



CALEY GREEN, NAYLAND

A beauty spot and open space loved and well used by residents.

A MUCH LOVED VILLAGE AMENITY:

*Is this view and access to the water's
edge going to be just a memory?*

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Suffolk County Council's (SCC) land at Nayland with Wissington known as Caley Green. It is located on the junction of the A134 and the B1087 (Bear Street) CO6 4LR.

On SCC's land and property map it is referred to, 'Nayland Land at Horkesley Road' and listed as 'Business Unit Number A2598' and 'Site Number S01'. It is managed under license by Nayland with Wissington Parish Council



*The small area affected
by proposals is marked
red: ● ● ●*

Caley Green
owned by Suffolk CC,
under license with
NwW Parish Council
CO6 4LR



Nayland's much loved Caley Green being enjoyed as it is currently



Is this the future of Caley Green?

NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Notes taken at the meeting : 26th April 2021

The Parish Council (PC) Chair's report, the District Councillor's and County Councillor's reports had been made available on the PC's web facility and noticeboards. These notes relate to the questions and comments raised during the meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Melanie Barratt said a review of all Babergh garage sites is being undertaken to record ownership, condition and identify sites suitable for redevelopment if they are not sought after due to being too small for modern cars. Some garages are automatically included with council tenancies, some have been purchased and some rented separately. A resident who had applied for a garage said they had been told there is a two year waiting list which indicates they are in demand. Another resident said he had reported large cracks in the block of garages in Harpers Estate but has heard no more. Melanie said she would investigate both issues and report back to the residents.

PARISH COUNCIL

Mary George read her report out and thanked all volunteers, community organisations, businesses and shops who stepped up during this challenging period. There were no comments or questions asked by residents.

WALSH TRUST

Gerry Battye reported on this small charity which has been providing small Christmas bonuses for those who are 80 and over and have lived in the village for at least 3 years and added that it has been a challenge establishing who would benefit from receiving a bonus. There appear to be some younger residents who may be in need and a meeting to discuss future implementation of eligibility is planned. There were no comments or questions asked by residents.

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Peter Mann reported on the Village Hall accounts and said work had been carried out on the gable end and on the front doors. Gerry Battye expressed thanks to the Management Committee.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

James Finch is hoping the installation of the double yellow lines by Caley Green will be carried out by the end of May; this will be a experimental traffic order and subject to review. SCC Highways and the Fire Service had raised safety concerns over recent parking problems there. Local residents were consulted on the plans.

With increased use of the river during Covid-19 and likely in future with the expanding and new river craft facilities at Wiston and Sudbury use of the river is likely to remain substantial. Some river users are unaware that craft need to be licensed or of river etiquette; plans for an information board, which would also include the Countryside Code, and other signage is being progressed. Following loss of privacy and noise being reported the Environment Agency (EA) will be installing signage on their land near the horseshoe weir to warn river users that Mill Lade is a no through route. Additional waste and dog bins will be installed on Caley Green.

Gerry Battye asked if progress was likely regarding repairing potholes. James Finch said it is an ongoing saga with C roads and unclassified roads having less priority while they have seen a change in use with increasing delivery vehicles using them. A resident asked if the old Bear Street cul-de-sac could be resurfaced prior to laying the double yellow lines.

It was commented that the appointment system at recycling centres during Covid had worked very efficiently and asked if the system would continue; James Finch said it would, with a few tweaks and introduction of an ANPR system.

CALEY GREEN

A number of residents attended the meeting to express concerns about removed proposals for Caley Green.

At their last meeting the PC agreed to progress with plans for installing planted coir roll along the riverbank to reinstate the bank and prevent further erosion in order to meet the deadline

for a grant application. A number of residents, on hearing this, submitted comments for the Parish Assembly – see facing page. Mary George addressed some of the comments.

She said if there was a public consultation some would not like the result; she said residents can attend PC meetings. She added that some residents would prefer a more natural look rather than a park look to the Green. A resident questioned how that was known, and asked who are those people, isn't that just hearsay, a survey is needed. Mary said that historic plans to create a more natural space with planting didn't go ahead and the suggestions were reviewed again a few years ago. This met with some opposition at the time.

The current and previous owners of the property neighbouring the Green attended the meeting; it was explained there had been no erosion there and their riverbank was protected with Nicospa revetment. Mary said there is some urgency as the river is eroding the Green and long-term the neighbouring property could be affected.

She said the EA prefer a natural solution with planting and this will not require any future maintenance. She addressed the query why other solutions are not being considered, for example wooden revetment, saying they would not be appropriate, are short-term solutions and they have been told the EA would probably refuse a permit allowing that work to be carried out. Asked why the PC and SCC (owners of the Green) do not challenge this Mary George and James Finch said they have no influence and a challenge is unlikely to be successful.

