

Edingale Parish Council

Consultation on a proposal for “The People’s Pond”

Edingale Parish Council has received a proposal from the team of villagers who planted out “The People’s Orchard” to dig and maintain a small pond/wetland area. The purpose of this leaflet is to seek the views of parishioners on the idea before the Parish Council decides whether or not to support it. In this leaflet, you can find more information about the project and the ways in which you can feedback to the Parish Council on the proposal. The proposal is still at an early stage and, if approved, may not be on site for more than a year. We would like comments by 28th February 2020.

About the proposal



The team proposes a relatively small pond and wetland area (around 20m x 15m) to be situated in the Public Open Space (POS) owned and maintained by the Parish Council at the north west of Rowley Close. There is a plan of the proposed location overleaf. The team suggests that the benefits of the proposal are as follows:

“The beautification of Edingale, with a lily covered, reed lined pond and its associated wildlife being a sight to behold, especially in the summer.

- *A place to relax and to provide leisure, for example feeding ducks, watching wildlife.*
- *To reduce the village’s carbon footprint.*
- *To educate village children on the importance of freshwater habitats.*
- *As a small step to arrest the decline in our native wildlife.”*

How would this be funded?

The project would be brought about by a mix of voluntary effort and grant aid. Some resources may be available from organisations connected with the National Forest (who helped fund “The People’s Orchard”). At present, the Parish Council has not been approached for any funding, although there is nothing preventing the team making a future application.

Environmental and regulatory matters

The proposed site is close to a bend in Pessall Brook. This watercourse is too small to be regulated by the Environment Agency and so is overseen by Staffordshire County Council (SCC). Both bodies have both been consulted, as has Natural England. Broadly, they are all in favour of environmental projects of this sort. The Parish Council asked SCC to comment specifically on the effect of the proposal on flooding risk in the village, and the Flood Risk Management Team has provided some simple guidelines for its construction and confirmed that, providing these are followed, the pond will not increase the flooding risk.

What about the loss of public open space?

The Parish Council recognises that people use this space for a variety of activities including ball games. The Rowley Close Public Open Space is approximately 3,600 m² in extent and the pond proposal would utilise around 300 m² of this, representing around 8% of the land area. Coincidentally, the Parish Council is about to commission the “crown lifting” of many of the trees in this space (that is, removing some of the lower branches) making more of the area useable for ball games and recreation.

The proposed location of the pond

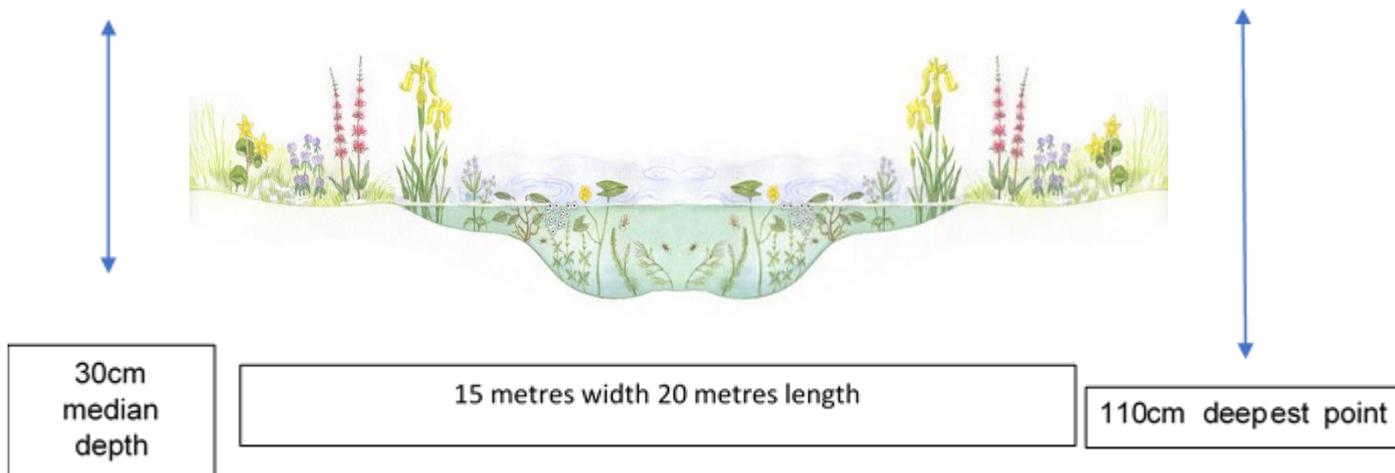


The proposed pond is to be located on the north side of the Rowley Close Public Open Space, around 5m from Pessall Brook.

Rowley Close POS
Proposed pond
Mary Howard School
Village Hall

The proposed site will be marked out with a grass marker for the duration of the consultation.

A cross section through the pond



In profile, the proposed pond is a cereal-bowl shape with a median depth of around 30cm (around 1ft) and a maximum depth at two points of just over 1m. It would be lined by puddle clay to prevent water-loss and the soil excavated in its construction would form a surrounding bank. There would be protective planting of appropriate flora on the banks and in the pond.

Safety matters

Public safety is a paramount concern for the Parish Council. The pond is relatively shallow, and the site secluded. In any event, it is next to Pessall Brook which forms a similar water hazard. It may be necessary to erect temporary fencing while planting grows. Warning signs would be in position.

Consultation responses

We welcome views on the proposal. It's important to hear positive as well as negative comments. Please email your views to edingalevillage@gmail.com or write to the Parish Clerk at 50 Cornwall Avenue, Tamworth, B78 3YB. Alternatively, you can tear off this strip and take it to any member of the Parish Council (details are on the village website). Please respond by 28th February 2020. *In relation to "The People's Pond" proposal, my views are (please complete/delete)*

Generally in favour because.....

Generally against because.....

No opinion – but interested to hear more.

Name/address