



Newton with Clifton Parish Council

Consultation on the creation of a pond at Newton Hall Park **to support habitat for Great Crested Newts**

10th February 2021 – 24th February 2021

Summary

Newton with Clifton Parish Council has been approached by Fylde Borough Council to ask whether we have land suitable for the creation of ponds to provide habitat for great crested newts and other wildlife. This initiative is being funded by Natural England via the Lancashire Wildlife Trust who will take responsibility for the creation of ponds in suitable locations. Any ponds created will be fenced off and sign posted to meet the required Health & Safety regulations regarding open water.

Areas of Newton and Clifton are designated as potential sites which, if created, will not only benefit the local great crested newt population but also a plethora of other wildlife locally.

Specifications

Lancashire Wildlife Trust have informed us that ideally ponds will have a surface area of between 150m² and 300m² (but can be up to 1,000m²) with a variety of depths up to 1m for smaller ponds and 3.5m for larger ponds. A site with low levels of disturbance from both people and livestock are preferred, although access can be limited or restricted to parts of the pond. There needs to be a buffer of at least 3m around the pond, in which at least one hibernacula (animal shelter for hibernation) can be created. Sites that will probably be unsuitable include in Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), sites on floodplains, above services (cables and pipelines etc.), affecting archaeological features and where the water will be polluted. Ponds are expected to hold water throughout at least one in every three summers. Natural colonisation by vegetation and amphibians is the preferred option. Ideally the site will be free of Invasive Non-native Species (INNS), or on a site where INNS are being controlled.

Funding

All costs will be met by Natural England who will pay Lancashire Wildlife Trust to create or restore the ponds as well as handling the paperwork, constructing the hibernacula, checking water samples, fencing the area etc. This funding is designated for spend prior to end March 2021 which is driving the timescales for this project.

Funding is also provided by Lancashire Wildlife Trust for pond maintenance for the next 25 years. Hence there is no financial cost to the Parish.

Consultation

Newton with Clifton Parish Council consider that the dip at the bottom of Newton Hall Park would be a suitable location. The exact location is as shown by the red circle on the map adjacent.

The Parish Council welcome views from residents by 24th Feb 2021.

You can contact us in any of the following ways :-

Website www.newtonwithclifton-pc.org.uk
via the Contact Us button

Email nwcpc@btinternet.com

By post Clerk to the Council
Dowry House,
St. Mary's Road
Brownedge,
Bamber Bridge,
Preston,
Lancashire
PR5 6TE

In person Parish Council Meeting 4th March 2021 via Zoom
or contact any of your local Parish Councillors

