

## **MEETING ARRANGED ON 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

Tottington District Civic Society organised the Public meeting in November 2018 to 'Save Island Lodge'. Since then the Civic Society has kept all partners (Those groups interested in helping with the project) informed of all communications with the local council, Environment Agency and United Utilities.

It was felt that this was the right time to have a meeting of 1 or 2 representatives from each of the five partners, plus our advisory committee and some enthusiastic councillors who are passionate about Island Lodge to meet up, form an action committee with the aim of making major progress in 2023.

To succeed in this we need Bury Council's backing for us to apply for the funding needed.

The support from all our local communities, groups, organisations, schools and individuals to help our funding applications.

### **Minutes of the first group meeting held in Greenmount Old School on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm.**

#### **Apologies:**

Andrew Clough (Advisory Group member) Mike Woolford (Tottington District Civic Society):  
Alan Turner (Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Tottington District Civic Society) Jane Morrison  
(Tottington Litter Pickers) and Sue Pinder Tottington + Bury West Rotary

#### **Present:**

Members of the **Projects Advisory Group**

Graham Lord and Martin Dyer

Members of **Tottington District Civic Society:**

Christine B. Taylor: Trish Ribchester : Ken Dearden

Members of **Greenmount Village Community:**

John Southworth, Julie Southworth, Marcus Evans

Members of **Bury District Angling:**

Larura Theaker, Luke Theaker, Mark Theaker

Member of **Tottington Litter Pickers Jane Edyvean**

#### **Local Councillors:**

Liam James Dean : Yvonne Wright : Khalid Hussain JP:

Member of **Tottington + Bury West Rotary**

All were welcomed to this first partnership meeting.

Graham Lord gave a report of the progress made since the Public Meeting in November 2018. Graham is one of the three local volunteers, with relevant qualifications, who formed

an Advisory Sub Committee, including technical reviews of all reports and studies on Island Lodge done by Stillwater Associates for by Bury Council.

Christine welcomed the support of our local councillors, and our MP but stressed that it was important that no councillor or would be councillors or political party should benefit from our campaign as we all need to work together on this project.

It was agreed that our campaign title should not be 'To Save Island Lodge' but to be **To restore Island Lodge back to its former 'Glory', a haven for wildlife, taking Pride of Place in the Kirklees Valley Local Nature Reserve, designated as a site of biological importance.**

#### **Concerns were raised about the WATER VOLUME.**

Bury Council have already asked Stillwater Associated to prepare a scheme that will reduce the maximum volume to below 25,000m<sup>3</sup> and below 10,000m<sup>3</sup>. In the form of a spillway possibly located in the area where the dam was leaking. This will take the lodge out of the provision of the Reservoirs Act. The current threshold is 25,000m<sup>3</sup> but under the Water Resources Act this may be reduced further to 10,000m<sup>3</sup> if the reservoir is deemed to be high risk.

It was agreed that 25.000 cubic metres, was ok but not the proposal to decrease the amount to 10,000 cubic metres.

Paul Robinson, Green Space and Local Nature Reserve officer for Bury Council, has placed on hold ordering the coir matting to make the Island larger. He is waiting to see if the Lodge comes under the new reservoir act, if it does there wouldn't be an island in the lodge as the water level would be too low to reach the island.

Luke Theaker, (who had already stated they probably wouldn't pursue their aims to bring the lodge back to a full scale fishery, including putting in larger pegs for 'Home Tacking Minds' as well as for the local communities projects.) Asked when the Council will find out whether the lodge comes under High Risk in the new Reservoir act as we are now stuck in limbo.

He also said that the lodge is only 2ft deep with 6ft of silt which makes it like quick sand, very dangerous to the general public. He said the council had a duty of care and should inform the public about this.

Martin Dyer spoke about Island Lodge being part of the Urban Catchment area for the River Irwell and as such there should be opportunity to get investment in the area.

#### **Support of Bury Council needed**

To apply for Grants to get the work done we need the support of Bury Council. This is urgent as the applications for the Ofwat funding of up to £500,000 is due out in January.

Information on other large pots of funding are needed – councillors are looking into this.

With this in mind it was agreed that a meeting with Councillor Alan Quinn cabinet member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations should be arranged.

John Southworth was asked to try and organise this.

It was suggested to keep our project at the forefront of Bury Council's agenda we need volunteers to ask questions about Island Lodge at each full council meetings.

The following people agreed to do this Marcus Evans, John Southworth, Trish Ribchester, Christine Taylor, Jane Edyvean, Julie Southworth and Graham Lord.

### **SPRING CAMPAIGN**

Agreed that we start planning our spring publicity campaign at our next meeting in January.

Suggestions included:

Get local schools and youth groups involved – competitions from pollution, the environment, nature, artwork etc. (After the 2018 Public meeting we received lots of letters from Hawkshaw school.)

