



KING'S POND

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

SURVEY RESULTS

This document details the full responses to Q13

All copies of the survey completed in paper form were manually uploaded by Council officers and are therefore included within these responses*
(responses 1 – 22)

** Please note that whilst the date on the manual responses is after the closing date, the paper copies were received within the consultation period, just uploaded later.*

Publication date 22nd December 2022

Q13 This section is to enable you to write any other comments you may have about King's Pond and its future management.

Answered: 234 Skipped: 107

| # | RESPONSES | DATE |
|---|--|--------------------|
| 1 | 6.* No - but insufficient detail to form final opinion. There is not enough detail in the draft management plan as yet to form an opinion as to its merits. An example of this a comment the drawing 'concept 2 - north!) This shows a bund (850m2) between a reduced size lake & new river channel. Is this proposed to be a walking route. If so does it start on the existing island and finish at the proposed now sluice. Is this practical?? | 12/1/2022 3:22 PM |
| 2 | 4.* Much more than once a week It is important to maintain a larger area of open water in contrast to flood meadows. Clearly something must be done prevent silting. Open water side should not be lost to the public. | 12/1/2022 3:06 PM |
| 3 | 6.* no clear yes/no see comments 9.* "Through translocation to another side elsewhere in the country" - done on sites difficult to find. "Through humane culling" - Difficult to do was tried in London project. 12.* "I would like to see a pollinator pathway created with raised beds and entrance arch" - but without the arch - human artifact a piece of country side in the town. "I would like to see more daylight in this area, by removing some of the trees in this area." - Difficult to achieve because of the typography, because of rail embankment and old chalk quarry. • A catchment based approach is needed as this is not an isolated site but an on-line pond • Since road drains and surface run-off (that is not captured by drains) seems to contribute half of the silt this needs to be investigated with Hampshire Highways/Flood Defence first to remedy this. Road drains also contain pollutants that need filtering out before entering rivers directly perhaps by balancing ponds/marshes. • Water quality of pond and the river downstream need investigating with measurements of NPK, heavy metals, turbidity and cyanobacteria (certain times of year). Some technical services will be needed. • Taking the pond offline would help and maybe use the "Lasham Drain" culverted spring source that flows from brewery and under railway by the pond to enter at Waterside Court. "Lasham Drain" is culverted through the former brewery site and might currently be at risk/built over if they are not aware of it – needs investigating by Environment Agency • Explore and visit other cases of taking ponds offline, e.g. one in Wantage area, trail leaflet online. • EU Water Framework Directives (good law) need following in respect of rare chalk streams of international importance. Important to improve headwaters and this is an achievable goal • Achieving balance between amenity, biodiversity and environment. The pond suffers from public pressure. • Education programme to change human behaviour – as has been done successfully with picking up after dogs. It needs to be extended to understanding birds as wild animals and limiting/prohibiting supplementary feeding and use of rangers to check up compliance • Recognition of Canada Goose problem nationally and internationally. Their behaviour is changing in Canada and USA in their native lands too through interaction with humans, public feeding and short mown amenity grassland alongside lakes • Assemble numerical data on bird populations, fish, aquatic life and human visitor numbers, the latter perhaps through A Level geography students. • Examine the gauging weir data and also consider fish pass. If the weir to be moved there is a potential risk of the Waterside development flooding. I observed water across the site before development in 1988. There were two sluices prior to Town Council ownership • Tension cracks have become evident in the path surface behind Waterside Court – this may be due to the vertical cutting at the back of the site in poorly consolidated Zigzag Formation Chalk combined with the steel piling causing water pressure to build up below ground. Maybe work with the Engineering Geology Department in University of Southampton on this • Acknowledge things that cannot be human controlled like ground water, rain etc. and give the river room to move • Thought needs to be given to how consultants are to be briefed | 12/1/2022 2:39 PM |
| 4 | Kings Pond and its setting are beautiful mainly because of the large expanse of water which is a unique Alton feature. We must do our best to preserve it and improve the water quality. Two suggestions to help a) Keep Kings Ponds separate from the River Wey (i.e. off line) by diverting the river into a new channel along the West Bank of Kings Pond and exiting it at the (removed?) weir there by keeping the large pond area and minimising the need for relatively less interesting reed beds and wet scrape, sluice would continue the water supply from the river to Kings Pond. b) Lasham Drain (A fast flowing ALL YEAR stream) Possible diversion to the River Wey upstream of Kings Pond, divert the Lasham drain which presently enters the River Wey downstream of the weir under the footpath next to waterside | 12/1/2022 12:21 PM |

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front flats 28 to 32. It's source is possibly the former Molson Coors (ref environment agency representative 18 Nov 2022) its source and course needs verifying etc & also water quality.

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| 5 | It's a natural sanctuary for wild birds and with good maintenance things can get better. | 12/1/2022 12:20 PM |
| 6 | 4.* On a few occasions I didn't stop as it wasn't clean enough to be attractive - but I often pass by. If Kings Pond were changed back to a river, the most satisfying channel pattern would be a meandering stream with perhaps an oxbow lake. It would help people enjoy and connect with nature. Channel width and meander radius need to relate to the volume of discharge. Plus one would have to be prepared for meanders to slowly travel downstream due to erosion on the outside of the meander in a slightly downstream direction and deposition on the inside on the meander (river cliffs and slip-off slopes or beaches) However changing Kings Pond to a river might not be appropriate because of the flow and fluctuating discharge of the river. Do you have discharge statistics for the flow where the feeder stream enters the pond and where it leaves, over a year? The feeder stream head water seems to be winterbourne with good flows in the winter and drying up in the summers due to the fall in water table in chalk. Therefore the green space would just have a dry river bed much of the year. Still good for some wildlife but not the very visible sort. So leaving the pond as it is might be the best option. Is it a mill pond in origin? (Paper-mill lane) measures that could be taken to improve water quality and appreciation could be:- - Reduce access to the waters edge to jetty areas between reed bed edging. - Some cover by water lilies seems to reduce the number of geese using a water area (only an observation) - to more sustainable numbers. -Oxygenating native plants plants -Trees and shrubs back a distance from the water so that there is less leaf fall and decomposition in the water. - Notices to explain why ducks should not be given bread - Duck food dispensers e.g. Alresford & Stockbridge (2 - one at either end of the site) for 20p a handful - A part-time warden to check problems, vandalism, and make good, damage and hazards. They could also work in other green spaces owner by Alton Town Council or shared with another Council. - Board-walks at honey-spot sites to protect the water edge (e.g. Petersfield Pond) - A noticeboard to give the history of the site and identify some of the wildlife species that might use it. | 12/1/2022 12:01 PM |
| 7 | Kings Pond and its setting are beautiful mainly because of the large expanse of water which is a unique Alton feature. We must do our best to preserve it and improve the water quality. Two suggestions to help a) Keep Kings Ponds separate from the River Wey (i.e. off line) by diverting the river into a new channel along the West Bank of Kings Pond and exiting it at the (removed?) weir there by keeping the large pond area and minimising the need for relatively less interesting reed beds and wet scrape, sluice would continue the water supply from the river to Kings Pond. b) Lasham Drain (A fast flowing ALL YEAR stream) Possible diversion to the River Wey upstream of Kings Pond, divert the Lasham drain which presently enters the River Wey downstream of the weir under the footpath next to waterside front flats 28 to 32. It's source is possibly the former Molson Coors (ref environment agency representative 18 Nov 2022) its source and course needs verifying etc & also water quality. | 11/30/2022 4:22 PM |
| 8 | Please leave it alone | 11/30/2022 3:39 PM |
| 9 | 10.* But leave wildlife borders 11.* If more information on the proposal is given? I think that more advanced filtration at the River entering Kings Pond and the River exiting Kings Pond might be an idea to consider an better use of money spent. | 11/30/2022 3:04 PM |
| 10 | I am saddened to see indiscriminate feeding especially of bread. Banning that would surely help, allowing us to keep pond at present life. | 11/30/2022 2:59 PM |
| 11 | 10.* There is no proposed cutting regime! Agree with keeping as many wild flowers as possible. 11.* Yes - conservation area. NO FENCING. Well done to the council for addressing this important issue. I have every confidence in this process & the environment agency are important players in informing this process. Thank you. | 11/30/2022 2:53 PM |
| 12 | I would like to see a larger body of water maintained if unfeasible. Please leave the pond in situ or increase maintenance to enable people to continue to use and enjoy the site. We already have wetlands in Flood Meadows, we do not need two areas of this. The use of reed beds at the entry & exit points of the pond would be natural filtration & would stop pollutants from building up. | 11/30/2022 2:46 PM |
| 13 | Many years of little work done have contributed to some of the problems, river water quality is generally poor due to sewage dumped by water companies. No up to date RSPB or other wildlife input. Impact on current population will be dramatic if this plan is implemented. King's Pond had water all through the hot weather, unlike Flood Meadows which dried up. | 11/30/2022 2:37 PM |
| 14 | 10.* Yes - if the proposed cutting regime is varied cutting times (does not say this is proposed in 2.4 of the draft management plan). Get better at writing / creating management plans. On a positive note I think proposal plan is a good idea if feasible. Or something similar. | 11/30/2022 2:22 PM |

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| 15 | I understand and agree with proposed management plan. | 11/30/2022 1:50 PM |
| 16 | Better managed but keep the pond | 11/30/2022 1:36 PM |
| 17 | I think it is important to try and reduce them off from the surrounding area which is a big contributor to the silting problem. | 11/30/2022 1:31 PM |
| 18 | Kings Pond is a vital recreational area for all age groups. | 11/30/2022 1:25 PM |
| 19 | The pond contributes to the well being & health of the entire community regardless of age. With more and more people moving here we must keep the pond. | 11/30/2022 1:15 PM |
| 20 | Kings Pond is much loved by residents. Can advice be sought from other councils with similar ponds regarding dealing with rats and letting children feed the ducks without causing a problem. | 11/30/2022 12:14 PM |
| 21 | We can't "do nothing" let's make it a haven for flora, founa, wildlife (even otters) | 11/30/2022 12:09 PM |
| 22 | Thank you to the Council for its work to improve matters at King's Pond. However, this is urgent and needs priority - does not enhance our town or its wildlife. It used to be so much better & needs investment and a will to improve the environment. | 11/30/2022 11:49 AM |
| 23 | We have just had exactly the same situation with Pill Pond in West Burton, West Sussex, where the Parish Council has been persuaded to remove the pond to avoid the cost of dredging. In both cases, the cost of infrequent dredging would be much less than the engineered solutions being proposed. Moreover, the idea of an offline pond is completely impractical. It would require considerable engineering and maintenance in order to manage water levels. Moreover, dredging will still be needed from time to time, because silt laden water will still enter the offline pond, albeit at a slower rate. The idea is to 'return' the pond to a free-flowing chalk stream, but in the process the ecological benefits and aesthetic benefits of the pond will be destroyed. Visit the now absent Pill Pond if you would like to experience the sterile environment created by removal of an historic and well loved pond. | 11/27/2022 11:48 PM |
| 24 | I appreciate there are difficulties in doing this but reducing the rat population is vital to both human health and the ecology of the pond. | 11/27/2022 11:39 PM |
| 25 | I think it would be helpful for the site to be taken over by a Wildlife Trust where the full potential for biodiversity on the site could be realised and wildlife protected | 11/27/2022 11:16 PM |
| 26 | The Wey would be significantly improved by increasing the flow in a defined channel allowing normal chalk stream diversity to develop as opposed to the sterile stagnant pond that it becomes a few years after dredging. This would significantly increase species variety. The present geese numbers are over populated and the local population seem to ignore feeding restrictions allowing rat populations to develop. A more natural flow would be preferable and could become self cleansing provided the rest of pond were retained and managed appropriately. A similar scheme is being proposed for a pond in Andover and there are other examples where this has worked well. I deplore the over politicisation of this consultation which as the management plan suggests is to validate further expenditure and options. Dog walking should also be highly constrained as the number of people walking their loose dogs and not picking up afterwards probably exceeds the geese and rats. | 11/27/2022 11:11 PM |
| 27 | Encouragement of diversity of flora and fauna together with maintenance of the open aspect of the pond from the various existing viewpoints which greatly add to the amenity value for locals and visitors and offer a contrast with the Flood Meadows area would be my priorities. | 11/27/2022 11:08 PM |
| 28 | Having read the Draft Management Plan a couple of times recently, I entirely understand the sentiment and desire to create a natural space that is minimally impacted by humans. But, we should also recognise that the open space is one that is important to the citizens of Alton and that it should be a usable space. Any child that has grown up in Alton will have memories of connecting with the wildlife through walks, feeding the wildlife, etc, and I believe this should be encouraged. In fact, we can use it as an educator of both wildlife and our local history. At the moment, the state of the land caused, in part, by the reduced cutting and high numbers of geese make some parts 'no go' areas that you wouldn't dream of letting our children roam through and explore which is a shame. We should also recognise that managing these open spaces to create improved open spaces that are sympathetic to wildlife and enable that connection cannot come at zero cost. If, as a town community, we buy into the long term vision of what we want this space to become, we must also adequately fund it and enable those responsible by paying for it through our local taxes. We should have spaces that we are proud of, that we can use as a community to create memories and to learn, but which work with nature. I say that but would like to solve the current problems rather than engineer an alternative. | 11/27/2022 11:06 PM |
| 29 | If something has to be done, I support your effort to find the best solution. | 11/27/2022 10:29 PM |

