

Committee: Open Spaces

Date: 4 April 2023

Title: Canal Maintenance

Purpose of Report

For Members to consider information regarding the future maintenance of the canal which has been submitted by the Chair of the Angling Club.

Recommendation:

Members resolve to delegate authority to officers to produce a plan for future maintenance of the canal.

Background:

1. The Town Council has not had a maintenance plan in place for the canal in recent years.
2. The Angling Club have tried to improve the water quality as well as carrying out other works to try to improve the area. The Chair of the Angling Club had brought this to the attention of the Recreation Users Group Meeting held on 24th January 2023.
3. There are known issues with drainage coming off the land and The Mead which Highways (Somerset County Council) are looking into and plan to carry out some work on the canal bank in financial year 2023/2024.
4. The Town Council have £10,000 in Earmarked Reserves from financial year 2022/23 and have agreed to an additional £10,000 to be added to the Earmarked Reserve in financial year 2023/24 for canal maintenance.

Report:

5. The Chair of the Angling Club sent a report that was made by AE Fisheries following a visit to the canal which can be seen at **Appendix 10A**.
6. Following a discussion with the Countryside Manager, it was recommended that a maintenance plan be put together to carry out such work.
7. Members may choose to delegate authority to the Recreation Manager to prepare a maintenance plan for the canal to bring to the next Open Spaces meeting, in order to enable the Town Council to start a considered maintenance programme.

**Julie Earp
Deputy Town Clerk
March 2023**