

NEW RIVER RENEWAL CAMPAIGN

Notes Produced by the New River Renewal Campaign and James Townsend, Field Performance Manager at Thames Water.

Appendix: What3words locations for action by TW

Meeting with James Townsend – Thames Water

Meeting held on December 6th at 11am
Coalhouse Café – Woodberry Wetlands

James Townsend - Thames Water
Mark Wilks and Malcolm Alexander – New River Renewal Campaign -NRRC

1) Renewal of the path: SSR to GL (Finsbury Park)

- a) James confirmed that the work would start in late January 2023 and would take about 11 weeks to complete. We are still awaiting the actual start date.
- b) James confirmed the path is owned by TW and is in the LBH.
- c) Materials and compound for the path will be stored on the Councils Rowley Gardens Estate at the north end of NR (opposite Finsbury Park).
- d) The company carrying out the work is called Maydencroft.
<https://www.maydencroft.co.uk/>
- e) Precise logistics are currently being drawn up by TW, Maydencroft and the LBH, i.e. who does what, where and when.
- f) James was not able to tell us what materials would be used to remake the path. He said it would be 'fit for purpose', safe and appropriate in relation to the risks associated with untreated water in the river.
- g) Is the path a public 'right of way'? James responded that it is.

2) Development of a Memorandum of Understanding

We discussed and agreed that it would be useful to have a document that clarifies responsibilities, duties and actions in relation to issues and concerns relating to the New River and New River Path from the Castle to Finsbury Park.

We propose to include in the MoU how residents and visitors can report contamination of the river and path and disintegration of the paths. James said that he preferred direct contact to be made to him rather than messages going through the contact centre, emails or twitter. We need quick responses to serious problems with the river and path.

Action: Mark and Malcolm to prepare draft.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-up-school-partnerships/guide-to-writing-a-memorandum-of-understanding-mou

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3) Disposal of Waste

There is a serious shortage of dustbins along the river path from GL (Finsbury Park) to the Castle. We emphasized the importance of having well located fixed dustbins along the path to prevent rubbish blowing into the river. These bins need to be regularly emptied by the LBH. The only bins which are emptied regularly are on the section owned and organised by the LBH. We suggested that TW installed fixed bins and arrange for the LBH to empty the bins regularly. During the last winter black rubbish sacks burst open in the wind and blew into the river. We have given a list of key locations for dustbins to Bianca Rembrandt (Community Safety and Enforcement Officer – LBH) and await a response. We would like LBH and TW to collaborate on this issue.

4) Public Meeting about the development of the path and NR.

Agreed to hold a public meeting, possibly at the Redmond Centre. We agreed to widely distribute information about this meeting when the date is agreed by TW and Cllrs Sarah Young and Caroline Selman. A path 'clean up' has also proposed by James and Cllrs Sarah and Caroline.

We propose that a wildlife expert is invited to the meeting to talk about steps to improve the river as a location for wildlife.

5) Removal of Mattress near Newnton Bridge and other debris

James agreed to have the mattress removed from the river once we have provided details of exact location through What3Words. He also agreed to have other debris removed and has been in touch with a diving contractor who will move the debris. James will provide the dates of removal when known.

Action: Provide James with What3Words location details.

<https://what3words.com/pretty.needed.chill>

6) Japanese Knotweed Removal

James agreed to have the JKW removed. We suggested connecting TW with the LBH expert on JKW. Mark agreed to provide the What3Words location of the JKW.

Action: Provide James with What3Words location details. He will provide the dates of removal when known.

7) Removal of Rubbish/Contamination from the River and Riverbank on a Quarterly Basis

James agreed that the TW 'ground maintenance contractor' can be commissioned to carry out this work quarterly. They are employed on day rotas.

8) Cleaning of the West Reservoir Valve and Adjacent Area (West of Lordship Road)

James said that there has been a delay in getting consent from the LBH to carry out this work. Once consent has been obtained divers will carry out the

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valve cleaning and rubbish clearance. MA to contact Cllrs to speed process up.

