

NEW RIVER RENEWAL CAMPAIGN -

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Following Meeting with TW held October 4th at 11am Coalhouse Café – Woodberry Wetlands

ACTION LOG & PROGRESS REPORT – 28-10-2022

PRIORITY AREA	ACTION	Progress	Response from TW + LBH
<p>1) Restoration of the New River path to reduce the risk of falls and enable access for all in compliance with the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>This is particularly relevant to the section from SSR to FP but is relevant to most other sections.</p>	<p>Path from SSR to Finsbury Park is expected to be renewed before Christmas 2022.</p> <p>Councillors were asked: Would it be possible for you to speed up the process with the London Borough of Hackney.</p>	<p>Thames Water has raised an order with their contractor for the relaying of the path to Finsbury Park, and TW are working with LBH to achieve an agreement to place a temporary compound on the adjacent site, as this is needed to allow safe access to the site to carry out the work, and allow access for delivery of materials.</p> <p>If LBH can get this matter sorted, work could begin to renew the path in the near future. Hopefully completed before Christmas.</p> <p>The type of material used is yet to be decided, but will be environmentally friendly. The TW Water Quality team will decide on the material used.</p>	<p>On the site access point - I picked this up with James last week and am following up with the relevant people in Hackney. Caroline</p>

NEW RIVER RENEWAL CAMPAIGN -

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<p>2) Dangerous section of the path – especially following rain.</p>	<p>Campaign review, photos and assessment planned for November 7th at 3pm. Emphasis on compliance with Equality Act and Duty of Care by LBH and TW. <u>Duty of Care</u> which may require actions be taken to protect users of the paths, plus the installation of signage regarding potential hazards.</p>	<p>Apart from proposals for SSR to Finsbury Park, no action since gravelling of the path. It is a long term problem caused by lack of any response mechanism when paths become dangerous for walkers.</p>	<p>No action from LBH or TW</p>
<p>3) Ownership of section of the River and Bank</p>	<p>Map requested from Councillors and James showing who owns each section and responsibility and accountability.</p>	<p>Caroline has provided map showing ownership of each area.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>4) Better communications between all parties needed so that potential hazards can be reported quickly and responded without delay.</p>	<p>Discussed with James but apart from his meetings with Councillors no action.</p> <p>System is required, so that reports of precarious or dangerous paths and rubbish can easily be dealt with through a clear reporting line, and passed to the agency best suited to remove the rubbish or secure the safety of the path. Effective collaboration between the relevant bodies is important and James confirmed this process</p>	<p>On coordination more broadly Cllrs spoke to the relevant LBH Council Heads of Service and am linking him in with James TW</p>	<p>No progress with regard to actions to resolve the problem of routine reporting and accountability for hazards and repair of hazardous sections.</p>

NEW RIVER RENEWAL CAMPAIGN -

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	is in the early stages of development.		
5) Identify which parts of the New River are contaminated and require regular removal of rubbish to maintain and restore the natural wildlife environment.	<p>The cafe could be the place walkers report anything of note, e.g. contamination of the NR. The mobile number of whoever is on duty on any particular day and other contact details should be available on a board near the cafe or front entrance. Also posters in the café and on the path advising walkers how to report contamination of NR.</p> <p>James agreed to share a copy of the current agreement between Thames Water and the London Wildlife Trust</p> <p>We proposed a service level agreement be established between LWT and TW, so that LWT can be paid to regularly check the river (e.g. every two weeks), remove rubbish, and clear rubbish from the proposed Gauge House grill.</p>	<p>See also item 12</p> <p>Rubbish collection from the NR only takes place when there is heavy contamination, and this is carried out by the LWT, and only on the section adjacent to the East Reservoir.</p> <p>No document received</p> <p>We would like a copy of any agreement between TW/LWT regarding activities carried out by LWT on behalf of TW.</p>	
6) Current contamination – very slow response	The river beneath Lordship Road is heavily contaminated, despite this issue being raised several	No progress. James reports that he is waiting for the LBH to give consent for divers to enter the	Cllrs will pick up with James re who he /TW have been speaking to re

