



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Agenda Item 5 Council

Public Question

QUESTION FROM SARAH LUNNON	QUESTION TO COUNCILLOR SIMON PICKERING, CHAIR OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
<p>What progress has been made in line with SDC's Heritage Strategy in restoring the Stratford Park Lake to its crystal clear spring fed glory? I'm basically asking where have all the lilies gone?</p>	<p>While the Heritage Strategy (consultation paper July 2017) does make mention of the importance of natural heritage, it is not within the scope of the strategy to specifically consider lilies in Stratford Park lake. Clearly the lack of aquatic macrophytes is an indication of the poor ecological state of the lake. The lake was designed to be fed by spring water (which it still is) and was therefore presumably designed to be a clear water lake as can be seen in many of the old photographs of the lake. There is therefore a strong argument that to maintain the historic setting and heritage value of the Park the lake should be returned to its former ecological a state. A failure to do so may also threaten the Green Flag status of the Park which has been attained for the last 14 years. The poor ecological status is likely to be due to one or more factors (or interaction between them) including carp stocks, historic plant removal, bank erosion treatment, feeding of waterfowl, silt and nutrient levels. These matters would require further investigation prior to the implementation of a recovery plan which may require investment. The cost of this work is not contained within current budgets, however there are potential external funding sources available for such works. I would however advise that any works or improvements within the curtilage of Stratford Park should be complementary and integrated to the other excellent attractions including the Lido, Skate park, tennis courts, the leisure centre, the nursery, Café, the Bowls Club and Museum for the benefit of all the citizens of Stroud district.</p>