



## **Ruislip Lido Improvement Update**

### **Context**

In recent years, Hillingdon Council has invested consistently and considerably in its Green Spaces, appreciating the important part they play in people's lives and well being.

This investment has led to the Borough now having 14 Green Flags, which is an acknowledged mark of excellence for its Green Spaces. This is more green land under Green Flags than any other London Borough.

The Ruislip Lido Improvement Programme continues this Council's theme towards excellence in all its open spaces. This initiative is being managed through the Hillingdon Improvement Programme (HIP), and along with improvements already underway at Little Britain Lake is the vanguard of what will be a series of water based improvement projects across the Borough. These will be focussed on village ponds, natural ponds, lakes, rivers and canals.

### **Background**

The Lido is a man-made feature. It started off as a reservoir in 1811, and then in 1936, was turned into a recreational area (Lido) with a beach, boating and swimming facilities.

The current project now initiated seeks to recreate some of these features much enjoyed by local residents in the past, as well as providing additional improvements to make this a first class facility to be enjoyed by Hillingdon's residents now and in the future

The Lido improvements will be completed in 2011, to mark 200 years since the existing reservoir was completed.

The cost of this project is around £1m, and specific works include:-

### **Water Level feasibility study**

Consultant engineers are to be engaged to undertake a study regarding the feasibility of raising of the water to allow the re-introduction of boating and swimming by increasing and retaining the volume of fresh water into the Lido itself.

At this stage it is envisaged that the water level would be increased by approximately 6 to 8 inches overall. Subject to a satisfactory recommendation from the consultants a submission will be made to the Environment Agency to raise the water level.

The consultant's report will take account of the implications of a possible rise in water level for the site as a whole and impact downstream.

## **Public swimming**

Swimming will be made available from the summer subject to regular water quality testing. Costings are being sought to provide a suitable enclosed swimming area.

## **Boating**

It is proposed to recreate the enclosed children's boating area on the Lido. The beach facilities will also be enhanced for children and families to enjoy. For families and older children, we are considering the provision of rowing boats. There will be no motor boating permitted.

## **Parking proposals**

Proposals for the installation of additional car parking spaces are being considered within the Lido grounds. The proposed parking area is on the site of the previous overflow car park and costings for different surfaces are being investigated. Arrangements for car parking outside of the site and options for resident parking are also under review.

## **Toilets and Changing Room Facilities**

New and much needed toilets will be one of the first improvements at the Lido, along with changing rooms for people wishing to swim or using the boating facilities.

## **Angling**

Proposals also include offering angling opportunities for a range of age groups.

## **Concession Improvements**

We are looking to provide greater choice of refreshments at the Lido so there is "something for everyone"

## **Model Railway**

This is a much enjoyed and valued feature of the Lido and there will be investment in this facility.

## **Nature Area and Woodlands Centre**

The proposals for enhancement of this man made feature will still respect and provide quiet natural space for wildlife to flourish and for people to enjoy it. This natural area will be centred at the northern area of the Lido. Consideration is also being given to providing a new Woodland Centre in this area to help people maximise the benefits of this beautiful natural area.

## **Site Security**

A full review of all aspects of the security of the site is underway with discussions involving Council officers and the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team to address any concerns from residents regarding anti social behaviour.

**Management Advisory Group (MAG)** - The Council has an established Management Advisory Group for the site and the Improvement Programme will feature regularly on the agenda.

## **Planning and Community Services**

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2010**