

Keeping you informed

Newlay Weir and Fish Pass

January 2023

This newsletter is to provide an update on the current situation at Newlay weir and fish pass.

We would like to thank all those who took part in the community engagement survey over the summer; understanding what is important to you has enabled us to further evaluate what options are available to improve the current situation. We have read all the feedback and analysed the results, allowing us to use this information in discussions with the various stakeholders.

We appreciate that this process is taking time, and has not moved as quickly as the community, or we would have hoped. We are considering a number of potential options but because there are factors outside our control, we need other organisations to provide their input. The complexities of the location with its significant heritage, biodiversity and amenity value means we cannot finalise a solution alone. Identifying and implementing a solution involves several organisations all with their own internal governance, guidance and processes which must be complied with.

We know this is an area of importance for many people, for many reasons. We recognise that it is not possible to please all interested parties; the community survey demonstrated the polarising opinions present. We want to assure you we are doing all that we can to deliver a solution and ensure the view from Newlay bridge is more pleasing.

What has happened since the survey?

Through our discussions with the stakeholders, specialists and other organisations involved, we have identified a

wide range of constraints and considerations which impact the situation at Newlay weir.

As well as asking the public their views on the situation, we have also sought out further information and specialist advice to ensure as many considerations as possible are included and inform our thinking.

You told us that flood risk, biodiversity, and heritage and were the three most important issues for you as residents. You also told us you were concerned about safety so to improve this we carried out a Public Safety Risk Assessment of the fish pass in December 2021. We have extended the fencing to prevent access and have removed the eel pass covers as a further measure to prevent trespass.

What happens next?

We are consulting stakeholder organisations on the feasibility of options. This involves putting together technical information we have gathered with views given by the community and interested organisations. Before we proceed with a solution we will need to obtain permissions and approvals from the relevant authorities, which will take time. We are committed to seeking a balanced, considered, and appropriate solution as soon as possible.

We will continue to keep you up to date via further newsletters.

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