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<b>Subject</b>	<b>Walkern Road Bridge Optioneering Town Hall: Stakeholder Feedback</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Walkern Road Bridge River Restoration
<b>Attention</b>	Alex Sage	<b>Project No.</b>	B2393501 / 505 Stakeholder meetings
<b>From</b>	Anne Robinson and Katy Kemble		
<b>Date</b>	25 November 2020		
<b>Copies to</b>	David Watts		

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Walkern Road Bridge Optioneering Town Hall 19.11.20: Stakeholder feedback

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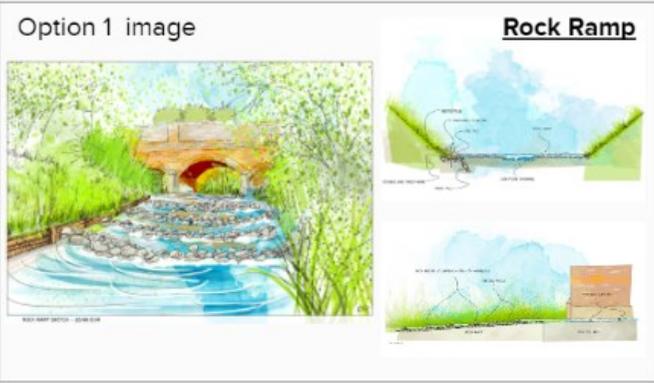
**Stakeholder Feedback**

Below are comments raised by stakeholders during the Optioneering Town Hall session on 19 November including feedback in follow up correspondence with stakeholders. Our responses to the feedback are detailed below.

**General feedback**

Your feedback	Our response
<p>This work needs to link along the river between the Woodhall Estate improvements that have already been carried out. There are several barriers to fish along this stretch of river between Walkern Road Bridge and the Woodhall Estate which need to be tackled to improve fish passage. This includes the barrier at the Mill, barrier at the nursery on Mill Lane, at the top end of Broadwater there is another small barrier (concrete weir).</p>	<p>Noted. The focus of this package of work is at Walkern Road Bridge. As we have said we are also looking at the options for future works and will raise this with the other key stakeholders in this catchment.</p>
<p>What will happen to toxic sludge when you remove the weir at The Rookery?</p>	<p>We will create berms to secure material locally, these berms will help to ensure the riverbed remains clear of silt in the future by focussing flow during low flow conditions. The silt material has been tested as part of the design phase. To minimise the risk of material being washed downstream silt mitigation measures will be installed immediately downstream of the works before work to remove the weir is initiated.</p>
<p>The present channel on the High Street side of the Bridge is too shallow on 'normal' days. The river gently flows through the central arch of the Bridge, which then rises to a torrent through all three Bridge arches following severe rainfall.</p> <p>Unsure how fish can be returned to the river without addressing this problem on this side of the Bridge. The current channel backing on to the High Street has a concrete layer on the base floor which prevents deepening at the present time.</p>	<p>Thank you for the information. As part of the restoration works we will be looking at the upstream channel and challenges for fish passage. Currently, we are looking at some localised in-channel works to improve fish passage at low flows providing baffles on the concrete base. Once we have looked at this in more detail we will be in touch to discuss.</p>

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Option 1 Rock Ramp: Your feedback	Our response
<p>Option 1 image <span style="float: right;"><b>Rock Ramp</b></span></p>  <p>Would water running over the rock ramp create more noise compared to current noise levels?</p>	<p>The sound of the water will change, but not in a drastic way. It may create a quieter trickling sound. The sound may be more like the area downstream where there is a stepped weir.</p>
<p>How resilient will these steps be to a flood in the river?</p>	<p>We'd make sure it's embedded in a way that wouldn't be impacted by a higher volumes of water or high velocities.</p>
<p>What about debris travelling down the river from upstream getting stuck in the rock ramp structure?</p>	<p>We will design the rock ramp so it does not protrude in higher flows and there will be a gap in the middle for material to pass through. Material may get trapped in lower flows but will be pushed downstream when the flow increases.</p>
<p>What will the ramp be made of, what are all the options other than concrete? And how will the rocks be secured? Will this just be washed away in really high flows.</p>	<p>We are currently exploring the right materials to use and will discuss this with our engineers and the contractors who will be building this. The rocks would be secured and the ramp would be designed such that the larger material would not be moved downstream.</p>
<p>Have you been in contact with Lammass Road residents?</p>	<p>Yes, the residents backing on to the river have received a letter from us with the project details and informing them how to get involved.</p>
<p>The River Beane Restoration Association can talk to Parish Council about works?</p>	<p>Thank you. We are speaking to the Councils. We can link you in with these conversations and will let you know if we need your support.</p>
<p>Looks like this will be compatible with improving fish passage.</p>	<p>Noted. Thank you.</p>
<p>How noisy is the construction likely to be?</p>	<p>There will be some concrete work and so will be some noise but this will be minimised and not sustained. The construction itself shouldn't take that long. We could push construction back to be after the school exam period.</p>