The EA will permit the section where wooden revetment was in place previously to have new wooden revetment installed; Mary added the grant awarded to replace that revetment must be spent by the end of this year.

It was pointed out that the fairly short length of wooden revetment by the bench may get congested with river craft entering and exiting the river there, people sitting on the bench and it being the only area where people will be able to get close to the water's edge.

Regarding the PC's suggestion that the Friends of Caley Green had been involved in the discussions about plans for the Green, a representative of the Friends said they had not been advised of the meeting until the morning of the meeting; they were at work so could not attend. At other times they attended as an observer.

Addressing comments regarding the lack of publicity and consultation regarding the proposals Mary said the Parish Assembly information was available online and the decision on the proposals had to be made at the last PC meeting but there is no finite plan yet.

When asked if residents will be consulted when the plans are decided, Mary responded that there is only the May meeting before the grant deadline. When asked if details will be available before the meeting to enable comments to be made in the public forum of the meeting she responded they will be available with the meeting agenda if they are finalised in time.

Several residents attending felt the river through Nayland has enough vegetation already and that villagers complain about the excess growth and how narrow the wayward has become since the EA no longer control growth. It was added that many residents enjoy the openness of that stretch of river; Mary replied that some residents comment the opposite.

Residents suggested that in order to prevent erosion the plants used would be strong rooted varieties which grow tall and would block the view and access to the river; Mary said there were shorter growing varieties than could be used. The idea of a portage being installed was suggested.

A resident said they would not like to see the Green littered with signage and bins and asked about the locations of the signage and information board; Mary said they will be placed near something that is already there, for example the bus stop, to minimise the impact.

CALEY GREEN

Samples of correspondence to the Parish Council ahead of the Annual Parish Assembly

Will there be consultation with the village residents regarding the proposals of planting at Caley Green?

Claire Buller

We are writing to express our dismay and disappointment at the plans put forward by the Parish council for Caley Green. Had we not listened to the PC meeting of Wednesday last we would have no idea of what had been provisionally decided and not being present at the site meeting, we were certainly not included in the distribution list of the plan.

We would like to raise the following points

- 1.The reason given for the urgency the threat to neighbouring property. A look at the two photographs supplied by the EA clearly show that the neighbouring property is on a totally separate independent piece of land bounded by a gully and stream. The before and after erosion pictures clearly show, as would a walk along the river bank, that properties backing onto the river have on the whole removed riparian growth and substituted wooden and other forms of jetties to allow access and open up views. We are struggling to understand how the PC or SCC could therefore be held responsible. Also the neighbouring property was sold last year and would have had a professional survey completed.

- 2.Whilst we agree that remedial action needs to be taken to prevent further erosion why is the only option coir?

Coir is a planting medium, it will disintegrate after a few years, therefore it stands to reason that plants used will need to be robust with strong root systems to hold the bank and prevent erosion.

Examples given are invasive and can grow over a metre in height. They also need regular maintenance, who will do this? The proposed planting does mean that the open view of the river currently enjoyed by residents will be destroyed. The example given by the EA of coir and planting at Dedham is quite frankly an unsightly mess. The replacement wooden revetment is directly in front of the bench and does not appear to be the 10 metres as stated at the PC meeting.

Residents and visitors who do not have direct access to the river and have canoes and have paid for their licences will have difficulty launching craft especially if the bench is occupied.

- 3.Apart from the bay area the old brown reed growth stretching all the way along the green is in places 2 to 3 metres deep and at least 2 metres in height. This is preventing new young healthy reed growth from establishing. We are told that years ago the EA did maintain and control riparian growth, however the EA have told us that they no longer maintain the river except for navigation purposes. Why then are the PC allowing more of the same?

Residents from all parts of the village regularly complain about the state of the excessive riparian growth in the river at Nayland.

- 4.Yesterday I watched a mother with pushchair and toddler spend time at the waters edge looking at the small fish. This together with many activities that villagers enjoy will be prevented if these plans go ahead. Also the bay is the preferred access point to the grass for the waterfowl that use this stretch of river.

- 5.The PC is most certainly aware of the depth of feeling in the village regarding Caley Green. Many residents have not been made aware of the plans. Information has not been provided in a timely manner leaving very little time for constructive comment and could be seen as undemocratic.

We would urge the PC to think again.

John and Sally Dalton

Please find below my comments on proposals for Caley Green.

The lack of publicity and public consultation:

The Parish Council (PC) agreed at their April meeting that the proposal to use planted coir roll as a solution to the erosion of

the riverbank should be progressed in order to meet a grant application deadline of 17th May. It was suggested at the PC meeting that any useful feedback from the Parish Assembly may be able to be incorporated but it was stated that this was "a matter of communication and not a consultation", "it's not for approval by residents".