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| 30 | The problem with open spaces is the ongoing maintenance of the areas, as money and volunteers reduce over time | 11/27/2022 10:13 PM |
| 31 | I love this pond! I agree there should be less bird feeding to discourage vermin but please keep it here! It is a beautiful tranquil space | 11/27/2022 9:55 PM |
| 32 | Taking kings pond away will destroy all aspect of the town. Such as all the wildlife and waterfowl which have called it home for many years. It will also take this special place away from me which I call my happy place. I have autism and mental health and kings pond is such a special place for me where I can interact with all the ducks, geese and swans which helps massively. It will be very sad for all if this was taken away. It needs to be saved. | 11/27/2022 9:47 PM |
| 33 | Kings pond is a talking point of this town. Been here for hundred of years . Take away this pond, alton will be anti ATC even more. Utter shame this has even been considered. Shame on ATC | 11/27/2022 9:41 PM |
| 34 | I would like to be able to sit and us the grass area like we used to before the birds took it over. Perfect green space for picnics and like. | 11/27/2022 9:04 PM |
| 35 | Always thought Kings Pond would be a fab location for a small portable cafe | 11/27/2022 9:01 PM |
| 36 | The pond is poor for wildlife and unsustainable in its current form. I support these plans to create a more attractive, biodiverse, environmentally responsible amenity space. We have a responsibility as custodians of the source of the river to manage it effectively, both for the benefit of Alton's residents, and for the good of everyone downstream. I have been saddened by the extent of the backlash against these plans and I support the councillors in all of their efforts to do the right thing. | 11/27/2022 8:53 PM |
| 37 | Even small areas of open water provide an invaluable therapeutic environment. Children can learn an appreciation of local wildlife, it's a great place to walk and listen to the birds and even the occasional steam train. I spent many happy times with my daughter walking along the path. It is a unique environment with these elements not available elsewhere. Petersfield has a lovely area around Heath Pond, Alton needs to retain its somewhat smaller but no less valuable body of water. I fail to understand how anyone is willing to see if being taken away, if it needs work and expense to retain it then do the work. Local people will understand, give them a chance to keep it. | 11/27/2022 8:49 PM |
| 38 | with all the new housing been built in Alton some of the monies given to the town should be used to maintain the pond in its current style, espesically when the pond is been used in advertising for the for new houses on the brewery site. in my viewthe town needs the pond as a pond far more than its need a PUMP track in ansty park. | 11/27/2022 8:46 PM |
| 39 | Kings pond needs some investment to keep it for future generations of the Alton area. It is worth investing in & the council should do whatever it takes to keep it as it is but with a timetable of maintenance to make it sustainable. | 11/27/2022 8:13 PM |
| 40 | While registering my support for the primary recommendation in 2.1.3, I would certainly not wish the entire area of open water to disappear. Standing, as well as flowing water, can provide habitat for many forms of wildlife. Currently, however, the ecological value of the pond is very poor, especially with regard to aquatic invertebrates. I therefore accept the ecologically-based arguments which have been made in favour of taking the pond off-line and implementing measures to reduce the input of nutrients and pollutants. I hope very much that habitats for wildfowl will continue to exist on-site but there is a clear need to overcome the impacts of an over-sized, over-fed bird population on the ecology of the site and, potentially, on human health. With regard to grass cutting, I have selected the option of "less frequent" only because I am concerned that mowing the entire area in spring or summer could prevent various kinds of invertebrate (e.g. grasshoppers) from completing their life-cycles. I am, however, aware that the report mentions that it is advisable not to cut the entire area at the same time. | 11/27/2022 7:50 PM |
| 41 | I prefer the concept 2 plan with the retention of part of the pond. However, I would like to have a board walk through the reed bed in a similar way to the concept 1 plan. | 11/27/2022 7:43 PM |
| 42 | We prefer concept 2 with a lake retained. It would be good to include a board walk in the reed bed area. | 11/27/2022 7:37 PM |
| 43 | The Pond must not be taken offline. It would be too great a loss to the town. If there is a problem with silt ATC should get money from developers to remove the silt as it is known that the housebuilding industry is responsible for a lot of silt going into waterways. The wildlife should not lose their habitat. | 11/27/2022 6:26 PM |
| 44 | I have visited the site for 45 years and never seen it looking so bad with rats and far too many Canada geese | 11/27/2022 6:23 PM |

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| 45 | King's Pond is a valuable amenity in the town but there is heavy footfall and therefore the area needs to be properly managed. I don't go very often BECAUSE it feels overused and polluted by geese. I prefer Flood Meadows which is much nearer to where I live anyway. The geese at Kings Pond are invasive and the water quality appears poor. I fully support the Town Council in their efforts to prevent further deterioration of the area. and consider it essential to consult professionals as they are doing. The range of water fowl is impressive but allowing geese and rats to proliferate is damaging the habitat. Feeding the ducks is a delightful pastime for small children, but allowing large amounts of bread to accumulate is damaging and overfeeds the "wrong" species. Every opportunity for public education re wildlife should be encouraged. Chalk streams are rare and special environments and I hope that Alton can care for ours in a way that benefits both the human residents and the wildlife. There will always be people who dislike change but I feel confident that taking the pond "off-line" (if feasible) should result in a delightful environment for all. | 11/27/2022 6:06 PM |
| 46 | Kings Pond is a saviour to many people in the town. We are very lucky to have Kings Pond and NEED to keep this wonderful asset to our town. | 11/27/2022 5:37 PM |
| 47 | Please don't remove/change dramatically the nature of this wonderful outdoor space. The wildlife is amazing | 11/27/2022 4:54 PM |
| 48 | The study needs to be done; the pond is not a plaything for leisure activities | 11/27/2022 4:43 PM |
| 49 | The aim should be to increase local biodiversity while still having public access for the appreciation of nature. The water quality of the River Wey chalk stream would be improved by relocating the flow of water offline. Excessive numbers of Canada Geese and Mallard Ducks are detrimental to grassland and water quality. Feeding should be discouraged. | 11/27/2022 4:41 PM |
| 50 | The mismanagement and wilful neglect of the pond has brought shame on the town. ATC arrogance and indifference to a huge wave of public opinion is shocking. All involved should resign and never stand again. You are our elected representatives and yet make all the decisions behind closed doors and treat any factual opposition as an attack. So many in the town are angered by your proposals and I expect you to fail in the next election as a direct result. You knew it would need dredging 25 yrs ago but made no provision. No one wants to go to a muddy swamp which has a greater variety of insects. We want to see , feed and photograph the birds as Altonians have done for 250 yrs. | 11/27/2022 4:38 PM |
| 51 | Based on everything I have read I wish to support the Council in its wish to ascertain the feasibility of taking King's Pond off-line from the river thus preserving the quality of the River Wey, a historic chalk stream and one of only 200 IN THE WORLD. This is a decision that must be informed by the opinion of experts (such as DEFRA; the RSPCA wildlife department; the Wildlife and Wetland Trust; the London Lakes and persons such as Dr June Chatfield, qualified to work with them) who can advise us on the optimum measures to take to preserve both the River Wey and King's Pond - "restoring the river's natural function and enhancing the ecosystem services provided by the river such as clean water, biodiversity, nutrient cycling and floodwater retention" - Paul Davy, Environment Agency. If I may make a suggestion - it would be to encourage ATC to seek a partnership with Cala homes who will have their own questions regarding the River Wey that is about to be brought to life in their new development sitting alongside King's Pond. They may even support our efforts financially. My sincere thanks to ATC for always providing a space for Altonians to air their views. [REDACTED] | 11/27/2022 3:52 PM |
| 52 | I would support the proposal that the river Wey be separated from Kings Pond. The culling of the rat population | 11/27/2022 3:36 PM |
| 53 | I truly hope you do read all the comments sent to you and give careful consideration to the depth of feeling of what you are about to try and do to Kings Pond. Please only dredge the pond and manage grounds where necessary, it has been in its current form for over 200 years and needs nothing but to be preserved as it is for generations to enjoy in the future as we all have in the past. Many beautiful green spaces locally have been lost to the ever expanding housing needs do not destroy what is and can continue to be a jewel in Alton's crown. Do you really want your legacy to be the people known as the ones that destroyed a beautiful biodiverse location, (as shown in your very own biodiversity study), and turn it into a dried up, (over the summer months), mud bed like flood meadows when the river wey stops flowing ? To that end what will happen to the wildfowl, fish, recently otter and other creatures that live there who depend on it for their very existence. You say the silt is toxic, if that is the case why does so much wildlife flourish there and why in the mid 90s were the dredgings used to make the picnic area that is now next to the main road where children play and people come to eat their picnics on a summer day ? Please do not ruin Kings pond. | 11/27/2022 3:05 PM |
| 54 | Having lived in Alton for over 22 years I took my children to the pond for picnics and to see the ducks (we probably fed them but at that time didn't know any better). I now visit the | 11/27/2022 3:04 PM |

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pond as it is such a tranquil place to walk around in the middle of town and of course it provides a superb circuit for you to walk around as many times as you wish. Whenever we have friends come to visit we always take them to see the pond. Kings Pond is a great open space and an asset for Alton, something we need to cherish and preserve for future generations. I agree that the population of Canadian Geese has grown to me what appears out of control. Measures need to be taken to reduce their numbers. I do like to see them though, especially when they fly in formation over my house on summer evenings. So wouldn't want to see them totally eradicated. Sadly during Covid the rat population took hold at the pond and it seems they have been a problem since. I believe that this was due to several factors; when people fed the ducks they let food drop onto the ground, overflowing bins and the redevelopment of the brewery site and opening up of the culvert that ran through the site. This appears to have improved and I thank the work of the council to tackle this. I have attended both meetings at the pond and in the Assembly Rooms and the main argument for taking some action seems to be the poor quality of the River Wey, one of a limited number of chalk streams. I believe that Alton Town Council need to consider the following points; Your proposed feasibility study seems too narrow, surely you need to look at what is happening upstream too. There has been a large amount of redevelopment in Alton over recent times. Rainwater that would previously percolate through the soil and refill underground aquifers now runs into drains. I understand that Alton receives its water from Lasham. The pumping station at Windmill I understand supplies water to Bordon, another town with a huge amount of new homes. Surely all of this also effects the quality of the River Wey if its source isn't as plentiful. Silt appears to be a major problem and this has been resolved previously by dredging. It has been mentioned that the silt could be toxic but I do not believe this has been tested. It could be fertile and used on surrounding farmland. It could also be used to build back up the island in the centre of the pond or even on the banks of the pond to slightly reduce the ponds size. This would hopefully speed up the flow of water leading into the pond and out of the sluice. There is also an area along Ashdell Road just before the railway bridge that dips down, could you not put some of the silt there? As previously stated Kings Pond is a recreational area used by many people in the town. It is an asset and beautiful feature. The Council just need to maintain this and not let it be taken away. They appear to be wanting to take the cheapest option for them but not the best for future generations living in Alton. Please Alton Town Council save our pond!

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| 55 | I want the Kingspond to remain exactly as it is and see routine maintenance carried out more often such as removal of trees fallen into the pond. It must not be taken offline from the River Wey. | 11/27/2022 2:43 PM |
| 56 | Kings pond should be left as it is. There should be No destruction to such a beautiful area | 11/27/2022 2:25 PM |
| 57 | Kings pond is a great amenity for the whole of Alton and surrounding areas, whilst also being a wonderful, peaceful, nature filled respite for the mind and soul. It's a social place with many benches provided for one to sit and enjoy the amazing view and atmosphere, whether alone or meeting people. | 11/27/2022 1:44 PM |
| 58 | A key concern at the moment is the lack of biodiversity on the site, including birds, insects and invertebrates. This is essential for Kings Pond to be an environmentally sustainable site. My second concern is the number of Canada Geese - at points during the year, the paths become a health hazard and I avoid the area. There is a lot of concern about the taking the pond offline and that a wetland area will reduce the wildlife and potentially smell due to stagnating water. Being a member of WWT I know that this isn't the case but there is more information needed in general about how the site will be managed to support a wetland environment and also how the biodiversity will be improved. The site needs to ensure it still provides a relaxing and pleasant environment for families and those living around the site. More information is needed on how this will be done and balanced against the need for an environmentally sustainable site. Overall I am in favour of the proposed changes. I would be interested in being part of a volunteer group, but Wednesdays do not work as I have a job. Please let me know if there are other times available for volunteering. | 11/27/2022 1:35 PM |
| 59 | King's pond is unique in that it is wild life conservation area in the centre of a town. During the 1st lock down and the 2nd my wife and I walked round the pond daily. I picked up litter. Since then we have joined ACANS 's war against litter campaigns and have picked up a lot litter in the past. I still pick up some litter each time I go shopping. Recently our son bought a farm in Worcestershire. We spend 2 - 3 | 11/27/2022 1:13 PM |
| 60 | Please do not destroy the habitat which supports a number of wild animals and birds. It is a very special place for nature and for the health and sanity of the people of Alton and visitors. | 11/27/2022 12:51 PM |
| 61 | This consultation is failing to look at the bigger picture of the Northern River Wye, just a narrow focus on Kings Pond. As stated in App C – Kings Pond as an on-line Pond – Dr June Chatfield OBE When dealing with the management of King's Pond it needs to be done | 11/27/2022 12:22 PM |

