheerwater.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

Resolve the update be received and the positive progress be noted.

Background Papers:

Review of Basingstoke Canal Presentation Slides (O&S Cttee 27/02/17); Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes, (27/2/17)
Sustainability Impact Assessment
Equalities Impact Assessment

Update on Basingstoke Canal Proposals

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