

NEW RIVER RENEWAL CAMPAIGN

MARCH 2023 www.newriverrenewal.co.uk

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW RIVER

- RESTORATION OF NEW RIVER PATH - SEVEN SISTERS RD TO FINSBURY PK
- REDUCE RISK OF FALLS AND ENABLE ACCESS TO THE PATH FOR ALL

THAMES WATER HAS COMMISSIONED A COMPANY CALLED MAYDENCROFT TO RESTORE THE MOST DANGEROUS MUDDY PATH IN HACKNEY. THEY EXPECTED TO START WORK IN MARCH BUT THEY ARE WAITING FOR HACKNEY COUNCIL TO GIVE CONSENT TO START.

Environmentally friendly granite type 1 aggregate and granite fines will be used to lay the new path. This is important as the runoff from the path will be into the New River – our not yet treated drinking water. The work is expected to take 12 weeks.



PATH FROM NEWTON CLOSE TO SEVEN SISTERS ROAD

The duty of care requires that the New River paths in Hackney are safe for all. Responsibility for the path maintenance lies with Thames Water and LBH. Some of the paths were improved through gravelling in 2021. The paths on both sides of the Newton Close Bridge and the path near the large children's playground are prime sites for upgrading to make them accessible to all visitors in all weathers.



BUT GREAT PROGRESS WITH CLEANING UP THE NEW RIVER FOLLOWING MEETING WITH JAMES TOWNSEND FROM THAMES WATER

At the meeting with James Townsend, it was agreed:

- TW will remove the large mattress laying in the river near Newton Close – **this was done on 6th March, 2023.**
- TW also removed rubbish and debris from the river by Lordship Road bridge after we provided them with precise locations for areas of river contamination and obstacles that need removal. There are still piles of rotting leaves that need to be removed from under Lordship Road bridge.



PILES OF RUBBISH UNDER LORDSHIP ROAD BRIDGE – MUCH OF IT RECENTLY REMOVED

We now want to see:

- An agreement between Thames Water and the London Wildlife Trust for the removal of rubbish as it builds up in the river. LWT currently carries out these activities on an ad hoc basis when there is heavy contamination.
 - An arrangement between TW and LWT for these activities to be carried out regularly when needed, along the whole section of the path within the LBH.
 - Coal House Café as a location where walkers and visitors can report anything of note – e.g. contamination of the New River or deterioration of the path.
 - Bulletin boards along the river path display information from our newsletters.
 - A rapid responsive system with Thames Water and the LBH that to remove trolleys, bikes and mattresses which are sometimes dumped in the river.
 - Installation of fixed bins at key points along the river path and for LBH to empty them regularly. We have provided a list of key locations for installation of the dustbins. Councillors have also raised the issue with the LBH, but no action has been taken. We want LBH and TW to get the bins installed very soon and ensured they are emptied regularly.
 - Establish which parts of the river are contaminated and require regular removal of rubbish
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THANKYOU HADI AND YOUR LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST TEAM FOR REMOVING PLASTICS AND OTHER RUBBISH FROM THE AREA WHERE BIRDS NEST ON THE HAPPENED ON MARCH 10

Before and After Cleaning Up the River by the London Wildlife Trust – March 2023



JAPANESE KNOTWEED - JKW

JAPANESE KNOTWEED IS GROWING ON SEVERAL SECTIONS OF THE PATH NEAR THE FOOTBALL CAGE

We have provided the exact location of the JKW to James Townsend TW and it has been treated, there are some signs of new growth which is inevitable. **IN PROGRESS**



WE WANT AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN TW, LBH AND THE LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST TO AGREE WHICH BODY SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ACTION WHEN THE RIVER IS CONTAMINATED AND THE PATH UNSAFE TO WALK ON – WE MUST PROTECT WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE **NO ACTION SO FAR**

One of our members reported a dead fox in the River by the Redmond Centre and we were able to get it removed by Better.org at the Climbing Centre. Thanks to David Reddington for prompt action. This shows the need to agree a more formal Memorandum of Understanding, which clarifies the responsibilities, duties and actions of TW, LBH, LWT and Better.Com. and establishes a reporting system. These 4 bodies have responsibility for sections of the New River, reservoir or paths within the Borough of Hackney. We know that LBH is talking to Berkley Homes about the transfer of responsibility for some paths to LBH, but we have no information about any agreement or timescale. We want these bodies to develop a proactive approach to keeping the New River and Paths clean and safe for wildlife and local communities –

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH TO JOIN US:

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