NEW RIVER RENEWAL CAMPAIGN -

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	<p>times over the past months with TW and Cllrs. There is no quick response mechanism at the moment. The rubbish under Lordship Road has been left for months. Rubbish was removed nearby but the rubbish under the bridge left despite several requests to TW and reporting to our Cllrs.</p>	<p>NR by Lordship Road, clean the valve and the river. Broken glass and trolley that remained on the SSR path for two years have now been removed. Mattress still not removed from near Newton Close. Other items of junk not removed, e.g. cones and wooden boards.</p>	<p>clearance of the river under Lordship Road</p>
<p>7) Risks to volunteers removing larger items from the NR</p>	<p>We agreed to consider the risk to volunteers of removing heavy items from the river, and the importance of these activities being undertaken by experts, who would not be at risk of harm. We agreed that legal advice was needed in relation to role of volunteers in cleaning up the river.</p>	<p>We have not received a progress report from TW.</p>	<p>No Action</p>
<p>8) Quality of Water in the East Reservoir</p>	<p>Water from East Reservoir is pumped to Walthamstow and after cleansing is used as drinking water</p>	<p>We asked James for a copy of the recent water quality reports.</p>	<p>No action</p>
<p>9) Need for responsibility for maintenance of each section of the path to be accepted by Thames</p>	<p>Part of discussion between Councillors and James. LBH actively looks after path from large children's playground to Lordship Road.</p>	<p>No progress Action needed from Hackney Council re rubbish bins and regular emptying of bins.</p>	<p>No action</p>

NEW RIVER RENEWAL CAMPAIGN -

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<p>Water and LBH. Currently, little evidence of coordinated arrangements between responsible bodies for effective maintenance.</p>	<p>More rubbish bins are need on the west side of Lordship Road and by Newnton Close. Lots of rubbish is accumulating by the Newnton Close bridge. Contaminated paths soon contaminate the NR. Regular picking by Berkley Homes worker and volunteers is going well on the west side of Lordship Road. The next volunteer path 'clean up' by volunteers on Wednesday 2nd November at 9.30am (meeting at Park View Cafe).</p>	<p>No action cleaning of path from Newton Close to FP except from volunteers.</p>	
<p>10) Japanese Knotweed is growing on a few section of the path by the football pitch on Thames Water land.</p>	<p>Raised with James and LBH</p>	<p>The Council will not take responsibility for its removal even though they employ a JKW expert. Thames Water has taken no action We recommend that TW pays LBH or LWT to control grown of JKW</p>	<p>No action</p>
<p>11) We propose a grill be placed on the Gauge House near Newnton Close, to stop rubbish flowing down to the reeds where birds nest.</p>	<p>No Action</p>	<p>No progress</p>	<p>No action</p>

NEW RIVER RENEWAL CAMPAIGN -

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<p>12) Appropriate accountability for path and river to develop wildlife areas and create an environment that is safe for the enjoyment of residents and visitors</p>	<p>We have asked for each of the four bodies that have accountability for the river and path to be clear about their responsibilities, and respond appropriately when issues are raised. LBH, TW, LWT, Better.Com. A proactive approach is required, not just responding when the birds are nesting in plastic. Memorandum of understanding is required so that the responsibilities of each body become transparent.</p>	<p>Nothing in writing yet. Some signs of progress, for example: TW's SSR to FP path plan. Competence of LWT in relation to ad hoc clearing of river junk needs to be recognised and funded. Rapid reporting and rapid action is required to protect wildlife.</p>	<p>No Action</p>
<p>13) Communications with local residents</p>	<p>Bulletin boards are needed to share with local people the best ways of reporting contamination of the river and path, and hazardous events on the path, e.g. deep mud after heavy rain. We agreed a coherent strategy is needed that ensures paths are safe throughout the whole year and contamination of the river and path substantially reduced. Rapid action to deal with deep muddy sections of the path and identified persons who can take rapid action.</p>	<p>See also item 5</p>	<p>NO Action</p>

NEW RIVER RENEWAL CAMPAIGN -

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<p>14) Sterile River – Castle to Lordship Road</p>	<p>Part of the New River west from the Castle to Lordship Road is sterile. This is because of the dye put in the water by Better.com. The dye kills river-bottom plants and is supposed to make the West Reservoir safer for swimmers and boaters. We are concerned about the impact on fish and other wildlife. We did discuss with Better.Com whether the dye could be put in at another location where it would impact less heavily on wildlife, but they said this would make no difference. They claim that the dye does not harm fish, but there have been a number of dead fish in west end of the river over the summer.</p>	<p>We have asked for an expert from LWT advise us on whether changes can be made to the policy and practice of adding dye to the river and what action can be taken to bring the west river back to life. Response awaited from LWT.</p> <p>Does TW have experts who can provide advice on this issue?</p>	<p>LWT suggest referral to the EA.</p> <p>They will seek advice from their Conservation Team.</p>
<p>15) Public Meeting about the New River</p>	<p>James has agreed to speak at a public meeting about development in the New River</p>	<p>Date and location to be agreed. Probably at Redmond Centre.</p>	