

NEW RIVER RENEWAL CAMPAIGN



‘DROP-IN’ MEETING WITH THAMES WATER TO DISCUSS OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW RIVER 14th SEPTEMBER – 5.00pm – 7.00pm Redmond Centre

The New River is not just a piece of infrastructure to provide fresh water to London, but a key part of North London's heritage and fundamental to its green regeneration.

This important meeting with Thames Water (TW) will give us an opportunity to discuss its plans to reline the New River from Seven Sisters Road to Green Lanes (Finsbury Park) with concrete. The plan to reline the river with concrete is being carried out to reduce leaks from the New River which TW says is impacting on the availability of drinking water.

Other issues to be discussed include rubbish collection from the New River and the New River path, and creating public access to a significant piece of lane on the Eade Road side of the New River.

Please arrive at the meeting by 5.00pm to examine the TW proposals and be ready at 5.30pm to collectively challenge TW on issues of major concern. What follows are our priorities for the meeting.

Our Priorities

1. Unused Land on the North Side of the River – by Eade Road

Many residents on Eade Road side of the New River would like to see greater use and better landscaping of the northern riverside. It is currently an abandoned patch of grass, with a great deal of fly tipping over the fence.

2. Installation and Emptying of Dustbins along the New River

3. Relining the River with Concrete – Seven Sisters Road to Green Lanes

In relation to re-lining of the river, surveying local houses prior to the commencement of any re-lining works, and indemnifying households against any potential subsidence. Relining the New River with concrete will have a major impact on wildlife.

4. Evidence from Thames Water Engineers Regarding Mitigation

Details of measures taken to mitigate damaging changes to water content on the land on which properties adjacent to the New River stand. This must include details of the measures that will be undertaken to maintain the moisture levels at the pre-works baseline after the works are completed.

5. Evidence that the Seven Sisters Road to Green Lanes Section is Particularly Susceptible to Leaks

Evidence underpinning Thames Water's decision that this section of the New River is contributing significantly to water loss, compared to other sections of the New River, such as the section on the Finsbury Park side of Green Lanes.

6. Cost Benefit Analysis of Different Approaches to Leak Management

Cost benefit evaluation undertaken to ensure proper annual maintenance of the New River, versus concrete re-lining and maintenance, over the estimated life span of both solutions, including the cost of surveying and indemnifying neighbouring households.

7. Impact of Leak Management Approaches on Wildlife, Biodiversity and Homes

Assessment of the impact of different approaches to leak management on wildlife and biodiversity, embodied carbon, and disruption to neighbouring homes.

8. Active Involvement of Local Residents in All Decisions on Leak Management

Involvement of the local residents who have many decades of experience with the historical issues of the New River, including Thames Water's maintenance.

9. New River Is An Essential Component of Biodiversity

Recognition of the New River as part of the urban and biodiversity heritage of the Finsbury Park and Hermitage New River area, as well as a potential focal point for urban regeneration, requiring proposals to augment the New River's cultural, social, economic and biodiversity value in the area.

10. What is the Timescale?

The timescale for undertaking all the above priorities before commencement of relining the New River with concrete, or other more appropriate techniques.

11. Credible Technical Proposals Closely Linked to Re-lining Works Including:

- The Thames Water Programme of works.
- Detailed drawings and visualisations of actual and potential outcomes.
- Sustainability evaluation, including the feasibility of using low-embodied carbon concrete, landscaping proposals to retain localised reed beds, incorporating nesting locations, sustainable urban drainage, and meadow planting part of the riverbank.
- Contractors' preliminaries, including the 'Considerate Constructor Scheme' compliance, diverting waste from landfill quantitative targets, re-use of soil removed from the riverbed for local landscaping.
- Feasibility of incorporating horizontal ground source heat pump pipelines to work in the riverbed to supply low carbon heating to neighbouring properties.