
Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board Newsletter

April 2015



Board Member ELECTION 2015

Any Interested person considering standing as a Board member (non-remunerated) should visit the Boards' website for more details.

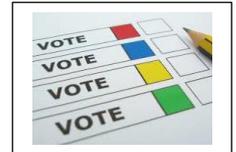
www.lowersevernidb.org.uk

or

contact the Clerk

jiwaskiw@lowersevernidb.org.uk

Telephone: 01454 413340



Machinery

The Board continues to update its machinery under its annually reviewed replacement programme. Any new purchase needs to be fully justified with the aim of improving our working efficiencies whilst maintaining the watercourses. Two machines had been purchased in 2014, a new tractor/mower unit and a Kobelco excavator. Two pairs of tree shears for the machines have also been purchased as pictured below.

In September, the Board purchased a new 9,000 litre fuel tank to optimize fuel monitoring, providing the data electronically, and resulting in improved accuracy.



Tree Shears



Tractor/Mower Unit



Kobelco

Lower Severn (2005) Internal Drainage Board ELECTORAL REGISTER

Notice is hereby given, that the proposed Register of Electors for the above named internal Drainage Board, may be inspected by interested persons between 9.00 and 13.00 and 14.00 and 16.30 (weekends and Banks Holidays excepted) for a period of 14 days from 1st to 15th April.

Maintenance



Before

Tree clearance and dredging commenced during January 2015 at Ashleworth in the Tewksbury district of Gloucestershire, as part of the Boards 2015 maintenance programme. The works will alleviate road flooding and improve land drainage as the ditch has been neglected for many years.

The Board typically undertake approximately 30 – 40 km of dredging clearance during the winter period and undertake 350km of mowing and weed cutting through the remainder of the year.



After

Avonmouth/Sevenside



Looking south with the M49 in the foreground and the Severn to the right.

Looking east with the new distribution centre and the M49 in the foreground and the Second Severn Crossing in the distance.



The Avonmouth/Sevenside area is located within the Lower Severn IDB's catchment and is split across Bristol City and South Gloucestershire Councils administrative boundaries.

The area is approximately 1400 hectares and is bounded by the River Avon in the south, the River Severn to the west and the M49 to the east and north.

During the mid-1950's ICI were granted planning permission on over 600 hectares of this area to develop for the chemical industry. Fast forward 40 years to the mid 1990's and only a few dozen hectares of this had been taken up mainly by fertilizer and chemical works. The Board with its consultant began in 1997 to develop a hydraulic model for the whole area. This model allows for developments to be tested on a site by site basis ensuring that there is no increase in the flood risk to the surrounding area. Moving forward just over 10 years and 60ha have been developed within the ICI area with a further 150ha still within Lower Severn's area but subject to the full current planning procedure. The coming years present a real challenge in the area as hundreds more hectares of land are potentially being taken out of agricultural production and put to use for industrial purposes.

The approach taken by Lower Severn has been to pro-actively promote the drainage interests of the ratepayers in the area. This has been achieved by liaison with developers and providing technical assistance with assessing the impact of development on the wider catchment area. Lower Severn has also been instrumental in terms of strategy setting by ensuring that developers allow adequate storage provision in return for unrestricted discharges. Indeed the benefits are not just confined to drainage, the infrastructure that is being created such as wet ponds and channels provide an undisturbed habitat that is key to local biodiversity. The future for the area is exciting and Lower Severn's part in the planning process is central to achieving a standard of drainage that enables sustainable development whilst continuing to promote the interests of its agricultural ratepayers.