9) Maintenance of Path near Newnton Bridge and Near the Large Children’s Playground.

Agreed that these areas have become very muddy and unsafe, and that they could be quickly re-surfaced using type one grit.

<https://www.pathsforall.org.uk/mediaLibrary/other/english/surfacing-guide-for-path-projects-94731.pdf>

The ground maintenance contractors employed by TW could carry out this work but agreement for some of this work would be needed with LBH.

Action:

10) Obtain Updated River and River Path Ownership Map

11) Agree dates for Quarterly Meeting with James. Next meeting in February 2023

Appendix:


What3words locations for improvements to New River and New River Path.

Abbreviations


FP = Finsbury Park

NRP = New River Path




SSR = Seven Sisters Road

What 3 words reference		
Green Lanes by FP → SSR		
design.crest.serve	Good location for a bin, just inside the gate from Green Lanes	
live.cuts.plant	Large thick steel cable in river	
save.slower.soda	Huge depression in path	
exist.stole.appeal	Metal spike in path Protrudes a couple of inches, well know	


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	<p>hazard for runners and walkers. There are several of these mainly bars and not spikes on this section of the NRP, they are a serious trip hazard. They could easily be cut with an angle grinder rather than dug out and this should be done before the resurfacing is done</p>	
<p>bumps.seated.jams</p>	<p>Metal bar in path, about 12 cm long</p>	
<p>apple. path.first</p>	<p>? possible site for bin, opposite OCC chimney on the far side of the New River and ½ way between the Green Lanes and Seven Sisters section Of the path. Not so easy to access by car/van to MT.</p>	

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Wiped.line.pounds	Metal projecting from path	
ashes.wishes.taken	Just inside the gate leading onto SSR, good site for a bin at the bottom of the ramp, a litter hotspot	
SSR → Newton Close		
budget.reveal.plans	Just inside the gate from SSR to Newton Close, a litter hotspot and a clear place to site one	
limes.certified.words	Site for a large bin at Newton Close, on the pavement where it is wide and does not obstruct foot traffic, probably the worst spot for litter on the whole path. Little room for a bin on the actual NRP just through the gate.	
Newton Close → Lordship Rd		
Invest.bless.pill	old mattress in river, now difficult to see as been there so long. Opposite LWT office	

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shine.odds.moved	Japanese Knot weed on side of path about 7m long, currently has no leaves but stems are obvious	
recent.slim.affair	Platform which slightly projects over the river and has seats with Toad of Toad Hall carvings. River below this platform is an area of frequent accumulation of cans and beer bottles.	
Lordship Road → Green Lanes Castle entrance		
device.album.smiles	Under Lordship Rd bridge Always a build up of rubbish	
club.ally.muddy	Rubbish accumulates at entry grill into the West Res	
joke.liked.dimes	Several bins around but none around here. Good site for a bin at the edge of the children's playground and back of John Scott.	
loaded.calms.again	Good spot for a bin, easy access for emptying, benches make it a popular spot for eating and drinking	
fate.late.linked	Good spot for a bin at the end of the bridge, where people leaving the NRP might want to leave rubbish. Ideally at the other end of the bridge as well	

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laser.smiles.boot	Somewhere just inside the entrance to the Castle Climbing site from Green Lanes behind the building currently used for bike servicing. This historically has been very bad for litter	
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Choice of bins



This design presumably installed by Berkely Homes seems excellent.

1. Reasonable high capacity but the mouth is small enough to discourage larger objects being put in
2. It has ground anchors so hard to dislodge.
3. Lockable
4. The galvanised steel appears strong.
5. If set on fire, the black liner may burn but the bin itself should be OK

The situation of each bin needs careful consideration

1. Visible and therefore more likely to be used
2. But also well away from the water so the temptation to try and dislodge it is reduced.