

Notes of Caley Green site meeting at 10 am on 12th April 2021
to discuss erosion and mitigation of the impact of visitors to the Green and river.

Paul Brewerton for River Stour Trust.
James Carr for Environment Agency (Biodiversity)
Jon Garwood EA Waterways Navigation.
Paula Booth for DSV AONB Team
Cllrs. Patricia Wilkie and Mary George for Nayland with Wissington Parish Council
SCC Cllr James Finch (landowners SCC) Council (PC hold licence from SCC)

Erosion: Bank and wooden edging inspected. Large area of erosion is a concern to all. This could eventually cause problems to neighbouring property and should be restored asap – landowner liability. Restoration work would need some time to settle in. PC can fence/tape off the area to prevent public access with a notice of explanation. The erosion has exposed a metal post hazard on the bend. Possible it had been buried in the ground at the time that the Green was created (1968).

James Carr (EA) will send ideas for a few options using coir rolls and vegetation with a large area of backfill and grass. He will also send details of permit requirements. EA do not design or carry out work, although there is a possibility that volunteers from AONB Team and EA could assist. MG for PC: our own contactors for Caley Green are not experts in this area and Parish needs advice for spec, relevant contracts, to get quotations. PB for RST could provide name of a national river restoration companies, but they tended to do major jobs at canals, locks etc. Currently working at Dedham Mill.

Mill Lade access: Jon Garwood will provide appropriate simple signs, directional arrows for main river, and a 'cul de sac' sign at entrance to Mill Lade as agreed at previous virtual meetings within the next month. (No cost to PC). Cannot ban entry, some Lade residents use their own craft, but hopes this will dissuade visitors. Another suggestion was to place a couple of buoy markers at entrance if it continued.

Signage: A simple sign near bus stop to prevent parking, notify that licences are needed. An information sign on the slope, away from the path to avoid congestion. A natural spot seemed to be facing the river within the semi circle of trees. (see the AONB sign photo sent recently). Should include the QR Code link to RST licencing. John Garwood said EA could produce small clip-on notices with the code that could be put in other spots when appropriate. There is a possibility that planning consent will be needed. Paula Booth to get advice Babergh. She has already advised Parish Council of the AONB Team signs designer and supplier.

Lifebelt station. This would be the responsibility of the landowner to supply and maintain. Need to balance risk and method. EA would not install a lifebelt on the green if it was EA land. Essential at weir, where there is one supplied. Deepest water near the tunnel is on the Conservation meadow side of the river. At the tunnel end of the green, the openness of the river bank, access for craft and unauthorised parking at that end of the green was discussed. EA suggested keeping an area uncut at that end to discourage parking, and planting a group of low native shrubs that could be easily maintained (eg hazel, quickthorn) while maintaining an access mown path for pedestrians at that end to prevent parking and improve environment. This should not affect the view of residents in Bear Street. MG outlined the history of plans to do something similar and the reaction from some residents. JC for EA felt that attitudes had changed in recent years and it was worth reviewing and engaging residents again. Patricia said we need to emphasise this, and the restoration of the riverbank at Bear Street end, as an environmental issue. PB mentioned the recent Babergh scheme for planting trees and hedges (already noted by Council).

Funding: AONB Sustainability Grant application deadline for whole project needs to be received by 17th May. MG is ask for approval from council at April PC meeting to apply for grant. This could be difficult without precise costings being available. Funds already received: £750 for repair to wooden revetment and £500 grant confirmed towards signage. All to be spent this year.

Licences for craft. RST website is the easiest to use, although EA and Canoe Club an option. JG of EA will be visiting riverside villages regularly during the Summer to remind craft users that they need to be registered and licenced, as he did last Summer.

Mary George
12/4/2021

Reported at public meeting of Annual Parish Assembly April 2021