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in the context of the whole river system from source to Haw Bridge, Holybourne Within the On-line Consultation Alton Town Council (ATC) have narrowed their focus purely on the Kings Pond. The On-line Consultation and Proposed Management Plan should include the entire river length and adjacent water catchment areas located within the Town Council jurisdiction. Over recent years there has been significant urban development, especially near Will Hall Farm upstream of Kings Pond. ATC should be seeking an understanding how the river water supply has been affected by these developments what measures can be explored to improve the water quantity & quality ATC should be seeking confirmation from South East Water that the extraction from Alton's aquifers are not affecting the water table and the fresh supply of water to the rivers source The continuous expansion of residential areas in Alton and surrounding areas eg Bordon are we depleting our aquifers and reducing the water table which inevitably will have an impact on the river. Reference the closure (I believe) of the unsustainable water abstraction from the Weysprings pipping station, along New Odiham Road. Requested Action 1 : Extend scope of survey to include the entire River Wye within ATC jurisdiction to understand impact of housing development Requested Action 2 : Request historical extraction & usage data from South East Water ie is extracted water being pumped beyond Alton to the likes of Bordon ? 2.1 PRIMARY ACTION – Feasibility Study & Improvement of Water Quality and Biological Condition of Kings Pond and the River Wey The primary action is just focusing on the pond, there are numerous other locations where improvements can be made, these have been ignored Panoramic waterscape – a Jewel in the Town The consultation needs to take a holistic approach to what the Alton community need, not just the Environmental Agency. The Consultation does not take this into consideration The pond is a picturesque nature environment, strategically close to the town centre and railway station and now part of our heritage Alton needs visitors and tourism into the town to grown the economy. Kings Pond is a natural draw, easily walkable from town & station, which nicely aligns with the aspirations for making Alton a notable attraction for walking festivals Kings Pond Draft Management plan Should be a proposed management plan for the whole river system from source to Haw Bridge, Holybourne. Diagrams inserted without any key makes it very difficult to understand context Neither the online consultation or the plan has not offered up a little & often solution ! Why not consider natural channelling options like reeds beds, rocks to help improve river speed ? Insufficient data on the quality of the river either side of the pond, Silt Removal Rather than wait for every 20-30 years, consider a more frequent but less intrusive extraction ie using vacuum pupms To reduce disposal costs consider the dell south of Lower Turks Street the use of the Watercress Line banks and/or their transportation means Offsite disposal may be funded by the rich fertile silt Fish ATC could consider a small fish ladder channel adj to the weir Impact to Waterside Court Will the ATC include an impact assessment to the Waterside Court development ? ie 1) increase in water flow & level, capacity of channels and culverts 2 low water level and smell 4.1b Improvement of Water Quality and Biological Condition of Kings Pond and the River Wey Pond Re-profiling Works (Depending on outcome of feasibility study and Environment Agency Approval) TOTAL = £225,000.00 (+VAT) Please provide a breakdown of these costs Bottom Line Off line Pond aka muddy swamp, smelly with loss of wildlife

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| 62 | Money should be set aside each year for ongoing maintenance and future projects. This consultation has been very difficult to complete without a copy of the report to hand. You should have put the sections in you want us to respond to. You must listen to the residents who love this open body of water and do all you can to protect it. Your lack of maintenance has caused these problems. It's a disgrace. | 11/27/2022 12:08 PM |
| 63 | This consultation is failing to look at the bigger picture of the Northern River Wye, just a narrow focus on Kings Pond. As stated in App C – Kings Pond as an on-line Pond – Dr June Chatfield OBE When dealing with the management of King's Pond it needs to be done in the context of the whole river system from source to Haw Bridge, Holybourne Within the On-line Consultation Alton Town Council (ATC) have narrowed their focus purely on the Kings Pond. The On-line Consultation and Proposed Management Plan should include the entire river length and adjacent water catchment areas located within the Town Council jurisdiction. Over recent years there has been significant urban development, especially near Will Hall Farm upstream of Kings Pond. ATC should be seeking an understanding how the river water supply has been affected by these developments what measures can be explored to improve the water quantity & quality ATC should be seeking confirmation from South East Water that the extraction from Alton's aquifers are not affecting the water table and the fresh supply of water to the rivers source The continuous expansion of residential areas in Alton and surrounding areas eg Bordon are we depleting our aquifers and reducing the water table which inevitably will have an impact on the river. Reference the closure (I believe) of the unsustainable water abstraction from the Weysprings pipping station, along New Odiham Road. Requested Action 1 : Extend scope of survey to include the entire River Wye within ATC jurisdiction to understand impact of housing development Requested Action 2 : Request historical extraction & usage data from South East Water ie is extracted water being pumped beyond Alton to the likes of Bordon ? 2.1 PRIMARY ACTION – Feasibility | 11/27/2022 12:07 PM |

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Study & Improvement of Water Quality and Biological Condition of Kings Pond and the River Wey The primary action is just focusing on the pond, there are numerous other locations where improvements can be made, these have been ignored Panoramic waterscape – a Jewel in the Town The consultation needs to take a holistic approach to what the Alton community need, not just the Environmental Agency. The Consulation does not take this into consideration The pond is a picturesque nature environment, strategically close to the town centre and railway station and now part of our heritage Alton needs visitors and tourism into the town to grown the economy. Kings Pond is a natural draw, easily walkable from town & station, which nicely aligns with the aspirations for making Alton a notable attraction for walking festivals Kings Pond Draft Management plan Should be a proposed management plan for the whole river system from source to Haw Bridge, Holybourne. Diagrams inserted without any key makes it very difficult to understand context Neither the online consultation or the plan has not offered up a little & often solution ! Why not consider natural channelling options like reeds beds, rocks to help improve river speed ? Insufficient data on the quality of the river either side of the pond, Silt Removal Rather than wait for every 20-30 years, consider a more frequent but less intrusive extraction ie using vacuum pupms To reduce disposal costs consider the dell south of Lower Turks Street the use of the Watercress Line banks and/or their transportation means Offsite disposal may be funded by the rich fertile silt Fish ATC could consider a small fish ladder channel adj to the weir Impact to Waterside Court Will the ATC include an impact assessment to the Waterside Court development ? ie 1) increase in water flow & level, capacity of channels and culverts 2 low water level and smell 4.1b Improvement of Water Quality and Biological Condition of Kings Pond and the River Wey Pond Re-profiling Works (Depending on outcome of feasibility study and Environment Agency Approval) TOTAL = £225,000.00 (+VAT) Please provide a breakdown of these costs Bottom Line Off line Pond aka muddy swamp, smelly with loss of wildlife Take away perception – ATC do not wish to fund a continuous maintenance programme from their revenue budget. They much rather pursue a capital grant for a one of enhancement project, minimising future maintenance budgets.

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| 64 | This a beautiful natural oasis, within an urban area. The large expanse of water needs to remain. Acknowledge ATC need to maintain but to tss as me off line is like selling the family jewels. Kings Pond is a major attraction | 11/27/2022 10:13 AM |
| 65 | I understand the importance of keeping waterways downstream in a healthy state, and in principle do agree with the primary action in 2.13 however there must be a balance, as this area is very much loved by the local community, and the removal of the pond, it's island and waterfowl would be bad for the town and the community, not to mention the short term damage to habitat of wildlife of all sorts at the pond and downstream during any sort of works on the pond, In respect of 5, I have attended a consultation event at the pond, but made no record of the date. | 11/27/2022 9:26 AM |
| 66 | Entrance Arch & raised beds = pointless waste of money Cut the grass more often around picnic area - it has looked awful for several years Stop trying to grow wild meadow flowers in a wooded area - looks stupid and unnatural. Meadow flowers grow in meadow areas. Appoint the pond's management to someone who actually cares | 11/27/2022 9:14 AM |
| 67 | This consultation is failing to look at the bigger picture of the Northern River Wye, just a narrow focus on Kings Pond Alton Town Council should include the entire river length and adjacent water catchment areas located within the Town Council jurisdiction. Understanding how the river supply has been affected by recent development, especially upstream of Kings Pond is critical to understanding what measures can be explored to improve the water quantity & quality The significant development within the river catchment areas especially around Will Hall Meadow, must have had an impact on ground water feeding into the water table and aquifers By including this source area into the study we understand how surface water from the new developments is best used to source the river Alton Town Council should also be understanding what is happening to the aquifers below the town catchment area. The continuous expansion of residential areas in Alton and surrounding areas eg Bordon are we depleting our aquifers and reducing the water table which inevitably will have an impact on the river Requested Action 1 : Extend scope of survey to include the entire River Wye within ATC jurisdiction to understand impact of housing development Requested Action 2 : Request historical extraction & usage data from South East Water ie is extracted water being pumped beyond Alton to the likes of Bordon ? Silt Removal The survey should include sampling to confirm composition Consider the copse south of Lower Turks Street for a disposal location Consider the use of the Watercress Line for disposal Offsite disposal may be funded by the rich fertile silt Panoramic waterscape – a Jewel in the Town The consultation needs to take a holistic approach to what the Alton community need. The Survey does not take this into consideration The pond is a picturesque nature environment, strategically close to the town centre and railway station Alton needs visitors and tourism into the town, to grown the economy. Kings Pond is a natural draw, easily walkable, which nicely aligns with the aspirations for making Alton a notable attraction for walking festivals. | 11/27/2022 12:09 AM |

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Scope of feasibility study – to include: Upstream and downstream river flow studies i. Very low & slow at times, removing pond will cause the whole area to dry out. Local abstraction from water companies and dwellings causing the river to dry up Enquiries with EA, SEW, TW, OFWAT to determine abstraction arrangements Abstraction data from local water courses / aquifers Effect of global warming on the river, regardless of whether the pond exists or not Wildlife agencies (RSPB) 2) Silt study Silt samples required Methods of reuse, disposal or sale: i. Local ii. Railway lii Farms Methods of removal i. Vacuum excavator vs mechanical excavator ii. Smaller amounts and more frequently as part of a budgeted maintenance programme 3) Incremental changes and preventative maintenance Consider in more detail the impact of minor changes and monitor the health of the pond and river i. Drains and water run off ii. Aquifers iii. Vegetation management iv. Wildlife management v. Public education vi. Pedestrian route/area management

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- 68 The Draft Management Plan prepared for Alton Town Council in August 2022 presents suitable options, including the Priority Action (2.1.3) pursuing a more sustainable alternative to expensive pond dredging. It is a suitable response to well reasoned Environment Agency advice (Appendix A). A healthier chalk stream, off-line from a wetland scrape, or smaller pond (concepts 1 and 2) are a different amenity to the larger open water of the current Kings Pond. Such alternative concepts supporting taking the River Wey off-line should be recognised as valuable by those with an interest in King's Pond. The amenity of King's Pond would not be lost, it would simply be different. The Priority Action (2.1.3) should be supported by Alton Town Council as it continues to seek and to share expert input to the future management of King's Pond. ATC will take opportunities for further consultation on the details of Pond management action. The detailed planning for future work will include considering viable options to mitigate common concerns and support common desires. Aspects of sustainability should be clearly explained in future consultations, and used as the main priority, in considering such options. Hopefully aspects of sustainability will be increasingly recognised and supported across the local community. 11/26/2022 11:51 PM
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- 69 I have voted against the feasibility study, because I distrust the Council's motives behind holding one. The main reasons that have been presented for holding a feasibility study are environmental, however I strongly suspect the primary reason is economic, (particularly when the Council is strapped for cash and for the environment agency off-lining the pond would be the cheapest option). I went along to one of the consultation meetings, where I expected to be able to have a proper conversation about my concerns relating to the potential off-lining of the pond, and the response I had was 'Have you read the plans and our Q&A', to which I responded that I had, but that I still had concerns that had not been addressed. These concerns are as follows: Firstly, I am concerned by the emphasis that the Consultation Brief puts on Dr David Murdoch's letter. I understand that he is a Vice County Dragonfly Recorder and was disappointed not to record any dragonflies at the pond the day he came around. However I live on the road directly behind King's Pond and have witnessed huge dragonflies in my garden, which, because there are no ponds along my street, I would suggest have come from King's Pond. Furthermore, I find it incredible that this recorder can say that King's Pond is effectively a desert for biodiversity. Everyone who studies GCSE Biology, and some people such as myself who go on to study Ecology at University, knows that energy is passed up the food chain, and only if there is an adequate food supply at the lower levels will there be enough to sustain the organisms at the higher trophic levels. King's Pond is home to species on the these higher trophic levels, such as Daubenton's bat. This species would not be able to survive around the area if there were too few invertebrates breeding at the pond, so there must be a high enough level of insects to support them. Whilst the Daubenton's bat is a secondary consumer feeding off the invertebrates, the pond is also host to tertiary consumers such as herons and kingfishers. These species feed off fish, which are secondary consumers. In turn, the fish are feeding off the invertebrates, which are the primary consumers. Therefore, the fact that we can see the pond supports so many different species at the tertiary consumer level and so many within a species at this level (a heronry of three nests for example) it is clear that King's Pond has a high carrying capacity for a number of species. The list includes moorhens, coots, little grebes, visiting cormorants and little egrets, plus kingfishers not to mention the geese and a variety of ducks and garden birds. The off-lining of the pond would be devastating to a number of these species. By off-lining the pond the fish would be deprived of fresh spring water; the pond is likely to become stagnant and the fish in the main stream would not be able to move into the pond to breed. This would lead to the effective removal of fish from the pond. Having established that fish are a core source of food for kingfishers and herons, why was it not mentioned in the briefing paper that off-lining the pond would result in the loss of these species? Similarly, if the pond is shrunk it will not have the same carrying capacity for invertebrates, and this could see the disappearance of the Daubenton's bat. Furthermore, the mute swans would no longer be able to live at the pond as they would not have a long enough runway on which to take off. I acknowledge that the pond's current nutrient levels are not at the optimum state of health. However, there should surely be a concerted effort to deal with this before considering off-lining. I have watched as there has
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King's Pond Draft Management Plan

