

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd
Minister for Environment



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-801
Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00059/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee
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2 February 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter 12 January 2018 regarding the petition to “*save the trees and ground in Roath mill and Roath Brook Gardens before it’s too late*” and the latest position.

Over the past month I have received numerous pieces of correspondence from residents in Roath regarding the matter. This is a scheme which has been designed and is being delivered by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

Residents have written to me opposed to what has been called “Phase 3” of the Roath Flood Alleviation Scheme. The scheme should be seen as one whole scheme including the works in Waterloo Gardens and Railway Gardens. The scheme was not originally considered as three separate phases, the phasing has been for operational purposes set out by the contractor to plan the sequencing of the works.

The main concern of residents has been around the felling of trees in the Park to accommodate the widening of the brook. In order to allow the scheme to be constructed and to manage the flood risk for residents of Roath, the removal of trees within the parks has been necessary across all 3 phases, with 122 being replanted within the Park Gardens and 200 saplings in the wider area. The majority of these trees have already been removed for the first two phases of work. Phase 3 in Roath Brook Gardens and Roath Mill Gardens will see the removal of a further 32 trees, with 41 being replanted.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In terms of the ecological damage mentioned in the petition letter, I am assured that NRW have carried out all of the necessary ecological surveys as required for the planning permission from Cardiff Council in order to construct this scheme. Once complete, the scheme will provide additional ecological benefits such as soft, sloping banks which could provide improved habitat for wildlife and nesting boxes for kingfishers.

At my request, NRW paused the third phase of tree felling works, planned for Monday 11 December, to allow for further consideration of the scheme. I met with officials and NRW on that day to discuss the concerns of residents as well as the wider options that NRW explored to address flood risk to the area.

I have since met with NRW alongside elected representatives on Tuesday 9 January 2018. This provided the elected members the opportunity to voice residents' concerns and for NRW to answer their questions and explain the different options which had been considered.

NRW held a public meeting on Friday 12 January to explore whether more trees could be saved without compromising the level of protection required for the whole community. They have now identified a further 6 trees which could be saved from felling whilst still delivering this scheme.

I then met with residents of Roath on 22 January to listen to their concerns around the final phase of work.

Most recently, NRW ran a series of workshops on 23 and 24 January to discuss the Roath scheme with residents, I understand these were well attended and an additional meeting is being finalised.

I will now await the outcome of NRW's public workshops and continue to seek a way forward that alleviates risk and addresses residents' concerns.

Yours Sincerely,



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