As the PC are aware Caley Green is extremely popular part of the village and well used by residents and visitors especially during the pandemic. Such is the affection for the Green the democratic answer would have been to have a proper consultation.

The Parish Assembly documents referring to Caley Green and the PA agenda were not posted online until Tuesday 20th April; the deadline for comments was Friday 23rd.

Within the documents posted, comparing an old summer season aerial view with its lush growth a recent winter season aerial view was visually deceiving. The claim regarding the neighbouring property being threatened is alarmist. The owner until recently was part of the team controlling the river vegetation growth; the property was sold last year and would have had a professional survey completed. Aerial views clearly show a division in the land between the hedge of this property and Caley Green by the gully running along by the boundary.

The single solution option is disappointing:

Previous comments aside, there has been some erosion on part of the bend and prevention of further erosion is needed. However, the PC are only considering one possible solution; use of planted coir roll.

I'm aware the Environment Agency (EA) have stated they do not support the wooden revetment being extended when the existing rotten section is replaced, but why do the Parish Council (and the landowners, Suffolk CC) not challenge this?

The EA and the DVSV AONB may prefer use of vegetation but much of the river is overgrown with vegetation to the point it is barely accessible or navigable; this is a frequent topic of conversation and complaint by residents living in all areas of the village. Surely allowing extension of the wooden revetment for this small section of the river, for the benefit of residents, would not be to the detriment of wildlife. Some of the local waterfowl take advantage of the easy access to Caley Green and enjoy sharing the space with visitors and being fed by them. Wildlife is much more likely to be disturbed by river craft users who alight into their craft at many points along the river.

The planting options are concerning:

The coir roll is biodegradable and disappears within a few years, by which time the plants will be well established and take over the task of preventing riverbank erosion. Plants commonly used for this are robust varieties with strong root systems that will stand up to strong water flow, such as: Reeds, Greater and Lesser Sedge, Yellow Flag Water Iris, Common Rush and Purple Loosestrife are recommended. These all grow to over 3 feet high; once established, the roots and rhizomes of the plants will trap silt and extend the area that they can colonise. The King Cup or Marsh Marigold, mentioned at the April PC meeting, grows near the surface of the soil and is used to establish boggy areas and not to prevent erosion of riverbanks.

The result will spoil the Green for many:

Therefore, it is almost certain that the view of the river will be obscured and the current landscape that we all enjoy will be lost. The short area of wooden revetment will be a very popular space. Anywhere else children and parents will not be able to get close to the riverside and gaze in wonder at the creatures swimming about, or capture them in their fishing nets and jam jars to study them. Angling is difficult along much of the river but has been enjoyed recently from the Green. The elderly or less mobile who wish to sit and take in the river view, will only have the bench area to do so, and they will be disturbed when craft users enter or exit the river using the short stretch of revetment. People and wildfowl will have less space for feeding and to interact. And the list goes on and on.....

Please consider consulting the residents for their views and ideas before rushing ahead with this project so whatever is done is at least democratic.

Lorraine Brooks

CALEY GREEN AND RIVER ISSUES STATEMENT FROM COUNTY AND PARISH COUNCILS

Contrary to claims made elsewhere, Suffolk County Council and Nayland with Wissington Parish Council have **NO** plans to block out the view of the river at Caley Green for visitors or the properties of residents at the southern end of Bear Street. The brief regarding erosion has always been that remedies should be sustainable, beneficial to wildlife and that residents' view of the river should not be lost. This was confirmed to residents at the Annual Parish Assembly on 26th April.

There are no plans to restrict access to the river, but there are plans to replace the previous 10 metres of wooden revetment to allow safe access along what has become a hazardous riverbank. Some options, including extending this revetment, have been considered and rejected by the Environment Agency.

Sustainable methods of protecting Caley Green from erosion are being considered by a group of relevant official authorities. Applications for permits must be made to the Environment Agency for formal approval of any work on riverbanks. The water edge is now several feet nearer the street and a silt bay has been created in the river. There is long term risk to the path provided by the Parish Council to allow all weather access to wheelchairs. There is also a risk that the corner of the Green which protects neighbouring property could be undermined. It is essential that this section of Caley Green is restored and protected so that people can enjoy the river and the Green safely.

Officers from the EA Waterways Navigation Team, EA Biodiversity Team, Dedham Vale & Stour Valley AONB Project Team, River Stour Trust, Babergh District Public Realm and Councillors from Babergh District Council, Suffolk County Council (landowner) and Nayland with Wissington Parish Council (Licensed Custodian) have been meeting to discuss the continuing erosion, the impact of unprecedented visitor numbers and potential funding to overcome these problems. In the spirit of openness, a representative from Friends of Caley Green was invited to meetings and attended as an observer. Questions raised at the Annual Parish Assembly by residents were passed to all official agencies. A detailed response has been received from the EA Biodiversity Officer and endorsed by the Dedham Vale AONB Team.