been increased building work around the pond and noticed the pipe above the River Wey tunnel entering the pond chucking out murky water, which I can only suspect comes from the nearby building site. The brief acknowledges that the pond suffers from run-off from Ashdell Road but fails to mention that there is now development along the entire course of the river, from the source to the pond and beyond. Another concern relating to the option for off-lining and shrinking the pond, is that it will become a boggy mess. People will trample all over any potential wildflowers that could grow, and there will be even more dog poo as dogs will have a greater run of the place, and when the dog poo is next to the pond or stream, the nutrient loading will be even worse. Dog poo is less likely to be picked up by people when there is long grass as they think they can get away with it. So the plans for bog patches and boardwalks (which would discourage owners from going into the boggy part to pick up the poo) would contribute to the degradation of the area and as a result a degraded public amenity. There has been considerable research, including by the University of Exeter, on the importance of large bodies of water such as lakes and beaches to improving people's well-being. Short and frequent walks near bodies of water have been shown to improve people's mental health. Shrinking this amenity and making it into a little piddle will not provide the same benefits that can be reaped from it today. People from all walks of life visit King's Pond, whether it's children on the way to school, local workers on their lunch break, elderly people looking for peace and quiet or dog walkers. King's Pond is a natural haven in the centre of a town that is growing and growing. A recent study by the University of Exeter has now shown how positive childhood experiences of blue spaces are linked to better adult well-being. Shouldn't having a positive legacy for the community be a goal for the town council to aim for? The pond provides a space to breathe and think. To shrink it would be a tragedy and deeply degrading to the assets of the town. It would mean it would lose its only large body of water – and in turn the unique ecologies that can only thrive on large bodies of water. During the consultation I asked whether there would be public participation relating to the direction of the management of King's Pond following any feasibility study. The response I received was uncertain. I want certainty that there will be public participation during the whole process of the management of the pond. In particular, I would refer the town council to Emily Barritt's book 'The Foundations of the Aarhus Convention: Environmental Democracy, Rights and Stewardship'. This book highlights the importance of deliberative democracy, where the public is involved throughout the management process, and not only are they 'listened to' but their ideas and feelings actually guide the decision making. Hence, there is communicative interaction, rather than being listened to in one ear and ignored in the other. The Aarhus Convention, is an international convention to which the UK is a signatory and grants the public access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice in respect of environmental matters. I hope that Alton Town Council will stick to the terms of the Aarhus Convention, otherwise it would be worthwhile for residents to look into how they can mobilise their procedural rights under the convention to ensure full participation is enabled. Finally, it is my reference to the Aarhus Convention that brings me back to my first point, relating to my distrust of the real motivations behind the feasibility study. The lack of confirmation as to whether there would be public participation following a feasibility study, has led me (unsurprisingly) to fear that having the feasibility study granted would provide a green light to the town council to go ahead with off-lining the pond. Once the feasibility study is complete the council could try to say that participation was enabled during the process, so they can decide on the results themselves without a further consultation with the public. I would like to be assured that the council would adhere to the precautionary principle, whereby policy makers take time to stop and review the impact of a proposed project and see what the potential effects of it could be and the extent to which there may be unknown potential harms of carrying out an activity. It requires asking if an activity could have unforeseen damaging effects, and if so, can they be reversed or are they by that point irreversible? Do we know the full cumulative impacts that removing the pond will have on all its wildlife? No studies have so far been conducted to determine this. Ploughing ahead with a feasibility study without first carrying out a cumulative environmental impact assessment is the same as breaking down the precautionary principle and not giving due consideration to the potential impacts. Once King's Pond is gone, it will be gone forever. The brief downplays the idea of dredging as an option because it disrupts wildlife. However, whilst dredging does have a disruptive impact, this is only short term and we know from past experience that the wildlife returns after the pond has been dredged. On a final note, I understand that the dredging option is more expensive than off-lining would be, but is the cost of dredging once every quarter of a century really too high to bear given the importance of King's Pond to local people? I would rather see a rise in the Council tax, than see the destruction of the pond. The price of its loss would be the deterioration of mental well-being for many residents and the diminution of amenity for many more.

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| 70 | Needs to be easily manageable. | 11/26/2022 8:31 PM |
| 71 | Fully in agreement with the view of the environment agency. The water at the moment is filthy and no one seems to have any practical suggestions for improving the quality. I would | 11/26/2022 8:30 PM |

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much prefer to see something more like Flood Meadows, Winnall Moors in Winchester or Greywell Moors.

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| 72 | The biggest reason I am against the proposal for King's Pind to be taken off-line is because it has an incredibly high risk of destroying the established ecology that has been built up for over 100 years. During the consultation it was clear that no measures are in place to protect the fish and subsequently the birds that feed on them. Taking the pond off-line will trap the fish providing no escape and supposing the pond dries in the summer months (like flood meadows) the fish will surely die. This will create havoc with the resource relied on by the little grebes, Egerettes, cormorants, King fishers and tufted ducks. It will be inhumane and I feel nothing short of an act of vandalism. Furthermore, the geese are migratory. Even if you did attempt to manage the population, new geese will still appear. Maintain the pond to a higher standard (planting etc) and commit to it, also undertake a partial dredging to protect the integrity of the islands, deepen the waters and tackle the nutrient issue. Is what I feel is best. | 11/26/2022 8:27 PM |
| 73 | Of the concepts put forward I prefer option 2 - this would provide the pond for those who wish to keep a body of water for wildfowl, but balanced with improving the river water quality and other steps towards increasing biodiversity. The boardwalk in Concept 1 would require regular maintenance and the wetland areas are less likely to get public support than a pond option. | 11/26/2022 8:11 PM |
| 74 | It would be a shame to lose the kingfishers, bats, swans and swallows from the pond by making it smaller. | 11/26/2022 8:09 PM |
| 75 | place a fish ladder at the outgoing flow of the stream to allow fish to move up and down the new river freely. | 11/26/2022 6:31 PM |
| 76 | Please leave the area as a POND and not take it off line. It is a vital amenity area and has been for many years. It will need dredging and maintenance and the addition of a silt trap should help. Local people and visitors enjoy this simple, tranquil area for a breathing space - close to the town centre. The path around the pond definitely needs further investment for easy mobility of all visitors. The rat infestation must be resolved - surely not impossible. The emphasis should be on an AMENITY AREA FOR PEOPLE and not a eco area. (We already have such an area at Flood Meadows). NOT ENOUGH TIME HAS BEEN ALLOWED - we only became aware of this consultation plan in October through the publication of details in the local Herald newspaper. We could not attend the interactive sessions at site of Kings Pond and at the Assembly Rooms - due to the short notice. PLEASE RETAIN THE KING POND as it is - with the vital improvements necessary and keep it on line with more attention given to management. | 11/26/2022 3:27 PM |
| 77 | This is a much loved space within our town. I've been horrified by the clear mistrust that so many residents have of the council. Please don't prove them wrong. | 11/26/2022 10:50 AM |
| 78 | Kings Pond is a fantastic local amenity which is well used by locals and visitors. Improvements can be made to run off water which should never have been allowed at the time when new developments were built. Amount of Canada geese definitely needs addressing on site as has gone mad in recent years and overtaken other species. The vista across the pond from most points provides a peaceful and communal tranquil experience for all ages, whether sitting, walking, jogging or having a picnic. | 11/26/2022 10:42 AM |
| 79 | If any improvements are made, how will the council in the future ensure that the pond is maintained to the same standard. Over the last few years the ponds had become increasingly neglected and I would not wish the council to spend money on improvements and then not follow through with the correct maintenance | 11/26/2022 8:48 AM |
| 80 | The River Wey is an internationally important chalk river and we should take this opportunity to rework this area to restore the health and biodiversity of the river | 11/25/2022 9:18 PM |
| 81 | I shall miss the pond but do understand the need to improve the water quality | 11/25/2022 7:18 PM |
| 82 | We would like to see the reappearance of the river with clearly defined banks surrounded by wet land and/or marsh with boardwalks to allow access to the river banks. We would also like to see a reduction in the number of wildfowl apart from swan and heron. We think there should be some inhibition on the feeding of birds perhaps confining it to children under 7(?) only and providing small bags of appropriate food for sale via an honesty box. (This system seems to work quite well on the river in Alresford) | 11/25/2022 5:15 PM |
| 83 | I would like to praise Alton Town Council for attempting to address the management issues arising from the Kings Pond weir. For the long term future of the River Wey it is the right thing to do ecologically and financially in the long term. In the medium term it will be really important to find the resources to implement the construction of new features such as walkways and smaller offline ponds where the old pond used to be. It is of the utmost | 11/25/2022 4:11 PM |

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importance to try retain as much of the things people enjoyed about the current pond as possible, even if it means increasing the upfront costs of taking the pond offline.

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| 84 | My wife and I have walked much of the River Wey and this is one of the least attractive stretches. I like Concept 1 because it mirrors similar schemes I have seen recently near Scarborough and is similar to Alresford and Emsworth, allowing the stream to flow without silting avoiding algae, encouraging birds that live in reed beds and discouraging large flocks of geese. | 11/25/2022 11:57 AM |
| 85 | A study is essential to find a feasible long term solution . | 11/25/2022 8:47 AM |
| 86 | I have carefully read the proposal as well as views of groups like AVLAN in the Herald. As a nature lover and environmentalist, I just want the best for Kings Pond and the River Wey ecologically. I understand that so many people have a huge sense of place with the pond, however, the priority has to be its ecology. | 11/25/2022 8:30 AM |
| 87 | Kings pond needs re directing and not dredging | 11/24/2022 8:29 PM |
| 88 | <p>General This consultation is failing to look at the bigger picture of the Northern River Wye, just a narrow focus on Kings Pond. As stated in App C – Kings Pond as an on-line Pond – Dr June Chatfield OBE When dealing with the management of King's Pond it needs to be done in the context of the whole river system from source to Haw Bridge, Holybourne Within the On-line Consultation Alton Town Council (ATC) have narrowed their focus purely on the Kings Pond. The On-line Consultation and Proposed Management Plan should include the entire river length and adjacent water catchment areas located within the Town Council jurisdiction. Over recent years there has been significant urban development, especially near Will Hall Farm upstream of Kings Pond. ATC should be seeking an understanding how the river water supply has been affected by these developments what measures can be explored to improve the water quantity & quality ATC should be seeking confirmation from South East Water that the extraction from Alton's aquifers are not affecting the water table and the fresh supply of water to the rivers source The continuous expansion of residential areas in Alton and surrounding areas eg Bordon are we depleting our aquifers and reducing the water table which inevitably will have an impact on the river. Reference the closure (I believe) of the unsustainable water abstraction from the Weysprings pipping station, along New Odiham Road. Requested Action 1 : Extend scope of survey to include the entire River Wye within ATC jurisdiction to understand impact of housing development Requested Action 2 : Request historical extraction & usage data from South East Water ie is extracted water being pumped beyond Alton to the likes of Bordon ? 2.1 PRIMARY ACTION – Feasibility Study & Improvement of Water Quality and Biological Condition of Kings Pond and the River Wey The primary action is just focusing on the pond, there are numerous other locations where improvements can be made, these have been ignored Panoramic waterscape – a Jewel in the Town The consultation needs to take a holistic approach to what the Alton community need, not just the Environmental Agency. The Consultation does not take this into consideration The pond is a picturesque nature environment, strategically close to the town centre and railway station and now part of our heritage Alton needs visitors and tourism into the town to grown the economy. Kings Pond is a natural draw, easily walkable from town & station, which nicely aligns with the aspirations for making Alton a notable attraction for walking festivals Kings Pond Draft Management plan Should be a proposed management plan for the whole river system from source to Haw Bridge, Holybourne. Diagrams inserted without any key makes it very difficult to understand context Neither the online consultation or the plan has not offered up a little & often solution ! Why not consider natural channelling options like reeds beds, rocks to help improve river speed ? Insufficient data on the quality of the river either side of the pond, Silt Removal Rather than wait for every 20-30 years, consider a more frequent but less intrusive extraction ie using vacuum pupms • To reduce disposal costs consider • the dell south of Lower Turks Street • the use of the Watercress Line banks and/or their transportation means • Offsite disposal may be funded by the rich fertile silt Fish ATC could consider a small fish ladder channel adj to the weir Impact to Waterside Court Will the ATC include an impact assessment to the Waterside Court development ? ie 1) increase in water flow & level, capacity of channels and culverts 2 low water level and smell 4.1b Improvement of Water Quality and Biological Condition of Kings Pond and the River Wey Pond Re-profiling Works (Depending on outcome of feasibility study and Environment Agency Approval) TOTAL = £225,000.00 (+VAT) Please provide a breakdown of these costs Bottom Line Off line Pond aka muddy swamp, smelly with loss of wildlife Take away perception – ATC do not wish to fund a continuous maintenance programme from their revenue budget. They much rather pursue a capital grant for a one of enhancement project, minimising future maintenance budgets.</p> | 11/24/2022 8:06 PM |
| 89 | The pond is a lovely feature & my strong preference is that it be maintained in an appropriate manner. | 11/24/2022 4:35 PM |
| 90 | The pond itself is a main historic Alton attraction and to replace with a river/wetland would | 11/24/2022 4:27 PM |

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make it a less attractive amenity. The lack of cutting during the summer presented an unattractive visual either from the road and when visiting albeit this may have been for ecological purposes. The site is not suitable because of its location eg entry to the town, as a wetland facility. The current pond with the opportunity to walk around and see wildlife makes it the 'jewel in Alton' for all ages as can be seen from the regular visitors.