Publicity to local groups, societies, churches and the general public – banners, leaflets etc.

Petition

Survey on viaduct

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

**Mondays 30<sup>th</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> February and 27<sup>th</sup> March** in Greenmount Old School at 7.30pm.

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### **UPDATE FROM 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

#### **Donation of £100**

Following the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November, Councillor Yvonne Wright sent £100 from her Community Budget to go towards paying for banners, leaflets, posters etc. for our publicity campaign in the spring of 2023. Many thanks to Yvonne for doing this.

Hopefully other local councillors will do the same.

#### **MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL**

Many thanks to John Southworth for organising this site meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2022 and for his most important attendance at the full council meeting to get everything agreed was included in the minutes of that meeting.

#### **JOHN SOUTWORTH'S REPORTS:**

##### **Site Meeting, 30/11/22**

A site meeting took place at Island Lodge on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, attending were Martin Dyer, Andy Clough, Alan Quinn, Graham Schoon and John Southworth.

The party toured the site and inspected the problems and discussed possible solutions.

The outcome of the meeting is that the Council will initiate a master planning document using Proffits and that our outline project/ideas have the full backing of Alan Quinn.

Finance is a big problem, but Alan Quinn will give us his backing for any financial applications we wish to pursue.

I consider that a very productive session with the best outcome we could wish for given the current financial situation.

### **Full Council Meeting, 7/12/22**

I backed the verbal assurances from the site meeting up with a written question to a full meeting of the Council on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

My question was, "Island Lodge in Tottington is the centrepiece of the Kirklees Valley Trail. It is currently in need of urgent and expensive maintenance. Will the Council, as landowners, support the Tottington and District Civic Society with their project to restore the lodge and support the group's fundraising activities to achieve this aim?"

The answer can be heard from 19:00 on this video <https://councilstream.com/burycouncil/2146>

In summary Alan Quinn, Head of Operations, answered the question stating that:

- The site is of great importance
- Restoration with ongoing maintenance is the best option
- The council will work with us to secure funding for its restoration
- Section 106 money will be used to fund a masterplan for the project
- United Utilities have agreed to test the water, last carried out in 2019

John Southworth

### **LIFE SCIENTIFIC on BBC Radio 4**

**Update on Alan Turner's correspondence** with Dr. Leon Barron FRSC FHEA FCSFS  
Reader in Analytical & Environmental Sciences

Environmental Research Group  
School of Public Health  
Faculty of Medicine  
Imperial College London

Since Alan's initial email with a photo of the lodge sent to Leon after hearing him on the Life Scientific programme'

Reply received: That looks awful. Happy to chat about it. Do you know where the pollution is coming from exactly? Is it sewage or nutrients from agricultural fertiliser runoff? Is there any obvious point source?

Best wishes and thanks, Leon  
Alan's reply on 17<sup>th</sup> November

Leon,

The pollution has been identified as coming from misinstalled domestic houses but we do not know if all the houses have been identified or if there is any other pollution entering the stream or streams feeding Island Lodge.

There are many other Lodges in this former textile industry valley, no others suffering from similar pollution..We have contacted all concerned bodies- United Utilities, River authority, Local Authority, as blame has simply been passed around..

The pollution started a few years ago, before it was a beautiful clear lake and renowned beauty spot .The whole Kirklees valley is supposed to be a wildlife protected area. Thanks for responding, your help would be much appreciated.

Alan Turner

On Thu, Nov 17, 2022 at 3:02 PM Barron, Leon <[leon.barron@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:leon.barron@imperial.ac.uk)> wrote:

Hi Alan,

That's all very doable on our end as you know roughly where these houses are. We can track something simple like caffeine to show this, but also a suite of other meds. Please let's have a discussion online about the scale of what you might need. Any availability next week? Please see my colleague Stav ccd, who can set a call up.

Best wishes and thanks

Leon

On Mon, Nov 28, 2022 at 3:07 PM Friedman, Stav <[s.friedman@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:s.friedman@imperial.ac.uk)> replied:  
(*Stav Friedman is dealing with communications with Alan.*)

Leon has availability tomorrow from 10am until 2pm, or on Wednesday at 12pm or Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December from 11.30am until 3.30pm. We usually use Teams which you can access from your mobile or a web browser (I'll send the information once we've agreed on a time).

Hope this time works to join Leon and myself to discuss sampling potential at Island Lodge. This will just be an exploratory meeting.

Please join us via the Teams link - any issues, let me know.

Best wishes,

Stav

(We thought it best to postpone this **Team meeting**, giving us time to inform others of the progress made.)

Alan sent this email on 15<sup>th</sup> December

We are still keen to have your assistance if that could still be considered but it is sure now nothing will happen before Christmas so ,if it is ok with you, I will contact you again in the New Year.

Thanks for your consideration.

