

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 October 2015

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BEALES - CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND INDUSTRIAL ASSETS

For the period September to 20 October 2015

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

I often report on the broad policy of proposals and thought it may be helpful to occasionally report on specific items in more detail. Accordingly some members may be aware that a former drainage pond at Lynnsport has been drained as part of the major Housing Scheme; detail as follows.

In the week prior to the start of the drainage works a qualified ornithologist checked the vegetation surrounding the stock pond and determined that there were no nesting birds present.

Prior to the start of pumping works, the site and stock pond was examined by a team of 3 Ecologists/Environmental Scientists. It was agreed that an area of rubble would be left until spring as it had the potential to be a reptile hibernaculum.

The initial set up of the pumping was monitored by the environmental specialists on site and adjustments to flow rates were made to ensure protection for fish species. At this time it was noted that the pond was in a poor condition and had an overabundance of aquatic plant growth, therefore some weed clearance was undertaken. The pump reduced the water level by 1 metre overnight.

Once the water level had dropped, the specialist fish removal team started to stun and move fish to the adjoining pond. The environmental specialists monitored the catch for notable species. There were some eels present, these were transferred with the stock fish to the adjoining pond. As the two ponds were linked by pipework there was probably free movement of eels between the two ponds and the connection for the eels to the wider drainage system was likely to be via the retained fishing pond rather than the stock pond, therefore there should be no significant impact on eel species as a result of their relocation to the fishing pond and subsequent drainage of the stock pond.

There were few invertebrate species present in the stock pond, probably due to the poor water quality. Any invertebrates found were moved with the fish to

the retained pond.

The fish catches were monitored for notable species throughout the draining process of which only eels were found. All eels were successfully relocated.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Work continues in all areas of the portfolio notably at Nar Valley Park where the new housing can now be very clearly seen from Nar Ouse Way and similarly at the King's Lynn Innovation Centre (KLIC).

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

28th Sept – Radio Norfolk interview from Nar Valley Park

29th Sept – meeting with Chief Exec

5th Oct – portfolio meeting

6th Oct – Cabinet

8th Oct – scrutiny review meeting

12th Oct – Cabinet sifting

14th Oct – Leziate PC

21st Oct – meeting with Leader and Chief Executive