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| 91 | Provide a useful maintenance service to keep the pond useful for its enjoyment and the appropriate provision of graded paths and seating to improve the less abled to enjoy the pond easier | 11/24/2022 3:19 PM |
| 92 | I fully support the plans to appoint a river restoration consultant to investigate options to take the pond 'offline' and improve the connectivity and fish passage of the River Wey. The hypothetical river reinstatement concept maps look like excellent opportunities to increase the overall environmental health of the pond area and river. I work in the conservation/environment sector and understand the benefits of the work. The habitat at the moment is sub-optimal and the river needs all of the help it can get. A wildlife community dominated by Canada geese, mallards, coots and morhens is not particularly 'wild'. A healthy river system with a mosaic of well managed grassland, scrub, woodland, reedbeds, wet scrapes and some standing water is far more preferable than the silting lake alone. | 11/24/2022 3:15 PM |
| 93 | The open water nature of the pond is an asset to the town and its total loss would represent a significant loss of amenity. It would change the character of the area in a negative way. The eroded banks at the so called "feeding platforms", and elsewhere as required, should be repaired by engineered steel or timber piling with appropriate capping. (the 1990's method of timber stakes and fabric was never a long term solution). Arisings from any necessary dredging at the north east end of the pond could be deposited at the south west end (presently the least attractive part of the site) where reed beds could be established to encourage the future deposition of silt in this area. This could encompass the present island if necessary. This proposal need not be inconsistent with the proposed conservation area and it would retain the open water at the north east end of the site. The population of Canada geese needs to be significantly reduced. | 11/24/2022 11:01 AM |
| 94 | The overpopulation of geese makes it an unsuitable place to take young children. | 11/24/2022 10:17 AM |
| 95 | It is clear that the river water quality and pond water quality need to be improved to help biodiversity. I walk through on the paths around Kings Pond very regularly but I don't linger - the bank erosion, silting, excessive geese droppings and the rat population make this unattractive. The public fixation on the geese and ducks and resistance to any control of feeding is holding back the true environmental potential of the site. The feasibility study from the Priority Action should include full investigation and costing of the options available - taking the pond off line versus dredging to retain as is. The feasibility study should make clear the possible improvements in biodiversity that the off-line pond arrangement could bring - reference to previous similar schemes perhaps | 11/24/2022 10:12 AM |
| 96 | The future management must be sustainable and professional opinions sought. | 11/24/2022 10:05 AM |
| 97 | I fully support this plan for the future management of Kings Pond and the habitats that will be created through restoration proposals going forward and those species that this active and dynamic management will come to support. | 11/23/2022 7:28 PM |
| 98 | We love the pond as it is. We recognise that ATC have done an excellent job in their stewardship of this valued amenity. The pond provides an essential resource enhancing our mental well-being and providing an important habitat for wildlife. A pond provides so much more in these respects than a managed river-scape. | 11/23/2022 6:20 PM |
| 99 | This is a useful recreational area which should be preserved for the residents of Alton This is a useful recreational area which should be maintained by the Town Council for the benefit of Alton residents | 11/23/2022 3:48 PM |
| 100 | I don't think ranking the options in Q. 7 is very helpful - I think ALL of these need to be undertaken. I support exploring the option of separating the river from the pond, but only if there will be proven benefits to the ecology of the site. Whatever feasibility study you do must look at all residents concerns in detail. | 11/23/2022 10:58 AM |
| 101 | If you're going to put in a pollinator pathway you need light I guess, hence my choice of 'more daylight' in 12 above. I think the cost of dredging is prohibitive but I think there is widespread concern about Alton losing another 'facility' e.g. after the cinema. I'm split on taking the pond 'offline' for habitat regeneration and water quality downstream - I do like that idea, but losing the open body of water takes away a facility for parents to bring their children to see the waterfowl. I do agree strongly that we need to lose the Canada geese but if we cull them won't they just come back? Thanks for all you've done on this. One comment about the 42 page consultation paper is that there is no Executive Summary. And I think it would be helpful to have the paragraphs that you'd like us to comment on, within | 11/23/2022 9:24 AM |

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the questions above, otherwise one is having to look at the document and then the questions. Also one doesn't know in advance that one doesn't need to read all the 42 page document! It's a bit daunting having to see that and think 'ah I must read that before doing the consultation' and then finding out one is only required (in order to answer the above questions) to read 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.5 and 2.6 (sorry if I've missed one) - you get my point. But thanks for the opportunity. It is a complex issue.

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| 102 | Please make the family a safe, healthy space for the younger, future generations to explore. Protect and enhance the environment. The survey shows that mainly older people use the pond at the moment, if the site was redeveloped to attract families it would - it's right in the middle of town! | 11/23/2022 8:26 AM |
| 103 | I used to walk round Kings Pond almost daily and have a strong emotional link to it as my parents' home is in Spicers and I lived there from aged 12 to 30 (1986 to 2004), I still live in Alton. Despite this, if the right thing to do is to return the river to it's more natural course then I would support it. | 11/22/2022 10:03 PM |
| 104 | I would have liked to have the feasibility study ALSO look at costings for dredging etc WITHOUT taking the pond off line. Including the geese problem is not a good idea. in question 9 . If I say yes to the solution being taking the pond off line it suggests I already have decided that it should happen. Until the feasibility is done I don't know. So I haven't answered 9. | 11/22/2022 8:14 PM |
| 105 | The open access to Kings Pond from the 1970s has meant that many families, including mine, have been able to enjoy the area. The pond has been dredged twice since then and the slitting up of the pond continues. This will remain the case. With increase traffic in the area as well as the increase in hard surfaces from development, run off from the roads is known. The wildfowl excrement is also increasingly a problem that contributes to the poor water quality. Kings Pond is fed by the springs of the River Wey and water leaves the pond to continue the river's course. This water, by the time it leaves the pond is no longer clean and this pollutes the river. This is a chalk river and as such is an extremely important freshwater habitat as chalk streams and rivers are ecologically significant. It is therefore more important ecologically for the river to be clean and enable a managed succession to a water meadow (also an extremely important habitat). This would see the wildfowl relocate after a period of time and the repopulation of the area with new species of smaller birds would be part of the natural succession. With climate change we will need water meadows with the ability to hold water after the increased rainfall expected and would enable natural cleaning of that water, especially if part were managed as a reed bed, before it enters the river. | 11/22/2022 7:50 PM |
| 106 | I don't agree with any form of culling. We share this planet with the wildlife attempts to reduce the population due to complaints over bird poo is just inhumane. Following the drop in session it seems to me that the main issue is the weir, which is preventing the onward flow of water. Surely this therefore should be the focus of the feasibility study as would resolve the councils issues and appease the public who do not wish to lose this vital and special place. | 11/22/2022 3:22 PM |
| 107 | Please do not remove the Pond or reduce it's size. Dredging is the only solution. | 11/22/2022 3:11 PM |
| 108 | Pond should be dredged every 20 years or so. Pond should not be taken offline or re-profiled. | 11/22/2022 2:44 PM |
| 109 | Whilst public consultation is important, I would urge putting significantly greater value on the voices of expert consultants and regulatory bodies (the EA). Restoring the natural environment should be prioritised over human amenity. I do not believe the geese should be culled; I do not believe there is any 'humane' way to take the life of an animal that wants to live, and this is in direct opposition to the aims of restoring nature. The prevalence of the geese is a human issue, by creating the environment for them and abundantly feeding them and they should not be persecuted for our mistakes. The geese will presumably naturally relocate if the river is restored and the public are educated on feeding. I would like to see consideration given to alternative fencing materials to the plastic proposed in 2.5. Natural barriers, or natural fencing materials should be considered, which are more sympathetic to the environment both visually and ecologically. Additionally, use of natural fencing provides the opportunity to use carbon negative materials, i.e. managed forestry materials sequester carbon, rather than plastics which are fossil fuel derived. This is likely in line with ATC's climate change strategy. With regards 2.6 and removal of leaf litter. Consideration should be given to leaving a sustainable level of leaves on the grasses to naturally decay. This supports biodiversity and soil health. Though this should not be allowed to fully smother the grasses. Leaf litter should also remain on soils for this reason. No objection to clearance of hard surfaces as proposed. I am in support of concept drawing 1, with creation of reedbeds and wetlands, rather than the lake in concept 2, but would again defer to the Environment Agency's guidance above public voice. | 11/22/2022 1:37 PM |

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| 110 | The feasibility study will inform what is and isn't possible at Kings Pond, but it looks as if something needs to be done, in view of the silting up and the poor quality of the water, and therefore low biodiversity. Obviously, much will depend if money is forthcoming for whatever action is decided upon. | 11/22/2022 12:49 PM |
| 111 | It is high time the Council accepted its responsibilities to both Kings Pond and Flood Meadows and engaged in some serious maintenance which has for years been neglected. | 11/22/2022 9:38 AM |
| 112 | This sounds a very sensible and long overdue proposal. Good luck! | 11/22/2022 9:10 AM |
| 113 | King's pond has many functions which - with careful planning - could all be better served - eg: 1. wildlife habitat 2. a place to unwind, exercise, meet others 3. a place to learn It also faces 2 enormous challenges: geese and climate change! Canada geese live for 10-24 years in the wild, and lay 4-9 eggs per year. Human interaction is affecting their normal behaviour - leading to unhealthy populations and habitats, and less biodiversity. But some people won't accept facts, and ignore advice. Consequently, we now have excess food and goose poo - both of which become slippery after rain or snow - plus increasing pests (eg rats), parasites and diseases - which reduce biodiversity. Due to lack of action (globally) to properly tackle climate change, places like King's pond must now be quickly adapted to cope with extreme weather - especially the effects of flooding. Therefore I believe we need a feasibility study to: a) address these challenges - ie numbers of geese plus climate change, and b) meet the needs of the majority by creating and maintaining more healthy and diverse habitats - including AT LEAST 1 smaller pond, not connected to the river, where people can continue to feed wildfowl. | 11/22/2022 9:07 AM |
| 114 | I visited King's Pond about 18 months ago and, as a biologist, was dismayed to find the state of eutrophication of the water and the amount of goose faeces. As I investigated the site, as part of a local natural history survey, I could easily see that the overlarge population of Canada geese was the main cause of this problem. One cannot blame the birds as they are fed by the public and thus encouraged to stay and breed. But their monopolist attitude has spoiled a water mass that is far too small to support a goose colony. The dredging is a good idea as it will remove much of the anaerobic mud and toxic bacteria that often arise in this situation. In this way, the pond should quickly recover and re-establish a much wider species diversity. | 11/21/2022 10:38 PM |
| 115 | I am not qualified to make decisions on the management of the pond | 11/21/2022 8:19 PM |
| 116 | The pond as it stands is not viable, and is quickly becoming a problem due to excessive wildfowl and rats. I strongly feel that returning it to close to its original state (before being a mill pond) is by far the best option, and it would quickly become an attractive area, and an asset to the towns people, and massively beneficial to wildlife diversity. | 11/21/2022 4:01 PM |
| 117 | I would like to keep a large pond area since it supports many larger birds, swans, herons cormorants etc. If possible, a separate channel for the river | 11/21/2022 3:52 PM |
| 118 | I think whatever action is taken we need to be aware of the impact on wildlife. This is a large body of water on which a number of species depend. While I understand the flora and fauna may change if the pond is taken off-line we need to be sure that, on balance, that will enhance not compromise wildlife. We should also be aware that there is a big push nationally to create habitats for wildlife and we need to be very sure that the benefits that accrue from restoring the Wey at the expense of the pond is going to work. The scheme is too big for 'guesstimates'..! Has any thought been given to silt traps to avoid/delay silting of the pond if, ultimately, it is to remain..? What about rodent control..? If the pond is to remain, I think a landscape plan needs to be developed to preserve the 'rewilding aspect' but also to 'beautify' and stabilise the pond margins. At the moment I'm undecided on the future of the pond and my decision on its future will rest on the findings of the river restoration consultant. | 11/21/2022 3:32 PM |
| 119 | I am grateful to all the real experts in their field and feel very strongly that their advice should be strictly followed . The present state of Kings Pond is appalling . Rats Pond would be more appropriate . Not safe for anyone . | 11/21/2022 3:28 PM |
| 120 | The large expanse of water has allowed diversity of bird life especially diving birds eg herons, egrets, cormorants, tufted ducks and dabchicks. Even swifts use it for drinking when they return after migration. To lose this habitat would be detrimental to these birds. Therefore the pond must remain on-line , and steps taken to reduce pollution from highways drains and incorrect feeding. The issue is better management of the pond including use of volunteers - this could be achieved now and certainly would not suddenly materialise after an expensive remodelling of the pond area. | 11/21/2022 11:47 AM |
| 121 | Kings Pond should become a high value natural conservation area | 11/21/2022 10:30 AM |

