

CPC Annual Meeting 2020 Fishing Report:

In 2020, seven licenses were granted to under 16's from the Village. These individuals fished regularly during the season when Covid lockdown rules permitted them to do so and fished responsibly. The main challenge during the year were Anglers from outside the Village. These were adults ranging in ages from 20 to 40. Often experienced Carp Anglers who due to furlough and many commercial fisheries being closed, sought other venues to fish. These individuals in the main stopped fishing and left when approached and were informed that they were not permitted to fish. On several occasions myself and other members of the pit group were challenged and told often in quite a challenging or threatening way that they would not stop fishing. On one such occasion a couple with their partners set up a BBQ on the bench on the North side of the pit, causing burn damage to the wood seat. On this occasion I phoned the rural PCSO and reported the incident. Speaking with the rural police officer they informed me that legally they had no grounds to prevent individuals from fishing, only to inform them of the by-laws for common ground and countryside. They stated that on their regular route through the Village, they would check for Anglers fishing on the pit and if clearly adults would stop and speak with them.

The other issue were people fishing to left of the designated fishing platforms into the North East bay of the pit. Throughout the year I covered this area in branches to prevent fishing, only to find on inspection that all branches had been removed and the area cleared. Following tree felling activities along the access road to the workshop, the pit group have taken the felled branches and re-covered the area to deter fishing here. I have also erected a no fishing sign.

The fish stock in the pit is almost predominately Carp which range in size from 10-23lb. This is attractive to Anglers who target Carp, who have suitable tackle to catch these hard fighting fish. However, the pit lacks smaller fish to encourage beginners and parents from the Village who would like to fish with their young children and teach them how to fish with the float. This was mentioned to me on a number of occasions by local parents. My ask to the council is to consider if funds could be made available (£100-200) to buy and stock a variety of silver fish (Roach, Bream, Tench, Crucian Carp) in closed the closed season Jan -March 2022. This would improve the diversity of fish in the pit, limited the weight gains of the Carp and allow parents with younger children to catch safely a variety of fish.

Best regards

Will Wrigley