Your County and Parish Councillors have not yet agreed a detailed plan as more information is needed but they will be guided by experts. However, the Parish Council has agreed to apply for grants from the Dedham Vale AONB Sustainable Development Fund and to earmark Babergh CIL income if criteria can be met.

During the past year, many residents have raised concerns about escalating erosion, overcrowding by paddle craft, loss of privacy in waterside gardens, damage to habitats, decline of wildlife along the river and Mill Lade, as well as inconsiderate or dangerous parking by some visitors. Concerns have also been expressed by Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service. All paddle boards and other craft must be licensed by an official organisation such as The River Stour Trust or British Canoe Association before use on the river. Some of these issues will be mitigated by information signage, parking restrictions and regular visits by EA Navigation officers.

Reports and updates will continue to be uploaded to the Parish Council webpage of the Nayland and Wiston Community website https://www.naylandandwiston.net/parish_council/info.php

If you need any information, please check the webpage or contact the Councils direct.

James.Finch@suffolk.gov.uk or kpc@naylandwithwissington.suffolk.gov.uk or mary@naylandwithwissington.suffolk.gov.uk



Potential Indicative Layout

● = pre-planted coir roll
--- = replacement of wooden revetment

Does Resident Concern Matter in Nayland?

Following the concerns of a number of residents, some of whom attended the Parish Assembly to ask questions and raise issues about the proposals for using vegetation to protect the riverbank in the bay at Caley Green, a petition was created to gauge the strength of feeling and pass this on to the Parish Council. Within a short timescale and despite social distancing restrictions it seems many are quite passionate about the Green and to date 110 people, mostly residents, were keen to support the petition. This was sent to the Parish Council ahead of their May meeting.

♦ Please note: the petition is **NOT** disputing that the issue of erosion needs to be rectified. It is asking that other solutions, of which there are many possibilities, should be considered.

Those signing the petition raised questions and concerns including that they:

- are disappointed that questions remained inadequately answered at the Parish Assembly
- are concerned by the reluctance to reveal what plants will be used in the coir roll
- are concerned that to protect the coir roll and young vegetation a fence or barrier will also need to be installed and remain in place until the vegetation is established
- are concerned that there appears to be a discrepancy in the measurement of the wooden revetment to be replaced; the PC and EA state it will be 10 metres but that is not what is indicated on the plan. Are they committing to a length of 10 meters? - see the EA's suggested layout on page 22
- are disappointed that the open view as we know it will be lost
- are disappointed that close access to the waters' edge will no longer be possible here
- have doubts that the use of planted coir alone, especially with shorter less invasive plants, will be a sustainable method of preventing further erosion as it will not protect the bank deep enough
- believe that the lack of management of riverside reeds upstream has contributed to the erosion and will continue to exacerbate the situation (in his email James Carr stated changes at the bay have the knock on effect down stream of causing further erosion over time but he did not consider that changes just upstream of the bay, i.e. the unmanaged and excessive reed growth has contributed to changes in the flow of the river and the erosion of the bay)
- are concerned by the process of this proposal; it is usual for the riparian owner to come up with a plan and then to seek a permit from EA for their proposals - not ask the EA to come up with proposals. The EA have no understanding of the concerns of village residents and the PC may have underestimated the strength of feeling
- feel there should have been public consultation on this sensitive and controversial issue

Some of these questions were asked again at the Parish Council meeting on 19th May. Unfortunately there was no progress in them being answered.

It was confirmed however, that the grant application (from the AONB Sustainable Development Fund with a deadline of 17th May) was not submitted and the Parish Council will be investigating further the options.

Alternative solutions:

There are many alternative solutions including: wooden/green oak revetment, gabions, rock rolls, tree revetment, retaining walls, geotextiles, steel walls, rip rap, TrapBag, Nicospan, etc which have not been considered. Some would not be suitable here but some could enhance the area.



