

MAJOR WORKS TO THE PONDS

One of Elsea Park's landmark features is to get a major overhaul this autumn as the ponds at the entrance to the park are dredged and sediment removed to rejuvenate their life. Here we answer some of the questions which might come to mind about the work.

FAQs on the ponds

What work is happening to the ponds?

They are being dredged and sediment cleaned out.

Why?

The ponds are lagoons which take the surface water drainage from Elsea Park. Since they were created around 10 years ago much silt has drained into the ponds with the surface water. This now needs to be removed before the ponds become too full of silt.

What will be removed?

The silt, some water, pond weed, the rushes and any rubbish.

What will happen to the fish?

They will be removed as far as possible, stored in tanks at specialist fisheries and then returned to the ponds. Unfortunately some losses will be inevitable but every care will be taken to minimise these.

What about the other wildlife?

The work will be carried out one pond at a time so allowing birds, such as the ducks, to move from one habitat to another and then return. Frogs are likely to be caught in the silt and will then find their nearest wet habitat.



What permissions are required?

Consent has been sought primarily from the Environment Agency and Natural England. To obtain consent an ecology report and a risk management plan have been some of the necessary documentation provided.

What will happen to the fountains?

It is not planned to remove the fountains completely but they will be reduced in number. The plan is to retain a fountain on either side of the bridge. The reason for this is mainly the cost of running the fountains. Eventually costs will fall on the Trust and so on residents' charges.

What about the appearance of the ponds?

The work will have a major impact on the appearance of the ponds but this will only be temporary. Their appearance should be much improved by the Spring.

Who owns and manages the ponds?

Currently they are the responsibility of Kier not Elsea Park Trust. Kier will manage the work and pay for it. Once Elsea Park is complete the ponds will transfer to the Trust.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ⇒ Work to the ponds
- ⇒ Community Centre progress
- ⇒ Suggest the name for the community centre
- ⇒ Land transfer
- ⇒ Nature notes
- ⇒ Join the Board

FAQ CONTINUED

Who will carry out the work?

A specialist company called Fen Ditching, a land drainage company. With over 35 years of experience, the company's work has included carrying out various projects for Natural England and the R.S.P.B., as well as many wildlife trusts, local councils, landscape architects and property developers. They hold the Royal Warrant for work on the Sandringham Estate.

How will the work be carried out?

Heavy machinery will be used for dredging, working from the roundabout side of the pond. Some disturbance will be inevitable primarily along Quayside East and West and the adjoining part of Water Lane. Work will take place Monday to Friday only. There will be some disturbance as the ponds are dredged but this will be temporary.

Will the roads be kept open?

At times it may be necessary to close the roads close to the ponds but access will be maintained. The bridge will remain unaffected.

What will happen to the sediment?

The sediment will be removed to a site on the Meadows, allowed to drain over several months and then removed for use in Elsea Park. It is to be sited away from the footpaths and will not interfere with their use.

When will the work take place?

It is planned to start in November, dependent on water temperatures, and will last around 4 weeks. Again this will be dependent on the weather. Residents living close to the ponds will be individually notified when work is about to start.

COMMUNITY CENTRE PLAY PARK AND THE LINEAR PARK

In August a consultation exercise was carried out to get feedback on the options for the play park near the Centre. As a reminder there were three options:

Option One: 60:40 split between junior: toddler equipment; Option Two: 50:50 split; Option Three: 100% juniors

The majority view was in favour of Option Two splitting the play park 50:50 into two uses: equipment for toddlers and that for juniors.

Additionally it has been agreed that the basketball hoop and goal mouth will be relocated in due course from Springbank to the Community Centre play area.

From the community centre play park the linear park wends its way through Elsea Park towards the A15 South Road and Tesco in one direction and will go towards new phases of development in the other



NATURE NOTES BY PETER ELLIS TRUST GROUNDSMAN

After a warm spring it turned out to be a disappointing summer, very dry. The water level in two of the habitat ponds has been very low from about June, and they have since dried up completely, hence the very low numbers of dragonflies, and the absence of the kingfisher. Once the water returns (dependant on the rainfall) there will be no long term damage. Vegetation and aquatic life soon returns.

Despite the poor summer the meadows faired fairly well. The flowers in the wild flower meadow were not so abundant along with the Butterfly population: Meadow Browns, Ringles, Skippers and orange tips could all be seen.

One resident barn owl managed to lay five eggs and successfully hatched three and reared all three chicks. The photo was taken when they were carefully removed from the nest box to be ringed by RSPB ringing association. Bird ringing provides important data and gives you an idea of the number of birds and their movements and nesting habits.

Last winter we had the rare privilege of seeing a large flock of waxwings feeding in the hedgerows, especially alongside the A15. This attracted a large number of bird watchers (twitchers), from far and wide.



This shows that careful and sensitive management to encourage wildlife can throw up a few rare surprises. Although autumn is the for runner of winter, it can be just as glorious as spring. It's the time when trees & shrubs open their larder doors for all wildlife to gorge before the leaner times ahead, will we have time to stand and stare at the array of beautiful colours nature has provided.

Next month look out for the arrival of fieldfares & redwings they will stay until March. You will see them feeding along the hedgerows and bushes. In late winter they will move into the grass and arable fields. In severe winters they will venture into gardens. They are very sociable birds and they will be seen in large flocks. These can sometimes contain one hundred or more birds.



