

Buzz

The Beeston Express

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Beeston Express is independent of any organisation, commercial or political. Our policy is to provide readers with news and information that is fair, accurate and balanced.

We try hard to avoid mistakes, but some may inevitably slip through. If you have any comments to make about the paper, or any complaint, please contact us. We will, as far as possible, try to put things right when the error has been ours.

NEXT ISSUE

Friday, 20 November 2009

Deadline for Adverts
Monday, 16 November

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Wildlife plans revealed

THE ENVIRONMENT Agency set out their stall at Attenborough nature reserve this week and invited people along for an update on 'the wall' – the Nottingham Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS).

Work started this week on constructing what remains, in places, the contentious flood defence scheme that will run along the edge of the reserve and through the village of Attenborough.

Once completed, the 27km FAS will run along the left bank of the River Trent from Colwick to Sawley and protect 16,000 Nottinghamshire homes from flooding.

Members of the project management team were at the nature reserve this week to reveal the wildlife habitat plans and answer questions from the public.

Representatives from the Environment Agency (EA), design consultants Black & Veatch (B&V) and civil engineering contractors Jackson chatted to callers to the stand.

The main news was about the four distinct areas of wildlife habitat being created. In total, 8.8 hectares of new wildlife habitat will be provided in mitigation for the 1.6 hectares that will be taken to build the flood defences. These include fen swamps, wet woodland, wet meadows and reed beds.

New reed 'swamps' have already been planted along the bank of the Trent as part of the overall scheme, and site clearance has started at the edge of Coneries Pond (where Long Eaton sailing Club has its base).

Inevitably, the question "What's happening along The Strand?" was on the lips of people aware of how contentious the scheme has been so far.

The argument over the best route for the wall as it passes through Attenborough village has raged since the FAS plans were first revealed. It has brought Attenborough villagers living along The Strand and villagers living in areas more susceptible to flooding into conflict, drawing in the EA, Natural England and Broxtowe Borough Council in the process.

Plans were eventually passed that allow the floodwall to run between Attenborough's village green and The Strand. Villagers generally wanted the defences to follow a route through what is known as the 'fisherman's car park'. The car park option was considered less intrusive by local residents but is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The villagers have lost this battle and, turning their attention to the floodwall along The Strand, have asked for modifications to the design.

Spokesman Jenny Shepherd of B&V said: "The 'Attenborough Village Section' of the FAS has yet to be agreed. It's now being discussed at the highest levels of the EA, Natural England and Broxtowe Borough Council."

Ian Thomas, EA operations manager for the scheme in this area, said: "We've had a good and positive response here today. People are pleased that the flood defences are finally on their way."

"Nobody wants to see people flooded out of their homes. We want the scheme finished – and the sooner the better."

Jenny Shepherd said: "We're just going to get on with building the wall and flood banks as far as we can."

The section of the FAS between Sawley and Colwick, as it stands, is due for completion by November 2010.

News in Brief

Attenborough Remembrance Day Service

A REMEMBRANCE Day service suitable for all the family will be held at St Mary's Church, Attenborough at 10am on Sunday, November 8.

Beeston Parish Church Remembrance Sunday Service

CHURCHGOERS at the Parish Church of St John the Baptist in Beeston are reminded that the usual Parish Eucharist will be held at 9.30am on Sunday, November 8, in advance of the official Remembrance Sunday Service at 11am.

Fifty soldiers from the 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group, based at Chetwynd Barracks, will attend the Remembrance Service this year.

The regiment has recently been granted Freedom of Entry to the Borough and plans are in hand to mark this at a special ceremony early next year.

Planning application

A REVISED planning application has been received by Broxtowe Borough Council from Mr B Kumar, seeking permission to demolish the existing building at 178 Bye Pass Road, Beeston, and build four two-bedroomed and two one-bedroomed flats in its place.

Beeston celebrates gaining Fairtrade Town status

ACHIEVING Fairtrade Town status was celebrated on October 31 in Beeston Square with speeches, flag raising ceremonies, music – and free samples of Fairtrade (FT) goodies to provide sustenance.

People were encouraged to make their way to the Town Hall on Foster Avenue after the official speeches and flag unfurling, where they would find plenty more samples to try (not forgetting the bananas) – and a huge FT chocolate fountain.

Achieving Fairtrade Town status goes beyond eating a mountain of fairly-traded bananas, which is what many of us did back in March as we played our part in breaking the world record for banana eating for a bit of fun. Fundamentally, it requires the commitment of local businesses,

retail outlets, and church and community groups, for example, to use Fairtrade products wherever possible.

Speakers at the Launch event focussed on international and local aspects of Fairtrade, and encouraged people to get even more involved.

April Armstrong is the Regional Cooperative Membership Manager. As she congratulated the people of Beeston for helping to achieve FT Town status, she said: "This has been something of a personal journey for me and I'm delighted to be here today!"

"I was responsible for introducing FT products to the tea trolleys at Broxtowe Borough Council when I worked there as an Environmental Liaison Assistant in

the year 2000.

"I continued with the links after I went to work for the Cooperative Group, supporting grass roots projects and working with the Coop to make things happen, so it's fantastic to be here now."

April explained how money raised by the use of FT products helps.

"If we go back a few years and take the example of banana growers in Jamaica. They wore no protective clothing whatsoever as they sprayed the banana plants with pesticides and were found to have serious skin diseases and fertility problems.

"The money we pay for Fairtrade products in the UK doesn't just give the growers a fair wage, it also pays for better

working conditions, such as the protective clothing needed. Some of the money goes towards improving social conditions as well."

Other speakers at the FT Launch event included the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr John Longdon; chair of the FT steering group Clare Littleford and MP Nick Palmer.

The Hope Community Gospel Choir provided music in The Square.