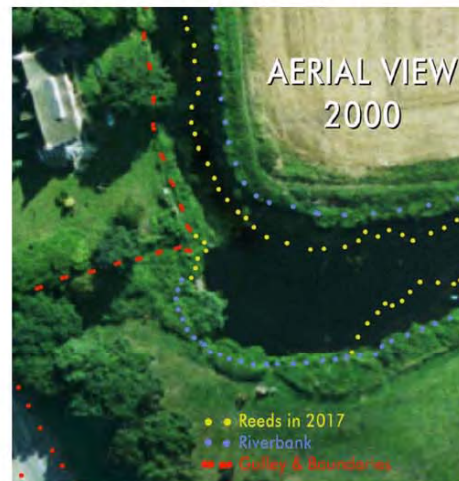
Green Oak Revetment



Stone/Rock Gabions



Planted coir roll



AERIAL VIEW
2000

● Reeds in 2017
● Riverbank
● Quay & Boundaries



AERIAL VIEW
2017

● Reeds in 2017
● Riverbank
● Quay & Boundaries

These aerial views show how the shape of the river has altered. It reveals how the waterway has narrowed and changed course due to the unmanaged reed growth. It also shows where the bay has eroded. The erosion will have been exacerbated by the changing flow of the river upstream caused by the reeds.

The Parish Council hosted a Zoom meeting on 8th July 2021 with Suffolk County Council's Senior Ecologist, a Biodiversity Officer with the Environment Agency and 9 members of the public who had become aware of the proposals and expressed concerns.

Andrew Murray-Wood, Senior Ecologist for SCC and James Carr, Technical Officer on the Biodiversity Team at the EA, James Finch and 9 residents attended.

Andrew Murray Wood, who said he was speaking purely as an ecologist suggested that vegetation round the bay would require more management 'in the right way' in future.

James Carr answered a number of questions. Considerations for granting permits to undertake work look at proposals and whether there are any flood risks. At this site he would like to see the reeds by the inlet from the stream retained as they provide cover for creatures entering the river.

He had no objections to 10 metres of wooden revetment near the bench but added that harder revetment solutions affect the flow and can cause problems just downriver; it was pointed out by a previous property owner that the property next door and those further down had their own revetment protection.

On the suggestion of Aqualog revetment for the other stretch of the bay James said this could be considered and would give greater erosion protection; it is heavier to work with and may be more expensive. It was pointed out that the wooden revetment and Aqualog would not incur the cost of regular maintenance that coir planting would require..

On the question that rivers naturally want to meander and that the inner bend gradually silting up may exacerbate the erosion James said this is true but slow flow on this part of the river and the introduction of erosion control would eliminate the problem.

When asked what plants are being suggested Mary George said this wasn't decided. It was pointed out that this is an important consideration and should be declared. A resident said that plants will expand, self-seed and the stronger varieties will become dominant; Mary George replied they would need to be managed.

When it was suggested that the swans and ducks, which like to get onto the Green, would find it more difficult to do so, Andrew Murray-Wood said that was not an issue. He added rivercraft entering the river over the coir roll would need to be discouraged, although James Carr said it was quite resilient.

A resident said they liked to look out and see reeds, not people, cars and signs, they would like it to be natural and not look urban.

Another resident said that we live in human and natural world; the river should be for people, wildlife and navigation and a lot of people enjoy it from Nayland, Leavenheath and other local parishes. So much access has been lost already; he recalled villagers swimming by the by-pass in the past.

James Finch concluded recommending a compromise should be sought; further options should be looked at considering a balance of views.

What options are there for protecting the riverbank ?

There are many solutions for protection of riverbanks from erosion and it is sometimes necessary for a combination of solutions to be used. The following pages give some examples of solutions that may be suitable for the riverbank at Caley Green using natural materials.

In some instances, and this location is on a sharp bend in the river, it is advisable to have a backing layer of woven geo-fabric to prevent water flow getting through the revetment and eroding behind it.

The location at Caley Green is well used by residents and wildlife, so the river edge should be capable of withstanding that use. Some options, including planted coir roll would prohibit the enjoyment of residents. The affects the changing flow of the river, due to excess reed growth just upriver, should also be considered; this will have added to the erosion at the Caley Green Bay. The reed growth on the inner bend of the river will also have an affect.

Aqualog Rolls

Aqualogs™ are used for preventing erosion, improving water quality and supporting the reinstatement of banks, while providing a stable, long lasting habitat.

Aqualogs are an organic long term revetment made from a very durable and naturally occurring German coal industry by-product. Xylit is a tough, woody fibre made into Aqualog biochar fibre rolls is exceptionally long lasting and flexible, and can provide an alternative habitat for wild flora and fauna.



Rock Rolls

Pre-filled Rock Rolls are a robust and permanent revetment for use around reservoirs, shorelines, and river banks.

Rock Rolls provide an instant flexible solution to many scour problems and are capable of resisting high velocities and shear stress in rivers. Rock Rolls can support healthy invertebrate and even native crayfish populations. They also accrete silt and can be fully vegetated.



Rock/Stone filled Gabions

A gabion is a rock-filled wire cage that provides strong long lasting erosion control of rivers, canals, etc especially those with steep banks. They give shelter for fish spawn and provide habitat for invertebrates and plants to naturalise around the river bank.



