

## **Tennant Canal Association**

### **Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at The Riverside Golf Range**

#### **Aberdulais**

**Attendance and apologies** – please see attached list

**Chair**        Dr Altaf Hussain MS

#### **Minutes**

Dr Hussain welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly outlined the agenda and some of the issues to be considered.

Rick Hughes - Chair of the Tennant Canal Association (TCA) explained the basic history of the canal and went into detail of how the canal is currently seriously threatened by the lack of water in dry periods. He continued by explaining in detail the possible means of resolving the problems which are:

- Resuming use of the purpose-designed & existing feed channel by clearing debris from the channel and forebay of the sluices.
- There is a naturally occurring stone bank at the end of the river Dulais, this could be augmented to create a mini water pound by with a short section of sheet piling.
- Using the existing purpose-built culvert from the Dulais under the A 465 road bridge to divert water directly into the channel.
- Restoration of the weir.

Doug Williams of Leeder's Estate Management and a director of the Port Tennant Canal company explained that the canal has operated at a loss for some years and without the income from the sale of water the members of the Coombe Tennant Family, whilst sympathetic to the needs of the canal and its place in the community, may not be able to fund it for a great deal longer.

Martyn Evans Head of Operations NRW South West Wales explained the role of NRW, the fact that both Dulais and Neath are designated as main rivers and that therefore any work done in relation to these rivers needs to get consent under a Flood Risk Activities Plan (FRAP). This is particularly important as Aberdulais a sensitive flood risk area. A full assessment of the hydrology of the area is in progress and will be available later this year. This may have a significant impact on whether the weir can be restored to an "as was" condition.

General discussion regarding technical, environmental, and social issues continued. NRW representatives suggested that more information needs to be available regarding tourism and related issues – they were unaware of various plans which have been put forward over the years.

NRW raised the issue of water leakage of the canal, attending to that, and maintenance dredging back to the original constructed depth would mitigate some of dry weather issues. They also listed a number of processes & permits they require in order to consider each option, PTC reiterated there is no money available to pay for this.

The specific issue of allowing re-use of the existing purpose designed culvert, will require a smaller Technical sub-group which NRW will support. To include consideration If the river Dulais Culvert were opened, the procedures would to be put in place with NRW, to close the culvert valves in times of flood risk.

Delyth Lewis (Heritage Officer NPTBC) advised that there is funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a review of the Neath canal and this may possibly be able to be extended to the Tennant.

Cllr Angharad Aubrey also referred to the possibility of grant funding from other sources but these may be dependent on the canal not being in private ownership.

Cllr Nathan Goldup-John raised the issue of consideration of discussing if ownership of Lands & Assets of the canal could move to non-private ownership if PTC can no longer fund this.

## **Conclusion**

The TCA request that NRW to support the re-use of the existing engineered Culvert (under the A645 bridge), designed & constructed specifically to provide a temporary water supply. This use is to provide a temporary water feed until the NRW Hydrological model is available at the end of the year, buying time now and allowing planning for Weir restoration.

## Action points

|   | Title                                                          | Description                                                                                                                                                                                          | Owner             |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Clearing out of feeder Channel                                 | There is significant build-up of shoal in the feeder channel up to the sluice gates, preventing any water flow from the designed location.<br>PTC asked to remove this shoal                         | PTC               |
| 2 | Removing debris build up at Cadoxton                           | Significant build-up of debris & stone from Cadoxton Culvert has resulted in the canal bed being above the water level. The Canal bank is also damaged and leaking at this point.                    | PTC               |
| 3 | Calculation of water loss & requirements                       | Review and resolution of leakage from the canal to minimise wastage and allow more accurate calculation of volume of water required for permits.                                                     | PTC               |
| 4 | Provision of applications forms                                | To consider re-use of the Culvert, NRW require a number of forms completed. They will issue to TCA who will liaise with Leeder regarding completion.                                                 | NRW               |
| 5 | Technical sub-group to review option of using existing Culvert | NRW advised that a sub-group be convened to discuss and review the option and requirements of using the existing Culvert as a temporary supply. NRW to advise when, and appropriate mix of attendees | NRW               |
| 6 | Sharing of future use information                              | Reports detailing the future use of the canal for tourism and leisure which have already been commissioned by local bodies to be shared with NRW.                                                    | TCA               |
| 7 | Lottery funding application                                    | Application is being made to via the NPTBC Heritage Lottery funding for a feasibility study on the Neath Canal. Delyth Lewis and Bethan Blackmore will extend this to include the Tennant canal.     | Delyth Lewis      |
| 8 | Additional Funding routes                                      | Cllr Aubrey explained she was aware of a number of possible grant schemes, and will share this information with the TCA                                                                              | Cllr Aubrey & TCA |

## Attendees

| Surname        | First name |                      | Present |
|----------------|------------|----------------------|---------|
| Hussain        | Dr Altaf   | MS                   | Yes     |
| Rees           | David      | MS                   | Yes     |
| Williams       | Sioned     | MS                   | Yes     |
| Evans          | Martyn     | NRW                  | Yes     |
| Drayton        | Caroline   | NRW                  | Yes     |
| Herbert        | Daron      | NRW                  | Yes     |
| Allison        | Steve      | NRW                  | Yes     |
| Williams       | Doug       | PTC                  | Yes     |
| Coombe Tennant | John       | PTC                  | Yes     |
| Abrahams       | Phillip    | CADW                 | Yes     |
| Berry          | John       | CADW                 | Yes     |
| Lewis          | Delyth     | NPTBC                | Yes     |
| Sharp          | R          | NPTBC                | Yes     |
| Blackmore      | Bethan     | NPTBC                | Yes     |
| Coleman        | Richard    | NPTBC                | Yes     |
| Aubrey         | Angharad   | Councillor           | Yes     |
| Lewis          | C.C.       | Councillor           | Yes     |
| Philips        | C          | Councillor           | Yes     |
| Carpenter      | W          | Councillor           | Yes     |
| Rogers         | Phil       | Councillor           | Yes     |
| Powell         | Colin      | Canal historian      | yes     |
| Isaac          | Jayne      | Assistant A Hussain  | yes     |
| Jenkins        | Andrew     | Assistant S Williams | Yes     |
| Ricketts       | Peter      | N & T Canals         | Yes     |
| Hughes         | Rick       | TCA                  | Yes     |
| Swindale       | Ann        | TCA                  | Yes     |
| Hanlon         | Paul       | TCA                  | Yes     |
| Rhodes         | Jon        | TCA                  | Yes     |
| Giffard        | Tom        | MS                   | Apology |
| Miles          | Jeremy     | MS                   | Apology |
| Harvey         | Mike       | Councillor           | Apology |