

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE



10th July 2023.

Update on King's Pond, Alton.

At the Extraordinary meeting of the former Town Council in January this year, funds were reserved and set aside for Kings Pond future works, and it was resolved that various technical and feasibility studies should be carried out.

In a position statement last week, the newly formed Alton Town Council reaffirmed its long-term commitment to the future of this much-loved public amenity space and to investing in that future.

In accordance with those Council resolutions from January, research and investigation continues. The project is at the data gathering stage. Information is required to enable both planning and financial assessment of future works and the management of Kings Pond.

A topographical survey will be completed so that there are accurate plans of the area. A hydrographic survey is being carried out to establish the depths of the pond and an assessment made of the depth of sediment that must be dealt with. Silt/Sediment samples will be taken and analyzed. An engineering assessment of the weir/sluiice will also be carried out. It will also be important to assess the impact of possible future works so the investigation plans include ecological and tree surveys.

Statutory approvals from several authorities will likely be required for any future works to the pond. These approvals are being investigated together with options for the management and planning of future projects.

As a result, at this time the Council is clearly not in a position to make any proposals as to what future works may be undertaken at the site. Councillors are not ready to present the public with the findings of yet incomplete investigations. The Council meeting of 12th July has therefore been cancelled and Kings Pond will be put on the agenda at a future date.

As already resolved by the Council in January, no works will be carried out until the results of investigations and feasibility studies and any project or management plans have been put back for public consultation.

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