



Lisvane and Llanishen Reservoirs

Update Newsletter



July 2017

Hello.....

It's been a busy couple of months since we last updated you on our work at Lisvane and Llanishen reservoirs. Some of you may well have noticed a lot more activity on site as our work to bring the reservoirs up to our high operating standards has gathered pace.

In this newsletter you will find out a bit more about the work that has been taking place and what is planned for the next few months. We hope you find the information useful.

Perimeter fence

Earlier this year we secured planning permission to reinstate the perimeter fence which used to go around the site.

Over the years, the current fence had eroded or been damaged and was no longer fit for purpose. Our contractors are now busy putting up the new fence and we anticipate that this work will be completed by the end of July.

Ecological work

To protect the valuable wildlife at the site, we are still progressing our activities under supervision and assistance from appointed ecological experts. We continue to take a proactive approach in considering potential impacts before undertaking

any work on the site, including checking of potential risks of nesting birds and other flora and fauna of interests prior to vegetation clearance for fencing works. Where necessary, we also undertake rescue operation to move animals out of harm way.



Photo: Specialist engineers clearing out one of the outflow channels

Extensive effort has also been continuing at the site to remove, control and manage invasive non-native species found on site and on the adjacent land.



Photo: Specialist engineers clearing out one of the drainage chambers

We continue to work closely with Natural Resources Wales to ensure that all requirements needed for the protection of natural environment are appropriately addressed.

RAG update

Earlier this year, representatives from the company went along to the Reservoir Action Group's AGM to provide an update on the work.

The hall at Rhyd-y-Penau Primary School was full and it was a pleasure to see so many people with such a keen interest in the reservoirs present.



Photo: Welsh Water representatives addressing the RAG AGM

As well as providing an overview of the work being carried out, we also explained that while we haven't agreed what facilities would be offered at the site in the future, we would be keen to hear from the local community about any ideas they may have. We will be in contact again about how to let us know of any ideas you may have.



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Draining Llanishen reservoir

One of the big unanswered questions we have had since acquiring the site is whether or not there would be need to drain down Llanishen reservoir. Having carefully considered the options over the past few months, we have taken the decision to draw the reservoir down. We secured the necessary permission from Natural Resources Wales to start the draw down and we anticipate that it will take just over three months to empty.



Photo: A recent view of Llanishen reservoir

There are a couple of reasons why we have decided to draw the reservoir down. The main reason is that emptying the reservoir will provide us with an opportunity to fully inspect the structure and undertake any necessary repair work, particularly to its stonework. As soon as all of this has been completed we will begin the process of refilling the reservoir.

Draining the reservoir does mean that for safety reasons we will need to keep

the site closed to the public for longer than originally thought. We do apologise for this but we hope people will realise that we have a once in a lifetime opportunity now to make sure the reservoir is fully restored so that it can be enjoyed for generations to come.

You may well have heard recently that we have announced plans to invest more than £5 million towards extra investment in our visitor centres and

recreational facilities, including restoring Llanishen and Lisvane. We will be writing to you again with more information on this and letting you know how you can get involved in helping shape the facilities and activities that we have at the site in future.

Antisocial behaviour

Unfortunately, we have endured some antisocial behaviour over the past few months around the site which has involved vandalism.

If anyone notices anything we would ask they report it to the local police by calling 101.

Reservoir safety

During hot summer days, we deal with numerous reports of people taking a dip in one of our reservoirs to cool off. Little do they realise the huge dangers they face.

Every year we run a campaign on the dangers of swimming in any of our reservoirs. Our "One Last Breathe" video starkly depicts two teenagers who drown after going into the water at a reservoir on a hot summer day – and the impact on their friends and family left behind.

You can view the video at www.onelastbreath.wales

Please pass on this message about the danger of swimming in reservoirs to your family and friends.



Want to know more?

We will write again soon with a further update on our work. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact us on the details below.