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We'd like to share this information as much as possible throughout the River Beane Restoration Association and our contacts. Are we ok to do that?	We're keen for this to happen and will provide a leaflet to help you do that. We will provide more information to RBRA regarding future plans on the River Beane.
River Beane Restoration Association have been working with The Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust on a river corridor study from Cromer to Hertford with the aim to reintroduce water voles.	Noted. Any information you can provide us would be useful for our study.
Between Walkern Road Bridge down to Waterford the River Beane Restoration Association have 7 river fly sampling sites which are sampled every month. This data may be of use. The RBRA have all the data digitally mapped.	Noted. Any information you can provide us would be useful for our study.
Water Levels from the rock ramp: building up the riverbed to create the ramp will increase the water level and cause a threat to the bank on the Lammas Road side. When there are high flows the water is over the top of the bank now – this will be worsened if the bed is higher.	We will be completing hydraulic modelling to look at flood risk and higher flows as part of the design work. We will account for this in the design.
How will we be bringing materials and machinery into the channel? There are a number of copper beech trees along the footpath side and would not want these or other wildlife to be disturbed.	We are currently working on this with the contractors to determine how the works will be carried out. We will not be removing trees from the bankside and will look to carry out works from the channel or the banks that are clear of vegetation.

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Option 2 Modify Bridge Structure: Your feedback		Our response
<p>Option 2 image</p> <p><b><u>Modify Bridge Structure</u></b></p> 	<p>The brick base has been there for more than 30 years. There were works in September 2003 that were done to road part of bridge. However, they did not touch the concrete platform under the bridge. Only the road was improved because of the heavy traffic. The Hertfordshire Highways reference number for this work: 75494-0202431640001</p>	<p>Yes we suspect there is a brick base. We are talking to Hertfordshire Highways about this as well as our bridge engineers.</p>
	<p>Will this option affect water levels?</p>	<p>We will be looking into this as part of our assessment using the hydraulic models we have of the river. If this option is taken forward as the preferred option, this will be explored further to determine any mitigation required.</p>

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Option 3 In-channel Improvements: Your feedback		Our response
<p>Option 3 image <u>In-channel Improvements</u></p> 	<p>How is this in channel improvement going to help fish under bridge?</p> <p>We want to understand the impact to the area around the mill downstream.</p>	<p>This habitat work would be in addition to work under the bridge and would support the fish population. This habitat improvement work would look to provide resting places and shading for fish elsewhere within the channel.</p> <p>We will look at flows as far downstream of the weir, but at this stage, any in-channel improvements would be focused around Walkern Road Bridge; therefore, there are not anticipated to be any changes downstream at the mill.</p>
<p>The RBRA have done planting along the riverbank side in the past. We are talking to PC about continuing this on parts of the banks. Option 1 could tie in nicely to the bank side planting.</p>	<p>This is an opportunity to tie this in with the work you are doing. We will continue to talk to you (RBRA) about this work.</p>	
<p>Have you consulted the Hertfordshire plant recorder? He gave the RBRA a list of naturally occurring plants, which we have used in previous planting works. (The plant recorder we consulted has possibly now died, but someone else should be in their place). With these streams there are plants which are traditional and we would like planting to be in line with this.</p>	<p>We plan to reinstate and improve planting where we can, using native species.</p>	
<p>Willow bank is needed to hold things in and prevent soil erosion.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	
<p>Regarding the wooden structures that could be installed in the tributary, what happens to the silt that is trapped behind these? Will it not just create a barrier and therefore increase the flood risk in high flows?</p>	<p>The silt would still be able to pass through in some flow conditions, but this would prevent large influxes of material moving through. We would review maintenance as part of the design process to make sure that these are naturally functioning elements rather than causing a flood risk.</p>	
<p>How far down will the in-channel works go?</p>	<p>We are currently looking at this based on the information we have and funding available for this phase. The improvements are likely to be localised around Walkern Road Bridge at this stage.</p>	

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Option 4 Downstream works: Your feedback		Our response
<p>Option 4 image</p>  <p><u>Downstream Works</u></p> 	<p>Have you talked to the Parish Council?</p> <p>We have approached the Parish Council about various ideas regarding re-wilding the grass area, but the Parish Council has been put off by cost.</p>	<p>We have contacted them and will continue to correspond with them.</p>
<p>There is a culvert under the Mill which carries the stream underneath. The old stream bed is dry except in wet conditions. It drains the Lammas of water. The culvert under Mill goes into a pond on the south of Mill lane</p>	<p>Options to improve the river in this section at the Mill including improving fish passage around this culvert is something to look into in the future work package.</p>	
<p>Contamination from dogs is an issue. There are a few areas where dogs have run in and affected the bank.</p>	<p>We will create berms to provide additional support for the bank looking to focus on key areas where dogs enter the river.</p>	
<p>We have to accept that the public use the area for recreation. We need to balance recreational value with ecological value to carry people with us e.g. accounting for dogs going into the river.</p>	<p>Agreed. We need to balance recreational use with preservation.</p>	