

## Notes take at Site Meeting at Caley Green 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

### Purpose of meeting: to discuss ecological solutions to erosion to riverbank near Bear Street

#### Present:

Suffolk County Council (Landowner)

Cllr. James Finch, Andrew Murray-Wood, SCC Senior Ecologist and Seph Pochin Ecology Department

Nayland with Wissington Parish Council (Licensees):

Cllr. Mary George, Cllr. Patricia Wilkie

All relevant correspondence had been forwarded to Andrew Murray-Wood beforehand. Councillors shared history of reed bed destruction, recent meetings with Environment Agency, AONB Team, communications with residents and opposition by small group, minimal grants already obtained. Cllr. Wilkie outlined the proposal agreed at last meeting to share all alternatives in local August newsletter (deadline for copy 2<sup>nd</sup> week July after next council meeting) and ask residents for comment.

Andrew Murray-Wood had discussed issues with James Carr of Environment Agency and Paula Booth of DSVS AONB Team. Some other grants could be available. Revetement should be limited to 10 metres.

Ecologists agree the best option to prevent further erosion would be planted coir rolls with no extensive replacement backfill. Erosion has been rapid since reed bed removal, so the eroded area would be about 30 tons. This would present problems of pollution, damage to Green by vehicles. Easier to accept and work with what we now have as a riverbank edge to prevent further damage and long term flood risk. Action needs to be agreed as soon as possible and carried out this Autumn.

Any other alternative to soft edging planting, such as extension to revetement, will not last and will cause further erosion and move problem downstream. Essential to protect the property at the far end near the stream. Andrew Murray-Wood had advised and worked with the householder when the newest house was built and could see difference in river. Any other option will not 'Save Caley Green' but will destroy it. Lack of action will lead to a higher cliff edge that will continue to crumble and increase eventual flood risk.

Other suggestions include planting a willow at each end of the bend (*ie near to stream at corner and at edge of reed beds beyond seat*) to support the bank permanently with roots. This would also cool the water temperature for fish breeding and provide shelter for invertebrates but would need careful management (*by Parish Council?*) River would still be viewable from the road. A more drastic but common alternative of four willows along the bend was mentioned, but it was acknowledged that this is unlikely to be acceptable to residents.

Andrew Murray-Wood willing to draw up a spec for Parish Council to discuss with series of contractors. Also willing to attend a council meeting or a separate zoom meeting to explain to residents why any other course of action is not acceptable or advisable. He will be involved in Sizewell enquiry from 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July. Group decided that a zoom meeting could be arranged for first week of July, ie the week before the next Council Meeting. Residents would be invited (limited number). James Carr would be invited but his views are already known. Cllr. George to draw up a list of possible dates.

*[After meeting Cllr Wilkie suggested a working party zoom meeting asap to bring Cllrs Harris and Cartwright up to date and to discuss and complete the proposal/consultation draft for Community Times. to be agreed at next council meeting.]*