LAND AND ROADS UPDATE

LAND TRANSFER

Over the coming months the Trust will take ownership of several pieces of land from Kier. The areas currently due for transfer are:



- ⇒ Water Lane, along its length from Quayside to Setts Green
- ⇒ Play areas at Elsea Park Way and Springbank
- ⇒ Leytonstone Lane

The Trust already owns:

- ⇒ The landscape strip alongside the A15, including the bus shelter
- ⇒ Aykroft play area
- ⇒ The Meadows

Before the land is transferred, the Trust jointly inspects the area and agrees any remedial work that is needed before the land is acceptable for transfer.

The Trust's inspection team includes a Resident Director, the Trust Manager and the Groundskeeper. A formal check list of condition and remedial works, such as replacement of dead trees, attention to play equipment and the like, is used in the inspection and a written record kept of inspection requirements.

The recent inspection was carried out on a fine sunny morning and, with some exceptions, such as dead trees, the inspection team was pleased with the condition and amenity value provided.

HIGHWAYS ADOPTIONS

Kier are currently reviewing phases for adoption with the Highways Department of Lincolnshire County Council. Some remedial work will be carried out over coming months in order to progress on to maintenance. Kier will aim to minimise disruption on estate roads and prior to commencement notification will be given those residents who might be affected by the works.

BRIDGE OVER SETTS GREEN

The Autumn also sees the installation of a footbridge over the former badger reserve linking Badger Lane/Setts Green to Coltsfoot Drive. The land which was previously the home of badgers is to remain as a conservation area.

UPDATE ON THE POLLARDS

The trees that have died on The Pollards will be replaced this Autumn. A follow-up maintenance programme has been arranged, alongside the work for the linear park, lasting well into 2012.

THE BUNDS—WATER LANE

The bunds running alongside Water Lane are shortly to be planted up with two thousand shrubs of native species which will be purchased from a local nursery. The planting will be carried out by the Trust's groundskeeper, Peter, with the work being recharged to Kier.

LEYTONSTONE LANE

Following up on concerns about the condition of the green area here, the Trust consulted residents about potential improvements. The Board have given their go-ahead to landscaping improvements to make it a nature friendly space to include mixed shrubbery, ornamental trees, bird table and benches. Work will start in the Autumn.

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE TAKES SHAPE

At the end of The Pollards residents can see that the new Community Centre is taking shape. The Centre is part of the planning agreement for Elsea Park and the building is being funded by Kier not from the charge to residents. On completion the Trust will take ownership. Money already held in the Trust's accounts (accumulated from the annual charge paid by members), will be used to furnish and equip this long awaited facility.

The Trust hopes to move into the Centre in the New Year and then plans will start to turn into reality

As the Resident Directors recognise, this is a significant milestone for Elsea Park, and if we all get it right, the Centre should help to provide the very heart of our community.



ON OFFER:

- ◇ A large open hall with a stage. The hall can be into two for separate functions
- ◇ A meeting room
- ◇ A lounge
- ◇ Kitchen and a bar

These facilities will be available for hire through the Trust.

Ideas from residents for community uses include mother and toddler groups, fitness classes, family events, a community bar, coffee mornings, drop-in sessions for the retired, charity evenings, games for youth....in fact as one resident said '*Everything from the cradle to the grave*'

If you have ideas of how the Centre might be used by the community, or can help run activities, please contact the Trust Office.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

As the community centre nears completion and handover to the Trust, we would welcome suggestions for a name, other than community centre. The postal address will be Sandown Drive but a name which marks the centre as being part of Elsea Park as a whole is much preferred

Over to you...email suggestions for the centre's name to admin@elseapark.co.uk by

we need
you



We welcome interest from any resident of Elsea Park in joining the Trust's Board and/or becoming involved in running activities at the Community Centre.

Help us play a part in the future of Elsea Park. It will be good for you and good for our local community

Angela Bailey—Chairman, Elsea Park Trust

Do you care about how the community develops at Elsea Park? If so, the Trust would like to hear from you as they seek to increase the number of Resident Directors on the Board of the Trust. You don't have to have specialist knowledge, although particular skills are always useful. You just have to care about the community facilities at Elsea Park and be available for a few hours a month to help the Trust.

Working together, Board members are enthusiastic about Elsea Park. They provide direction to support full time staff as they work at improving community facilities. But they would welcome more help particularly as the Trust takes on the Community Centre. At that time the Trust itself is required to take a new form with more Resident Directors on the Board.

If you would like to know more about what is involved in being a Resident Director please contact the Trust Office by either calling in or emailing at admin@elseapark.co.uk or phoning on 01778 423062

CAN WE HELP YOU?

At the AGM the idea of regular surgeries with Kier and the Trust was discussed to take up queries about issues on the estate. If you support the idea, let the Trust know by email: admin@elseapark.co.uk so we can gauge the level of interest. In the meantime we may be able to help or find someone who can. Call us on 01778 423062 and speak to Sally or Rebecca

NEW MANAGER FOR THE TRUST

A new manager has recently joined the Trust.

Sally Waltham is housing professional with significant experience in regeneration and neighbourhoods. She has worked both for local authorities and housing associations across the country and is enjoying her work at Elsea Park.



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