

KIRK MILL POND

In February Chipping Parish Council liaised with the Senior Planning Officer at Ribble Valley Borough Council expressing our, and parishioner concerns about the Kirk Mill Pond.

[EMAIL SENT TO CHIPPING PARISH CLERK - 2 March 2021](#)

From: Amanda Oakden

RE: KIRK MILL POND

I work for the owners of the mill and pond and wanted to make contact so you have someone you can come to if you have any queries. I have been made aware of concerns raised by neighbours regarding the current water level in the pond. I can provide some initial information here regarding what we have been able to do to date and what the next steps are, and I hope this helps bring some understanding and clarity for those concerned. It would also be helpful if we can perhaps have a call to discuss the details below and I would be happy to have a regular catch-up meeting with you as proposals for the development site evolve?

Works completed to date

- We employed William Pye to undertake some work on the pond last year - the primary focus was to stop the pond water from leaking onto the highway close to the Mill. William Pye also made repairs to the inlet and outlet as these were not operating properly.
- We took advice from an ecologist regarding the timing of the pond works and we have maintained the levels as they are following this advice.

Future Works

- Our structural engineer is working up details for the long-term repair of the retaining walls adjacent to the highway. He requires ongoing access to review the condition of this section of wall hence this area being kept as low as possible for the time being.
- We understand that the details of the wall repair will need to form part of a planning application because of the listed status of the pond and mill.
- We are hoping to make a planning application for the site this summer.
- The plans for the planning application will include details of a hydroelectric scheme that we feel will be a positive addition to the mill and future development at the site. The engineers drawing up these plans will need access to the pond for their calculations.
- The ecologist has advised that maintaining a low level of water is safer/in the best interests for wildlife because otherwise we would need to raise and lower water levels for survey work putting wildlife (frog spawn for example) at risk.
- The low levels will allow us to remove debris from the pond bed - providing a long-term gain for the pond and its wildlife.
- The ecologist is confident that once pond levels are restored there should be no issue with recolonisation because some water has been left in the pond and there is a constant inflow of fresh water and species from upstream.

If you would be interested in having a chat my number is below - or please email me if you have any questions.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best regards

Mandy

Chipping Parish Council responded requesting the following information:

- the expert reports of the ecologist and ornithologist in relation to the mill pond.
- details of the structural problems referenced.
- details of what is planned to be done, how long it will take place, and the proposed timetable for the work [appreciating the requirement for planning permission].