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| 122 | Plans and consultations should be more widely circulated to the public so that people have early notification, and not find out by chance. | 11/21/2022 9:21 AM |
| 123 | I have fond memories of taking my children to Kings Pond thirty years ago, but it is now a scruffy, rat-infested eyesore and something needs to be done | 11/20/2022 8:13 PM |
| 124 | Kings Pond is a great feature of the town and provides a haven for wildlife plus also provides local residents with somewhere to walk and to get close to nature, something that is so important for our health and wellbeing. We should be doing all that we can to maintain and improve the pond, and I support the idea of 'redesigning' the route of the River Wey and the addition of wetlands. The Canada Geese population needs to be reduced as this has a major negative impact upon the pond and the adjacent grass areas. During the summer of 2022 it was impossible to sit on or use the grass area next to Ashdell Road due to the geese and the amount of bird droppings. The situation was not helped by the lack of grass cutting. I would like to see an environment similar to Flood Meadows that includes a pond, the river running through, areas for walking, trees and shrubs for birds/wildlife, and overall one which is more 'open' than the current environment - thus making it safer for people to walk around. This is a great opportunity to make Kings Pond so much better! | 11/20/2022 7:31 PM |
| 125 | How about leave it alone you have destroyed this town enough already! Leave it to the altonians, you move in from outer areas and think you can flatten the town and turn it into a little London!! Just leave us alone!! | 11/20/2022 6:29 PM |
| 126 | The questionnaire is designed with leading questions, and focussing on chosen aspects of the management plan, and is therefore flawed. The questions refer to the draft management plan, but change the emphasis on what is written there, as one example, Question 7 has an option to repair eroded banks, but 2.2.2 in the plan only proposes a survey of erosion. The free text answers given in this section (Q13) of the questionnaire by respondents must be given as much weight as the answers to the leading questions. Question 6 asks if I agree with the Primary Action in 2.1.3. It is not clear if what is meant is the Priority Action stated there (appoint a consultant to carry out a feasibility study) or if the question refers to the text of 2.1.3 which recommends the management plan gives strong consideration to the removal of the pond in its current form. Is this confusing wording in the question meant to be deliberately opaque or open to interpretation in different ways? I agree with carrying out a feasibility study and to let that process run its course with full open consultation, taking peoples views into account before deciding on any intervention. I am concerned that the scope of the feasibility study in 2.1.3 is too broad; EA engagement for approval for feasibility options seems to be too early whilst there are still options to be decided. The feasibility study should propose and consider a long list of options and sub-options (including do nothing) and should examine the pros and cons of each, including financial, sustainability, ecological and cultural. The long list should be consulted on to gauge public opinion and to allow the council to explain the relative merits. The council should set up a public participation working group / special interest group to allow concerned residents of the town to engage and input to the appraisal of options outlined in the feasibility study. | 11/20/2022 3:17 PM |
| 127 | Education regarding feeding the birds is better than a ban so lots of information boards, marked trails which children can follow, and a pond dipping/observation platform would help to provide an alternative for parents and children rather than just feeding the ducks which isn't necessarily beneficial to wildlife. Feeding the ducks is such an historically entrenched and traditional pastime (I was looking forward to taking my granddaughter!) that there needs to be a viable engaging activity to replace it. | 11/20/2022 2:13 PM |
| 128 | I would like to see the pond dredged and edges around the pond repaired and generally maintained. The wildflower area on the railway side should be scrapped as it's all under the cover of trees which is no good for wildflowers but perfect for nettles!! | 11/20/2022 1:52 PM |
| 129 | We have lost so much green space. Alton has some beautiful spaces and could attract visitors if there was a drive to do this. Please make Kings Pond as beautiful as it can be and as attractive to wild life as possible | 11/20/2022 1:03 PM |
| 130 | The Draft Management Plan is an excellent, well-written document. I learned a lot when reading it. I fully support the proposal 2.1.3 and agree that a feasibility study will help determine the best way forward. | 11/20/2022 11:51 AM |
| 131 | I think it would be lovely if the pond were taken offline, and my choice out of concept 1 or 2 would be no 2 , with the lake, as I think an area of water is v beneficial for mental health and wildlife | 11/20/2022 10:05 AM |
| 132 | Consider banning dogs altogether and having boardwalks | 11/20/2022 9:19 AM |
| 133 | THE TOWN MIGHT CONSIDER SELLING THE SITE TO A SUITABLE STEWARD FOR A PEPPERCORN PRICE SUCH AS THE WEY VALLEY TRUST OR HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT WILDLIFE TRUST ALONG WITH A ONE -OFF LUMP SUM (DOWRY) | 11/20/2022 9:07 AM |

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| 134 | I think the option that retains a smaller pond adjacent to the railway would be the best compromise. | 11/20/2022 8:08 AM |
| 135 | Whilst at the presentation yesterday, it was felt that nothing can be decided until the outcome of the feasibility study is known. In particular, the route of the proposed dredged river channel [based on the possible existence of underground springs]. Of the two concepts, I would prefer a lake/water pond rather than all the non-river areas being reed beds or similar. Ideally, the lake would be at a location to be filled by any underground springs and the course of the new dredged channel/river route being changed accordingly. If there are no springs, then some of the river water to be diverted by a suitable sluice [at both the inlet and the outlet end of the lake]. Await the outcome of the feasibility study with great interest..... Thanks. | 11/19/2022 9:10 PM |
| 136 | I have read the report by Aquamaintain and I believe that he recommendations re sound. | 11/19/2022 4:07 PM |
| 137 | The pond is a very attractive open space, especially due to the water and the birds. It is vital to retain it as it is, with suitable improvement, not least as more houses are built. | 11/19/2022 3:44 PM |
| 138 | I live near the pond and visit it often. I love the pond the way it is, geese, rats and all. It will need dredging eventually. The idea of reed beds/marsh are unsustainable, they will become a nettle patch. | 11/19/2022 3:33 PM |
| 139 | Should this consultation result in a feasibility study I would want assurance that further detailed consultation occur in relation to the proposed concepts. | 11/19/2022 2:16 PM |
| 140 | I think these are fantastic proposals that fully deserve the support of the people of Alton. It is distressing to see so much misinformation on social media (much of it politically rather than ecologically driven) and I very much hope that does not impact these plans. The thought that we could reinstate a chalk stream, one of our most special habitats, across the site is something to treasure. Please don't be deflected in your ambitions to deliver this fantastic habitat and amenity to the people of Alton. If only people would actually read the proposal (as I have) rather than getting all of their information from Facebook the world would be a better place. | 11/19/2022 1:06 PM |
| 141 | People are adamant about keeping the pond - for the wildlife, for the beauty of one of the very few, accessible green spaces in Alton and for the pleasure it brings the community. This doesn't feel like a consultative process at all, it feels like ATC doing what they want despite constituents paying good taxes for the upkeep of a town that appears to be falling apart at the seams I'm afraid to say. Everyone would agree to ecologically doing the best for the environment, without doubt, but not at the expense of losing this space of beauty - having a tiny, possibly non-flowing, river alongside a marshy swamp is not considered beauty! It appears there is no middle of the road, which is the problem. There's also the impact on the properties surrounding the pond as this proposed change is likely to impact their property values dramatically. The general consensus is ATC cannot be bothered to do what's necessary or pay the price of keeping this in place and properly maintaining it as is needed (eg not dumping the silt alongside the pond to run back into the pond?!). By offering up a smaller pond, you still sit with the same issue of dredging so why is that any different to what should be done today? A Flush Meadows replication is not at all appealing to the community, so what are the options because what's being proposed doesn't appear to be ticking boxes. | 11/19/2022 12:12 PM |
| 142 | I fully support the proposal to take the pond offline. This option will clearly improve the river and still allow for this beautiful area to be enjoying and for the wildlife to thrive. | 11/19/2022 7:37 AM |
| 143 | I strongly agree that the pond should be taken offline to enable the redirection and rewilding of the chalk stream. A sacrificial pond could be built offline if necessary for dogs and wildfowl but these should not in today's day and age take priority over the health of the river and it's invertebrate population. | 11/18/2022 9:19 PM |
| 144 | Whatever happens, the integrity of the chalk stream must be recovered. | 11/18/2022 6:07 PM |
| 145 | I fully support going ahead with the feasibility study. As an amateur botanist and general naturalist I understand how impoverished the site has become for all wildlife, with the exception of bird species. The top priority must surely be to restore the health of the river downstream and - if possible - the biodiversity of the Pond area itself. Public enjoyment is of course important but must be a secondary aim. Currently there is an appallingly low level of understanding about the issues among the general public, with emotions whipped up by ignorance and bizarre conspiracy theories. A top-rate education and comms strategy is crucial to success of the project - done well, I'm sure people would begin to understand why feeding the wildfowl has to stop and will lead to greater, not reduced, biodiversity and therefore more, not less, scope for children and adults to enjoy the site. | 11/18/2022 5:49 PM |

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| 146 | After the disappointing, but of commercial necessity, outcome for the "brewery" site, and with the planned population growth in and close to Alton, I think it has become ever more important to treasure and maintain the open spaces in Alton. I am pleased with the outcome at the source of the Wey by Hop Fields. I admire the voluntary (& others) management of Floodies. The Public Gardens is a fabulous space.... but, much as I love King's Pond, I've always felt it needs more TLC... or am I townie trying to sterilise the countryside?? My primary concern is to enshrine in law (if not already done so) prevention of ANY development in or around King's Pond. As for the future of King's Pond itself, I actually like the idea of the reinstated river + a pond + a reed bed (I think it was page 4 of the pictures?), i.e. the river reinstated through the middle, with a large pond to one side, and reed beds to the other side. Above all, I welcome ATC funding professional studies and recommendations by consultants and, say, seeking advice from the likes of the RSPB or CPRE. I am not knowledgeable of such matters, but would King's Pond benefit from being run by a Trust of caring enthusiasts? (PS: As and when I retire, I would happily join the Wednesday volunteer group. Not for some years yet.) | 11/18/2022 1:07 PM |
| 147 | King's Pond has not been addressed or dealt with by previous administrations and is now on agenda for improvements. Doing absolutely nothing would be negligent. Our planet is a very different place from even 20 years ago and somehow we need to preserve and balance nature. Too many ridiculous theories circulating! The council are rightly doing the job of seeking opinion (no more then that) from the public and professionals as should have been done by previous administrations. I have to say I'm fed up with the very negative political spin by a few! | 11/17/2022 10:56 PM |
| 148 | While much loved, King's Pond is ecologically in very poor condition indeed. It is also damaging our precious chalk river. I do hope there is support for a feasibility study into separating the river from the pond and creating what could be a beautiful and biodiverse wetland area. A small pond could be considered with a few ducks for families to enjoy feeding. | 11/17/2022 6:30 PM |
| 149 | It does look untidy and scruffy. Would benefit from removal of dead trees and silt, rats and geese. Should be available as a fishing amenity (controlled). | 11/17/2022 4:45 PM |
| 150 | Improvement of water quality and biodiversity must be the priority. Amenity use is secondary when we are in a global biodiversity crisis and chalk streams are such a rare habitat. | 11/17/2022 4:39 PM |
| 151 | It is important to have to have an authoritative assessment of the offline proposal and consequences before implementing any changes. | 11/17/2022 10:13 AM |
| 152 | Of the two concepts if the pond were taken offline, I think concept 2 would be generally viewed more favourably as it still maintains an open body of water that people are so keen on, whilst hopefully solving the water quality of the River Wey problem. | 11/16/2022 10:28 PM |
| 153 | This sounds like a very good plan that has been carefully considered, improves the environment for wildlife and is sustainable. We have stopped going to Kings Pond due to the huge numbers of Canada Geese, which make the entire place a mess. I would love to visit the area regularly when the changes have taken effect. | 11/16/2022 5:41 PM |
| 154 | insufficient priority has been given to the residents need in balancing the ecological actions | 11/16/2022 5:21 PM |
| 155 | No major change is needed, just cleaning up of dead trees and silt in the pond | 11/16/2022 4:36 PM |
| 156 | The surrounding trees and bushes require regular cutting back to preserve a view of the pond and its wildlife. This has not always been done effectively. Also the weir outlet tends to get blocked with loose refuse which tends to degrade the pond appearance. Reverting to a historical wet land approach for this site which supports and encourages natural flora and fauna, discourages the huge flocks of Canada geese, and still includes controlled public access for viewing and picnicking, has to be a logical and cost effective way forward. | 11/16/2022 12:35 PM |
| 157 | I visit to see & record the birdlife. Unfortunately their are far too many mallards & canada geese. Putting signs up to stop feeding will not solve the problems, small hardcore will just ignore. The pond needs to go and the river needs to be re established as proposed. Perhaps the council should seek the help of other more experienced organisations, rspb, wildlife trust etc. Whom may even be interested in sharing the management and ongoing costs. | 11/15/2022 8:35 PM |
| 158 | To reinstate the natural flow of the river, making it accessible and able to see a natural chalk stream is the ideal outcome for all, less Canadian Geese more native birds and biodiversity. Less management going forward and less cost has to be the best course of action. | 11/15/2022 9:57 AM |
| 159 | I object to adding new fences. The space should be open and informal. There was nothing in the plan to deal with the rats which is the biggest problem at the pond. | 11/14/2022 5:10 PM |
| 160 | I support taking the pond off-line to increase the health & biodiversity of the River Wey. | 11/11/2022 8:27 PM |

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However I'm unclear from what I've read whether that means that will result in no pond at all, or a smaller pond, perhaps fed by springs underneath? Perhaps that is what a feasibility study will find out. However, judging by the comments I've seen & heard, I don't believe there would be any support within the town for the complete loss of the pond. The report suggests a wetland area, which I doubt will be acceptable to residents. If a way can be found for a smaller pond to exist alongside a properly-flowing River Wey, I feel that would be the ideal solution. The report doesn't make it clear whether that's an option, though. Ultimately, I would support a solution that supports a healthy, biodiverse area above the amenity value, but also accept that the amenity value is very important to a lot of local people, myself included.