What options are there for protecting the riverbank? *continued*

Green Oak Revetment

Ten metres of wooden revetment will be replaced (we hope). It would therefore be more practical and cost effective to continue this further round the bay. It would provide a firm edge to the river bank able to withstand wear and tear and maintain the open view for residents. It would not require regular maintenance costs.

Perhaps less suitable to this location alternatives include:

Hazel/Willow Spiling (woven rods), Brushwood faggots/fascines (Hazel or Willow, bundles of live or dead wood), Tree Revetment, Engineered log jams, Retaining Wall, Riprap Hard Armoring, TrapBag®, Geotextiles, Nicospan (woven geo-fabric).

Spiling, Faggots & Fascines

Hazel/Willow Spiling (woven rods), Brushwood faggots/fascines (Hazel or Willow, bundles of live or dead wood). If live material is used it will require regular maintenance to avoid excessive growth of vegetation and need to be coppiced every two years.

Willow spiling involves weaving live willow rods between live willow stakes set into the affected bank at regular intervals. It will achieve a dense top growth which will need maintenance and form a root mat to withstand erosion.

Live **fascines** are long bundles of live woody vegetation buried at the bottom of the riverbank in shallow trenches. The plant bundles sprout and develop a root mass that will hold the soil in place.

Faggots can be constructed from small diameter living or dead material bound tightly together; Hazel faggots use dead wood, willow can be living or dead material. Dead brushwood faggots are often used in conjunction with coir rolls to provide a toe support in deeper water. Living faggots or mattresses are used as revetments in their own right, sometimes with a rock roll toe.



The only option being proposed by the Parish Council.....

Planted Coir Rolls

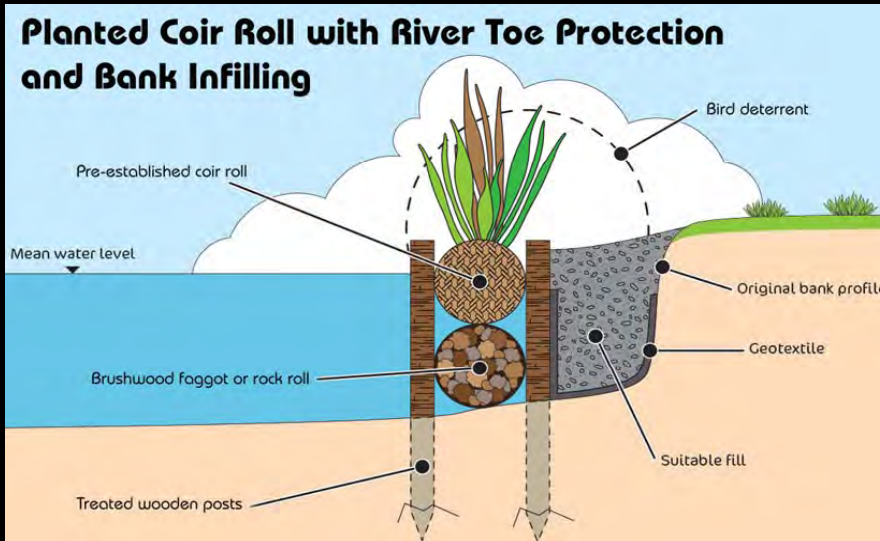
Coir roll is a bi-product of coconuts held together with synthetic multi strand fibre. They are usually imported from Sri Lanka. They are biodegradable and disappear within a few years, by which time the plants will be well established and take over the task of preventing riverbank erosion.

Plants commonly used for this are robust varieties with strong root systems that will stand up to strong water flow, such as: Reeds, Greater and Lesser Sedge, Yellow Flag Water Iris, Common Rush and Purple Loosestrife. These all grow to well over 3 feet high; once established, the roots and rhizomes of the plants will trap silt and extend the area that they can colonise.

It is sometimes necessary to include deeper protection to support the toe of a bank and to protect it from erosion. In such instances rock roll, or another form of hard revetment may be incorporated as well.

If this is used at Caley Green, along with the proposed fence to protect the coir roll, it will obscure our precious view, deny close access to the water's edge and prevent entry into the water. It will also make it more difficult for the water fowl to get on and off the Green.

The more aggressive taller plant species would gradually dominate.



The choice of plants for the coir rolls seems to be a closely guarded secret

Planting options

The Parish Council are still not revealing what variety of plants are proposed to use in the coir roll; this is an element of the proposal causing concern to residents. However, it is likely that whatever is planted over time the reeds and other species will introduce themselves. Similarly, if a variety of plants are chosen the more robust species will come to dominate the water's edge. And if a single variety of plant is chosen the area is likely to look out of keeping and 'urban' (to use a word raised in the recent Zoom meeting)

Marsh Marigold

This has been mentioned by the PC however *Caltha Palustris*, aka King Cup or Marsh Marigold is a rhizomatous herbaceous perennial plant of wet meadows, marshes and wet woodlands, or a marginal plant in very shallow water. It can be used in coir mattresses to establish boggy areas but is not used in coir rolls to prevent erosion of riverbanks. It has yellow flowers in early spring and reaches a height and spread of 50cm.

