



Loch Neaton Recreation Ground

Town Meeting 2023

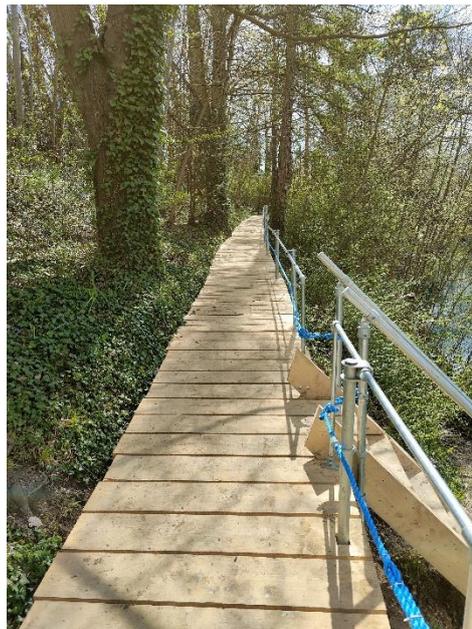
During the pandemic working parties at the Loch were curtailed, and the abnormally hot and dry summer in 2022 created numerous issues around maintaining water quality and weed control in the Loch. In Autumn 2022, after a major program of weed removal, we added calcium carbonate and special beneficial bacteria to the water and we hope this will pay dividends this year in our battle against the seasonal weed. We have also added Dyofix Blue to the water to help reduce photosynthesis in unwanted plants.

In early 2022 Breckland District Council published their vision for developing the market towns and this included ideas for Loch Neaton. We felt some of these were impractical but working with councillors from WTC and officers from BDC we created a revised vision for how Loch Neaton could be enhanced.

One of the ideas was to create a new boardwalk parallel with the railway embankment so that those with mobility issues could utilise this path and we are pleased to say BDC provided us in March with £30,000 to build this new boardwalk and related infrastructure.

The main walkway was opened in time for Easter and we are continuing to add additional features.

We have also started



rebuilding some of the fishing platforms around the Loch and this will be completed shortly.



Many visitors will recall we moved the beacon last year and lit it both for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and for Midsummer eve. We will be lighting the beacon again on 6th May for the Coronation.

Lighting the beacon has proved really popular and we will endeavour to light it for all major occasions.

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Our volunteers haven't forgotten the other work that is necessary at the Loch and have been hard at work clearing undergrowth, tidying flowerbeds and planting new shrubs.

Last but not least, we received funding of £500 from Tesco to build a steppingstone Hare and Barrell maze on the upper picnic area and we will create this during the summer.

Volunteering

We always welcome new volunteers and there are tasks to suit all levels of physical ability and age, so please contact us if you would like to get involved. It can be on a regular basis or just occasionally – all are welcome.

www.lochneaton.org.uk/feedback.asp