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| 161 | Please retain Kings Pond in its current form. | 11/11/2022 12:21 AM |
| 162 | The river Wey is a precious chalk stream with 76% world's such streams here in southern England. [Wikipedia shows of the 210 rivers classified as chalk streams globally, 160 are in England (southern).] We should remove this manmade pond / weir (built environment) and return the river to its natural flow and course with the pond filled in. We owe it to nature to ensure this rare world natural feature is put back as is was before we humans interfered. | 11/10/2022 9:58 AM |
| 163 | We should be encouraging wildlife and birds. I am horrified at the practise of oiling eggs. Lessons should be sort from Petersfield. There regeneration of Petersfield Lake should be a benchmark for Alton to follow. | 11/10/2022 9:11 AM |
| 164 | clearly a large body of opinion opposes the quantity of geese, excessive bird droppings, mess and rats. any solution must take into account climate change and the likely future extreme weather conditions that will affect southern england and Kings Pond. I support the actions of the Town Council to find a long term solution. | 11/9/2022 10:27 PM |
| 165 | I would like to see the pond taken off line to help the river Wey's health. It is not the pleasant amenity it should be. Good luck to the Council trying to educate those who do not understand the issues. | 11/8/2022 4:23 PM |
| 166 | Q8. I don't think I'm qualified to answer this question. Until I attended the consultation event I believed that the option of taking the river offline was a 'done deal' rather than a proposal. I don't think the situation has been clearly explained to residents. A lot of false information, generally from people who want to preserve the pond in it's current state, has been circulating. Information for residents who have no access to social media has been very poor. | 11/8/2022 4:19 PM |
| 167 | Under no circumstances should it be taken off line from the Wey. It is Alton's most precious wildlife area. Hundreds of beautiful birds live there, it must be preserved at all costs. | 11/7/2022 6:34 PM |
| 168 | The Pond appearance should be retained as far as possible. The current "Plan" repeats much of the 2017 Plan, but excludes options which could potentially reduce silting and extend periods between dredging, possibly eliminate it. It took 190 years to need the first dredge. | 11/7/2022 12:17 PM |
| 169 | I will honestly say Kings Pond is an area giving so much pleasure to me and others. I walked it regularly during lockdown. In fact it was one of the reasons we chose to relocate here 30 years ago. It must be protected as a pond. | 11/4/2022 2:28 PM |
| 170 | Taking the pond offline wrt the river is good, but careful construction of weirs is needed to ensure the wetland stays wet. | 11/3/2022 4:49 PM |
| 171 | My answer Yes to question 6 is dependent on any action being informed by the proposed feasibility study I deplore the vitriol of some of the recent debate on this difficult dilemma and especially the way the Alton Herald has, with inexplicably one-sided reporting, provided a megaphone for a particular, passionately-held, viewpoint. | 11/3/2022 3:53 PM |
| 172 | Fully support taking the pond offline to help the river downstream recover. | 11/2/2022 6:40 AM |
| 173 | As a (retired) ecological consultant and specialist in wetland hydrology and habitats (and assisting with the bioblitz), I consider the Pond to be in such a poor state of water quality as to have minimal ecological merit. I offered and then refused to undertake a public invertebrate survey because of poor water quality and risk of infection. I fully support the proposals to take the pond offline and create new habitat as in Option 1 of the new management plan. Such works would provide a case study in active wetland creation and management. A full ecological study (flora and fauna - aquatic and terrestrial) should be undertaken at appropriate times of year prior to any works to provide a baseline with which to compare a similar study post-works. I commend the proposals to the Town Council. XXXXXXXXXX Ecological Consultant (retired) and previously a Chartered Biologist, Chartered Environmentalist, Chartered Scientist and European Professional Ecologist and specialist in hydro-ecology. | 11/2/2022 12:18 AM |

King's Pond Draft Management Plan

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| 174 | ATC must do everything in its power to retain Kings Pond in its current form, primarily for the benefit of the wildfowl which call it home, breeding successfully for many decades and with sustainably increasing numbers of species. Kings Pond is a much loved place: please do not destroy it. | 11/1/2022 10:19 PM |
| 175 | Pond needs to be dredged then left to develop naturally with general maintenance to footpaths and overgrown areas. Pathways suitable for wheelchair users. | 11/1/2022 10:18 PM |
| 176 | Kings Pond has been a feature of Alton since the 1800's and many, many people have visited with their children and grandchildren over these years and it is frequently used to walk around a nicely accessible space. While chalk streams are scarce, our towns only pond should not be sacrificed to the whims of the environment agency. The Wey is being destroyed at its source with ongoing building works, and although the stream is looking good along flood meadows, much of the water is not very clean as it gets into the culverts in the town, so it's not surprising that the pond is needing some attention. As for the price of dredging, it seems steep but doesn't happen that often and the council should have been spreading the cost over a number of years to mitigate the impact. | 11/1/2022 8:05 PM |
| 177 | I personally feel it would be devastating to lose King's Pond. This is a haven for wild fowl, wild life and humans alike. Alton is building huge amounts of housing, we must make sure there is still an infrastructure and facilities to support us. It always seems there is money for some things but not for the important things. This has been my mental health savior all through lock down, when I had to continue working in difficult situations and I know this was the same for many others. I could go on about how it has helped me and my family over the years, but the important thing is to save the pond for the wildfowl, fish etc., who have made it their home. | 11/1/2022 3:37 PM |
| 178 | We must not underestimate the extent to which this beautiful body of open water acts as a magnet for the enjoyment of both residents and visitors to the town. Although originally created by human intervention, remember that many of our country's most beautiful landscapes have also been - think of 'Capability' Brown. We must find ways of properly maintaining it in perpetuity, and resist any attempts to diminish it either in size or nature. Please reverse your approval of this draft plan. Let's ensure that the pond we know and love is there in its present form for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. | 11/1/2022 2:21 PM |
| 179 | I feel it would be a shame to lose the pond many families and dog walkers enjoy walking round it. | 11/1/2022 9:37 AM |
| 180 | I strongly support the appointment of river restoration consultant to undertake a feasibility study, multiple suppliers should be considered, to ensure the most suitable company is engaged. | 10/31/2022 1:43 PM |
| 181 | Kings pond is an important part of Alton And needs to remain the wildlife home it currently is | 10/31/2022 10:16 AM |
| 182 | Kings pond should be left alone it's always been a thriving pond | 10/30/2022 10:47 PM |
| 183 | It is very important to save our pond along with all of its wildlife. I have taken my children and my grandchildren and it would be a travesty to lose it and all it's beauty. Where else in Alton can you teach children about wildlife and how to respect it? There is no other space like it. Please save it, and please don't kill the Canada geese. | 10/30/2022 8:58 PM |
| 184 | I cannot answer the question 12 as I DO want a pollinators strip but DO NOT want an arch! Can we stop trying to replicate Flood Meadows?!?! The 'primary action' is ecologically damaging and should be discarded, The 'primary plan' has been very poorly written and the contractor asides from clearly knowing nothing about wildlife has a vested interest in the 'primary action' being approved as they would like to carry out this expensive project - a management report should be unbiased, this is not - its little more than a quotation to carry out the work! The geese are not the primary issue - this question clearly has bias and with silt the biggest issue, the failure to focus on that is ridiculous! Wildlife needs to be preserved and protected - these plans do the opposite. Councillors need to take responsibility that collectively their failure has led us to the point where we are and realise that autocratic decision making which has no respect for public feeling has been detrimental to the pond. Only when people are listened to will the pond be saved | 10/30/2022 7:49 PM |
| 185 | Spend the money you have and dredge and maintain in a sympathetic manner | 10/30/2022 7:47 PM |
| 186 | The proposed plans are exciting and develops a loved area for the future whilst maintaining the integrity of our valued and rare chalk streams. | 10/30/2022 5:39 PM |
| 187 | I think the plans for the restoration of the chalk stream are exciting, and will bring greater biodiversity to the area, whilst still allowing the public to enjoy this public space. | 10/30/2022 5:39 PM |
| 188 | Do not do what you are proposing!! | 10/30/2022 5:06 PM |

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| 189 | As a community we must look at the site for the long term and I am excited that the wildlife population may be expanded and diversified further. The Town Council surely have a duty to try and protect the rare chalk stream and need to look at the greater, long-term picture. I fully support the EA suggestion and concepts and hope that further investigation through feasibility will help break down some concerns expressed in the local press. | 10/30/2022 4:25 PM |
| 190 | Whilst I understand the need to keep the chalk river in good health, I dislike the idea of turning KP into another flood meadows, or wildlife haven only. I don't think a marshy area sounds attractive. Having looked at the plans I prefer the smaller lake (Concept 2). The site is surrounded by buildings, not adjacent to eg Alice Holt Forest, and is a town amenity. I'm torn between getting rid of the pond- the geese will hopefully go, but also the swans will be unable to fly in/out. This year it has been unpleasant to walk the paths- so much bird pooh, and the grass area doesn't look inviting for sitting/picnicing. I do think there is more bird activity than mentioned: I've seen a cormorant more than once, and of course the kingfisher. The fencing mentioned for the wildlife area (2.5) looks horrid- plastic- surely some wooden posts similar to chestnut palings would be better- hedghogs etc could get in/out. | 10/30/2022 11:32 AM |
| 191 | The area should be for the benefit of wildlife and ecology with humans admiring from afar and by way of observation not interference or intervention. Leave it to the natural world to evolve. | 10/29/2022 11:11 PM |
| 192 | I am alarmed at the negative press and comments aimed at Alton Town Council by some residents which is appalling. That includes the negative recent 2 page article in the Alton Herald which was poor judgement exercised by the Editor. Clearly we need to follow the science on this problem and the advice of others. I used to go to Kings Pond quite regularly, but find it most unappealing now. I am with Doctor Murdoch at Appendix D. Keep up the good work Alton Town Council. | 10/28/2022 4:54 PM |
| 193 | Really bad idea to chnage the pond. Do your job and get it dredged. We'll vote in some different councillors if you can't do a most basic job like this. | 10/28/2022 3:57 PM |
| 194 | I dont feel the ideas put forward within the management plan would fully meet the needs of the residents of Alton nor the Environmental Agency. Whilst I can appreciate there is a need to take Kings Pond itself offline I believe there are other sections of the River Wey that contribute to the ecological issues which are not being tackled, maintained or sorted by the town. No thought of reference to the reduction of a town asset and amenity area has been made and I dont think that Alton Town Council fully understand how used and wanted the pond is. I live close to the pond and regularly walk around and past it (along the main road) and I have never seen the pond without an elderly couple taking a stroll, a mum showing the wildlife to her young children or individual people enjoying the quiet and relaxing atmosphere to clear their mind as well as many many more people and their wants for visiting. The pond and its circular walkway provides such a well needed break from the everyday life - whether that physically by getting some fresh air or mentally - and this is something that must remain for all. Whilst I can see the benefits and the need to remove the pond from the river I think more thought into retaining the pond needs to be put into place. Kings Pond does not need marshlands, increased wildflower areas or fancy timber walkways. It needs to retain a body of water with a circular pathway accessible to all and maintenance of the existing areas to provide a more suitable and controlled habitat for its inhabitants and wildlife. The grass area between the pond and Ashdell Road is not put to good use - its perimeters should be wildflower sown - leaving small mown paths for those to enjoy and utilise the benches put in place. The trees, bushes and planting around the pond area and its path needs proper maintenance - properly maintained areas and growth will allow diversification of the plants rather than the overgrown brambles, nettles and wild garlic that appears to be smother most of the areas. References to Flood Meadows keep being made and how Kings Pond can be made more like that - however I must stress - Flood Meadows is primarily used by dog walkers and those using the area to access the town. Half the time the area is flooded so the walkways are unusable and when they are not flooded the pathways are narrow and unsuitable for a leisurely walk. Creating this sort of atmosphere at Kings Pond will certainly lead to its demise and the loss of an important town area. As it is, sub standard work continues to be carried out at Kings Pond. Repairs to feeding areas and the resurfaced path to one side of the pond have been so poor they may as well have not been undertaken. I sincerely hope that better options are put forward to retain the pond and create a suitable and achievable maintenance plan whilst diverting the river to meet the EA and NE objectives. Creating reed beds and wetlands is not going to enhance the area, its not going to reduce the maintenance and will certainly reduce the wellbeing that the pond provides to the residents of Alton. | 10/28/2022 2:52 PM |
| 195 | I believe the pond should be left as it is with the continuation of the dredging every 25 years. The pond is one of Alton's most beautiful, natural and historical features so please leave it alone and just keep up the management of it. | 10/27/2022 9:27 PM |

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| 196 | <p>I think that this is a really difficult subject, there are a lot of people (myself included) that are wedded to the idea of the pond as it is. However the evidence shows that this cannot continue as it is not financially viable to repeatedly dredge the pond. A local politician told me it would cost £40k to do this, now I have seen the real cost I'm shocked and wonder where this money would (repeatedly) come from. It has also been mooted in local groups that the environment agency and South East Water have some sort of evil master plan to drain the way of water for local use and the pond as it is, stands in the way of the water quality being good enough. However those making this accusation have to my knowledge never produced any evidence to support it. I would strongly support a halfway option, that is, the river HAS to flow out of the pond through a filtering reed bed or bed of water based plants that are known to be good at filtering out eutrophicated silt. At the start of the pond, the river is separated from the new marshy area but the marsh is fed by the river just as the beds are at the Flood Meadows. I like the idea of a boardwalk, more seating, less (but not no) shade near the railway bridge and better signage. I think there's also room to increase the size of the existing car park and provide some 7kw car chargers. Please don't bring in a coffee van or add children's play equipment, it's a 'bit of the countryside in Alton' not a theme park. I'd also like to comment on the rats, Dr David Murdoch suggests that the Brown rats are a concern as they spread disease. Please note that this statement is an opinion and has not been given with any evidence. If you are serious about not educating people about rats then before you go and cull them at least find some evidence of the amount of human disease caused by brown rats each year in the United Kingdom and then work out if it's really worth the bother.</p> | 10/27/2022 3:38 PM |
| 197 | <p>I would expect the local residents to be consulted following the feasibility study</p> | 10/27/2022 11:36 AM |
| 198 | <p>I would like to see the circular path tarmac again. We are a town and the pond is used by many during their lunch break. Tarmac is cleaner. I've witnessed people with filthy tyres on wheelchairs & their carers having to struggle to put the mud covered chairs in the boot after helping their parents into the car. Parents with mud splattered buggies, then having to put them in a car or wheel them into their home. Most people I know would like a plan for a gradual gentle removal of the silt, rather than all at once. Perhaps a water wheel to keep the water moving could be installed at a later date. Perhaps fund raise for this. I've spoken to local people (who have for several generations enjoyed the pond) There's concerns over the narrow paths weaving through the wetlands on the new pond proposal. Too narrow for safety of children or for wheelchair use & too easy for dogs to access nesting sites. There's also concern about the surrounding ground being disturbed as historically, there was a battery factory and the ground is contaminated. To build Waterside Court there had to be masses of land removed. Anyone buying a property there, still has to have the soil tested for acid/erosion. My last concern is for people's property. The pond has not flooded in over 90 years (I know this by talking to older Altonians) If the river path is changed, there could be serious consequences for local residents.</p> | 10/26/2022 11:37 PM |
| 199 | <p>Somehow counteract the ridiculous suggestion being made by certain groups that King' Pond needs saving. It's not going anywhere.... just needs managed in a more environmentally friendly way to protect the area for the future.</p> | 10/26/2022 8:30 PM |
| 200 | <p>I would like to see a redirected River Wey chalk stream with a wider section & possible weir, similar to the section of the River Wey at Tilford, for families to enjoy a paddle in the warmer months of the year, sited towards the exit end of the proposed stream. The main pond would be reduced in size and reed beds created, with raised walkways, similar to Floodies, with lookout hides. For extra visual aesthetics, "Monet" style bridges could link the grass area with the pond/ reed areas. I have drawn out this plan if you were interested in commenting on it and I will leave my email address below, although at present I cannot commit to the Wednesday volunteer group.</p> | 10/25/2022 6:08 PM |
| 201 | <p>I think consideration should be taken to keep the pond however make islands or bridges to discourage geese take off and landing. I believe the population of geese does need resolving in natural ways. With regard to the fish traveling surely a weir with a fish bypass could be the better option to allow fish to travel up and down the river as they please.</p> | 10/25/2022 6:06 PM |
| 202 | <p>I visit the pond twice per week without fail, with family members and we all enjoy the area and utilise it to get fresh air or as a scenic route into the town/to the station. I personally find this area very accessible and find the idea of a marshland much less appealing. I think the pond just needs some TLC and some dedicated staff who could look after it better.</p> | 10/24/2022 6:54 PM |
| 203 | <p>I really would love this area to be more wheelchair accessible as we have a big population of wheelchair users in Alton.... Also introducing sensory garden area would be fabulous for people with special needs and or dementia. I do not want to see any wildlife lose their home or be killed!!!! I love King's pond how it is, just needs a revamp down the one end (near the bridge)</p> | 10/24/2022 5:47 PM |
| 204 | <p>I am disappointed in the attitude of Alton Town Council and its councillors in relation to this</p> | 10/24/2022 4:05 PM |