Toxicity is of concern with this plant, as it contains glycoside protoanemonin; contact can cause rashes or blistering, ingestion can cause spasms, hepatitis, jaundice or paralysis. Should this be introduced where children play and dogs are walked?



Plants usually used in planted coir roll include the following:

Water Iris:

Aka Yellow Flag, *Iris pseudacorus* is a rhizomatous perennial forming extensive colonies growing to 100–150cm (39–59 ins). It has yellow flowers from May to July.



Planting options *continued*

Purple Loosestrife:

Lythrum salicaria is a perennial plant with upright stems to 1.2m tall, clad in narrow, willowy leaves, and small vivid purplish-pink flowers in dense terminal spikes over a long period in summer.

Greater pond sedge:

Carex riparia is a vigorous spreading rhizomatous perennial with linear, glaucous green leaves and tall stems bearing stout, erect, dark brown flowering spikes in early summer. It has a height and spread of 1.5m (59ins).

Lesser pond sedge:

Carex Acutiformis has creeping rhizomes forming spreading dense clumps reaching 123cm (48ins) or more. It has narrow leaves and purple-brown spikelets.

Floating sweet-grass:

Glyceria fluitans is a grass with creeping rootstock, a thick stem which rises to one metre.

Pictured clockwise from top right.



Planting options *continued*

Common Rush:

Soft Rush, *Juncus effuses* grows in large clumps about 1.5m (59ns) tall and is invasive.

Common Reed:

Phragmites australis is a broad-leafed grass, about 1.5 to 5 metres (5 to 16.5 feet) tall, with feathery flower clusters and stiff, smooth stems.

Cattail

The *Bullrush*, *Typha latifolia*, are upright plants that emerge from creeping rhizomes. They have long tapering leaves and tiny unisexual flowers; after releasing their pollen the male flowers wither and fall off, leaving the characteristic brown furry fruiting spikes. When mature, the spike disintegrates to release cottony masses of minute wind-dispersed seeds.

Pictured clockwise from top right.





Marsh Marigold



Yellow Flag Iris



Single variety planting would look out of place, multi variety would result in survival of the strongest and tallest

delivering benefits through evidence



Aquatic and riparian plant management: controls for vegetation in watercourses

Technical guide

Project: SC120008/R2

In this document published by the
Environment Agency in July 2014 it states:

“Vegetation is a natural and vitally important part of aquatic and riparian ecosystems. Excessive growth of aquatic and riparian vegetation can have adverse impacts on both the ecosystem itself and the human uses of the watercourse. This can result in the need for management.” (page 5)

“Tall emergent species can be very problematic, particularly in narrow and relatively shallow watercourses, where they can completely block channels.” (page 83)

“Over recent years, restricted budgets and increased environmental concerns have reduced the frequency and intensity with which operating authorities undertake vegetation management.” (page 11)

As can be seen by photographs in pages further on in this photo document there is excessive growth of aquatic and riparian vegetation along the River Stour, particularly through Nayland.

The EA document is available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6034e181d3bf7f26576beefa/SC120008-R2_Technical_guide.pdf

Rivercraft Traffic

It appears that there is some thinking that Caley Green has become a popular location for rivercraft to set off from and travel downstream through Nayland. This is not correct.

A survey was carried out over the late May Bank Holiday weekend when the weather was fair to warm. It revealed that the majority of craft going downstream (through Nayland) come from upriver and many originate from the craft hire companies based in Sudbury and elsewhere and that most of the craft launching from Caley green belong to serious paddlers and they tend to go upstream. This is no surprise as the river upstream from Nayland is far easier to navigate and more picturesque than that downstream which is shallow and overgrown and requires portaging.

The Covid Effect

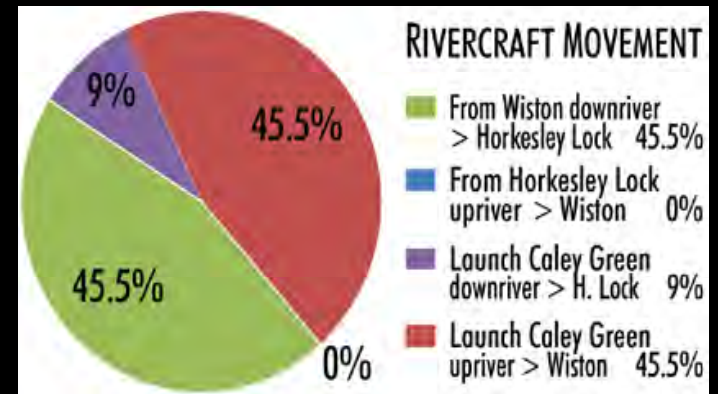
During 2020 Covid-19 did create an increase in visitors to the Green and an increase in those using the river in canoes, kayaks and paddleboards. As the country has opened up the number of visitors to the Green has declined and will do so further as people are able seek more exciting places, here and abroad, to spend their leisure time. The number of rivercraft may also decline.

