

**IN RESPONSE TO THE PLANS FOR WORK ON AND AROUND THE RIVERLANDS POND, MR. TOM
EVERLEY HAS KINDLY PROVIDED THIS REPORT.**

Dear Ray,

I have been contacted by Marijana in regards to the proposed work at the wildlife pond.

I'm sorry to see and hear that the viewing platform has been damaged by vandals. However, the suggested idea to dredge the pond would be detrimental to the health of the fragile ecosystem it supports. Most importantly its Great Crested newt population.

I am aware the pond is not the most pretty pond, but that's the nature of wildlife ponds they are for the wildlife not for people.

Dredging would significantly reduce the biodiversity killing many species. MOST IMPORTANTLY THE NEWTS which are a protected species! Therefore dredging the ponds would potentially be illegal.

It would become a glorified duck pond!

A barrier would be beneficial to prevent further dumping of branches and rubbish, but the barrier must only obstruct people not wildlife. There are numerous species that use the pond and any ground level barriers especially ones with wire would be harmful. I can give advice on what barrier designs would be appropriate.

In previous reports I have detailed species within the pond, and I could also list potential users of the pond that are yet to be confirmed.

Nettles: nettle aren't fun but they are key to lots of insects, who use them to lay their eggs, butterflies and moths being one of those insects (Vital for Henley's bird and bat population). The nettles can be cut back seasonally but not to the extent where they are not present. Its winter now and the nettles aren't visible this seasonal plant rotation helps the ground to recover and will encourage wintering plant species. If the nettles were eradicated it would encourage the growth of an invasive species already prolific in the surrounding water bodies (Himalayan Balsam).

Any invasive work around and within the pond should be done with an environmental specialist present to ensure no damage is done to the existing ecosystem.

Regards

Tom Everley BSc Zoology