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proposal. Questions online go unanswered, councillors spread misinformation, and they block anyone that asks questions that go against their own viewpoint. The public would have much more trust in the proposals put forward if there was a transparency in presented data and a genuine open-ness/willingness with councillors to interact with their constituents.

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| 205 | As someone who lives overlooking King's Pond, I see it as a great shame to change the beautiful and interesting nearby landscape. If we are to liken these plans to Flood meadows, this is a disappointing marshland that often overflows and makes it very difficult to visit in the wetter times of year; it would be devastating to create a marshland which will have this same effect where there is currently an area of natural beauty that is accessible all year round. | 10/23/2022 9:05 PM |
| 206 | Please don't destroy our lovely pond | 10/23/2022 8:57 PM |
| 207 | Save the pond! Please don't destroy the last nice green area in Alton. It just needs a team to maintain its natural beauty and local wildlife | 10/23/2022 8:55 PM |
| 208 | Your plan is unlikely to be suitable for the swan family to remain. Advice from the swan marker must be sought. Kings Pond is their home I am shocked their welfare hasn't been considered. The 4 angel wing geese will most probably be culled as it's unlikely a private sanctuary can be found for them. The herons cormorants, little grebe, egrets will fly away due to their habitat being disturbed. The ducklings and waterfowl young will be washed away through the sluice unless the boom is reinstated. Your plan is shocking with no thought whatsoever for the resident wildlife. | 10/23/2022 5:05 PM |
| 209 | The pond with its basic features as a tranquil peace of historical countryside to be used by all ages of Altonians should be kept. It has reached this state probably by neglect by Council. A management plan should include ecologists, socialists as well as specialists in chalk rivers/ponds. There is no mention in the plans of the benefit of water and nature on our emotional well being in these difficult economic times or the educational benefit for our young people of learning about the birds and plants that make the pond their home? The Pond is so special to Alton, be proud of it, it should live along side Flood Meadows but not compete as another wetland. | 10/23/2022 3:39 PM |
| 210 | Please do not cut off the river and enhance what is there already. It is so important for the community. We used it a lot during Covid and still use it weekly. | 10/23/2022 3:17 PM |
| 211 | If only William King had not dammed the river in the late 1700s!! This was done for purely commercial reasons and we have suffered for the last many years. The area was not called Mill Moor for nothing. What about the Lashem Drain - I have not seen mention of it!!! | 10/22/2022 2:33 AM |
| 212 | My greatest concern is the infestation of rats which prevents me from visiting the pond. I would ban all wild fowl feeding and allow a naturally balanced wildlife population | 10/21/2022 8:34 AM |
| 213 | Where to start? Leave the pond alone! Wildlife can manage itself - it always has and always will! Radically altering the pond will be to the detriment of wildlife, it will destroy habitat, radically alter the ability to feed and result in having less bio-diversity. The lack of a wildlife study and report is wholly disgraceful. It is impossible to consult where the appropriate reports have not been completed. Clearly the council are clueless as to how wildlife will be affected. The number of species we will lose if these plans are permitted is significant! Further, the space attracts many people for differing purposes. The proposed bog that will be left is not appealing and the plans shown in your proposals are uninspiring. You should be managing the pond as an asset and taking moderate and proportionate action to address concerns. What is proposed is the biggest overreaction of all time! It is called Kings Pond... it's a pond, should remain a pond and the wildlife should be left alone. | 10/20/2022 7:43 PM |
| 214 | Adding tones of polypropylene fencing as noted in (2.5 Conservation Area) I cannot support; With the known issue of microplastics in the environment, how will this help? Natural solutions exist such as willow used elsewhere in Alton. It would be nice to see a "Concept 3" for a Bypass Pond, addressing stale smelly water while better providing for wildlife, allowing species to move between river and pond. Sluice gate could be added each end for simple management? A path running between river and pond on Concept 2 would add more interest to the current circular walk. The current proposal for Concept 2 will put quite some distance between visitors and the proposed river, which I feel will reduce its appeal substantially. People like walking close to the water. Also note the Chemical Status of the Wey sadly fails in all areas up and downstream, could there be a focus on this for the broader benefit of wildlife on the river? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Wey . Kind regards, | 10/20/2022 6:18 PM |
| 215 | I think that Kings Pond is an important community facility. There are few if any other natural community facilities in Alton and taking this away would detract from the local community wellbeing and, I would suggest, general health. It would occur to me that this is the wrong location for a wetland and if established would just turn into a boggy mess. The cynical side | 10/20/2022 11:07 AM |

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of me thinks that converting this into a wetland is simply a means of saving money without consideration to what the present amenity brings to the local community.

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| 216 | ATC is failing to consider the pond in the context of the whole River Wey ecosystem. It is apparent that aquifer water extraction on the Basingstoke Road is reducing the flow of the river and causing it to appear on the surface much nearer to Alton and with a reduced flow. I remember when the river used to appear and flood near the Basingstoke Road / Medstead Road junction - now there is little or no visible surface flow before the Alton Library area. The pond acts to naturally hold back and regulate the flow downstream from the sluice. Taking the pond "offline" will simply create a dried-up mess. Weed beds and scrapes are not natural features of a chalk stream, and they will cause the exit of birds that need open water. It is a complete ecological disaster in the making. | 10/19/2022 8:48 PM |
| 217 | Any attempt to cut off the pond from the river wey would eventually lead to catastrophic consequences for the wildlife living there. Without a continuous supply of fresh flowing water the pond will quickly dry out. Also without access to the river the fish which many bird rely on for food will be unable to access the pond | 10/19/2022 8:36 PM |
| 218 | The space at the railway embankment by the bungalows could be used for disabled parking, positioning to allow disabled persons to remain in their vehicle if they so wish and still able to view the pond | 10/19/2022 6:30 PM |
| 219 | Kings pond provided a vital safe space during lockdown and encouraged people to get fresh air. As there is already a diverse wild fowl population as little as possible apart from some dredging should take place. Reducing the size of the pond would likely lead to the loss of the little grebes and the tufted ducks an also likely reduce the the size of the heronry and the numbers of cormorants that visit, The pond also provides a good 'rafting' place for the tufted ducks during the winter and a safe haven for juvenile cormorants during the winter months. With water abstraction and a dry summer the River Wey will be dry from Flood meadows through the pond if the pond id take 'offline'; reducing the biodiversity in the area. | 10/18/2022 11:31 PM |
| 220 | We are lucky to have such a wonderful outdoor space and haven for wildlife, it's one of the last lovely places left in alton, destroying the pond would be awful for everyone who lives here or visits this pond. Flood meadows is a dried up mess and no one would want to see the pond suffer the same fate. | 10/18/2022 7:47 PM |
| 221 | King's Pond has been very popular with families for many years and needs to be kept as a pond with the River Wey running through it, not turned into a muddy marsh wetland that ends up with stagnant water. The dredging needs to be done and I would much rather our money was not wasted in running a feasibility study to take the pond "off line" and spent doing this instead. The pond has been mismanaged by ATC for quite a while now with money wasted on projects that haven't worked. The path that so much money was spent on is just mud a lot of the time. Picnic benches were put out but then the grass isn't mowed so it's just a mess and people don't want to sit amongst long grass to have a coffee or sandwich. The problem with rats was caused by the council telling people not to feed the birds with bread, so people fed them corn and peas as they were advised to do on expensive signs. However corn and peas don't float so they put it on the banks of the pond. Then the rat population rocketed. Instead of concentrating on spending vast amounts of budget on pump tracks which will be used by a small number of people, please spend some of the reserves on maintaining and preserving the best things that Alton already has such as Kings Pond. | 10/18/2022 6:30 PM |
| 222 | Having said all of the above, I really do not see why you are proposing to spend all that money chaging the route of the river and (possibly) getting rid of the lake itself, when getting rid of the Canada Geese and generally tidying up would suffice. Seems to be a waste of money that could be used to better effect. | 10/18/2022 4:06 PM |
| 223 | Dredging every 25 years is not a long term ecologically balanced way forward. The report highlights the ecological benefits of allowing the river to flow once more through this area and shows how wildlife can be still in evidence and enjoyed, without the pollution we have today. Chalk streams are so rare and the approach of this report and recommendations will improve this for wildlife and humans to view | 10/18/2022 3:59 PM |
| 224 | There are more geese than the pond would naturally support due to food being being put down. To kill them is pointless as they would just be replaced by others, then they would have to be killed to. The problem would naturally sort itself naturally if the feeding were stopped (as would the excess of rats). Wildfowl are perfectly capable of sourcing their own food and do not need human intervention. | 10/18/2022 8:51 AM |
| 225 | I firmly back the proposed management plans for the pond. It needs to be returned to its natural state | 10/18/2022 7:57 AM |
| 226 | The pond is a key feature in Alton and its part of our history, so it must be protected. | 10/17/2022 11:24 PM |

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Generally, its not been maintained enough for decades and always looks run down. Plan for the maintenance costs and protect it. Remove the silt from the pond (all of it from each cleaning event), don't leave it in place or it will eventually just be an underground stream. I note in Appendix A, that the environment agency seem to want silt for downstream use. Investigate a way to stir it up to make it mobile, removing the need to dredge and giving them the materials downstream I strongly object to the wetlands proposal and taking it off-line from the river, nobody wants a swamp, nobody would visit that. This would lead to its loss and eventual development to housing. I don't agree with the statement in section 2.8 - Whilst opinions can be diverse, factual knowledge should be the guide – this basically says that you don't want local input and will always do what you believe is right. This is a facility for Alton residents, who are your primary stakeholder. The ATC needs to act in their role as its stewards and protect this resource by representing the population first and foremost. Reduce the geese to manageable levels. Geese can be hunted and sold, this is a potential revenue stream for the council and effective way to manage their numbers on an ongoing basis. Reinstate ducks. Eradicate the rats. The location definitely needs to balance nature and local people, but should look suitably maintained - remove some of the fallen trees and clean up the left to rot swampy areas. Consider doing more severe annual maintenance to one section each year, rather than big bang every 20 years or so. My favourite place is the inlet end near the old Coors site, its peaceful and the sound of water running is nice. Parking (for all) should definitely be re-added to this end, as it used to be.

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| 227 | Consider handing over management of the pond to the river's trust to remove local politics from the equation and have an impartial, environmentally-focused body responsible for managing it. I am 100% in support of the proposals but you're fighting an uphill battle about a mix of die hard KP activists who will just not listen to the facts and people who are distrustful of the council and believe it's a conspiracy theory. | 10/17/2022 11:11 PM |
| 228 | I think it is imperative that this area is managed to maximise the ecological environment not just for birds and aquatic creatures but also for the many bats feeding in this area who are protected by law. | 10/17/2022 9:38 PM |
| 229 | Got nothing to add | 10/17/2022 8:09 PM |
| 230 | I used to walk my dog at Kings Pond but gave up as too many rats, too many geese and banks , paths too muddy. You end up filthy. If the area was improved it would be a much nicer place to be. | 10/17/2022 8:06 PM |
| 231 | ATC need to get the pond dredged and focus on the basics of grass cutting and cleaning. | 10/17/2022 7:02 PM |
| 232 | Kings Pond should be somewhere people can take their children, families and dogs happily | 10/17/2022 6:17 PM |
| 233 | Dredge the pond and look after it as it should be. Treat it as not one of ATC vanity projects but as a project that needs looking after. | 10/17/2022 5:51 PM |
| 234 | Silt filters/collectors are supposed to be putting upstream in the brewery development. Surely it should be possible to put silt filters down stream where the river runs through the flats. The pond should be brought up to standard in its current form, with the banks and islands reinforced and the pond dredged. Perhaps the removed silt could be used to build up the islands to a decent height. | 10/17/2022 10:51 AM |