That said, the River Stour Trust and Dedham Vale & Stour Valley AONB are promoting the enjoyment rivercraft can bring and several companies and riverside restaurants have taken advantage of the trend and tempting options are being offered. There are numerous deals from companies in Sudbury on 'Paddling Adventures' and 'Paddle 'n' Pub' and the Anchor Inn at Nayland is one of the pubs included; there are even one way options where the craft is collected from the pub by the hire company. Rivercraft hire from Wiston is also popular.

Photo: A group of ten Canadian style canoes parked up at the Anchor Inn Nayland for an organised 'paddle 'n' pub' Sunday lunch.

"Is Caley Green the source of increased rivercraft through Nayland?"

"No"



Photographs in the following pages reveal some of the benefits this section of the riverside at Caley Green has on residents, visitors and water fowl.

*The whole of the Green is popular and other activities, not connected to the river include walking, dog walking, running, games, picnicking, sunbathing, sledging in the snow, and much more....
It is a much loved open space in our village.*





Caley Green frequently provides an outdoor classroom with lots of interest for children



Nayland Primary School children and their families enjoy the annual end of term picnic on the Green



School children watch the wildlife and amuse themselves by the river while waiting for their buses



Local residents of all ages and physical ability are able to enjoy the view and the wildlife, but surely there is enough vegetation adjacent to this much valued corner of Caley Green. Residents of a nearby residential care home enjoy getting out and taking in the tranquillity and the open view.





The Rogation Sunday service is conducted on the Green



The Green offers a wonderful place for family and friends to get together or have picnics. It provided a very important venue during Covid-19.



Taken on a hot summer's evening while queuing at the mobile fish and chip van. Canoeists prepare to leave after enjoying the river, children take a dip to keep cool, others relax and take in the view.
(Already the reeds have begun blocking the view near the ditch on the left)



Every Saturday evening the river view is enjoyed by those queuing for fish and chips
This section of the Green with its lovely backdrop is used for wedding photographs



The Green is a place where children learn about wildlife and where humans and wildlife coexist in harmony



The ducks, geese and swans have easy access in and out of the river at Caley Green.
The swans graze and raise their cygnets on the Green.



It is a well used spot for the water fowl to congregate and where they benefit from being fed by residents



Anglers enjoy fishing from the Green; a rare spot in Nayland where they are not inhibited by reeds and vegetation. Just metres further along on Caley Green the sign permits fishing but the river cannot even be seen. When the Green was created, after the by-pass was built in the 60s, soil was moved down from the bungalow to landscape it. It was agreed fishing rights would be given to residents, the sign is all that remains – they are now denied their rights here.



Some just need a place to relax between jobs or to take a breather and enjoy the view on cycle rides



An opportunity for busy parents to relax and introduced young children to the wonders of nature.



Residents of a nearby residential care home frequently enjoy the opportunity to get out and enjoy the view and watch the world go by. They also meet family there, especially during Covid-19 restrictions. There is a path to the bench and the ground is fairly flat which provides access for wheelchairs.



There is plenty to watch while relaxing; wild swimmers challenge themselves and river travellers enjoy the scenery



Paddle boarders and canoeists launch their craft, others travel by



Houses along the riverside or with a river view attract premium sale prices; losing that view will devalue their properties. These photos show the views from four of the adjacent properties. Planting would obscure the view of the river for all, but some more than others.



Scenes of the Green are a favourite subject to submit for the village calendar photographic competition, and are frequently voted by residents to be included in the calendar



Other areas of the riverbank at Caley Green have thick tall vegetation preventing access and an easy view



The elderly, disabled and less mobile residents are unable to access the other small stretches of river that are not totally overgrown – except from a bridge!



Much of the rest of the river is very overgrown with reeds and therefore cannot be enjoyed as an amenity for many residents.



Isn't this sufficient biodiversity in Nayland?



Unless on a bridge over the river or over six feet tall it's difficult to glimpse or enjoy the wildlife
(this photographer is 6 foot +)

Please find an alternative solution to planting to protect the riverbank from further erosion and keep the riverside bay at Caley Green as an open space at which residents and water fowl can continue to co-exist and enjoy.

