

Closed season fishing meeting

As requested by the council in the meeting on 12th February we asked for members of the public to attend a meeting to discuss the closed season rule.

On Wednesday 10th April we had an informal meeting regarding the closed season rule on Newent Lake. 2 local anglers attended along with 2 bailiffs (also anglers).

The general consensus from the meeting was that they would recommend closing the lake from the first signs of the fish spawning (monitored by the bailiffs) until 1 week after the fish have spawned (usually around 2 weeks but may be longer).

The proposal for a way of policing this was when the permits are issued, we request an email address from each permit holder to create a mail shot to inform them fish are spawning so fishing is closed. Post on Facebook and other media outlets that fishing is closed for spawning, put up some printed signs saying fishing closed. Bailiffs and council staff will then monitor the lake to check rules are being followed.

The permit renewal then would become a set date (same as the allotments tenancy) , this year the renewal date will be 16th June where the permits would change colour as they usually do to identify new and old permits, maybe make permits available to purchase a few weeks before the renewal date. They all agreed that if the lake was open all year round except for the short period of time when the fish are spawning, they would be happy to pay £20 for a year's permit.

The other option that was mentioned if the above proposal is not satisfactory was that as in the last 2 years the fish seem to have spawned in June so a fixed close season of June is optional however the fish may still spawn outside of this fixed date.

It was mentioned that a benefit to allowing fishing up until spawning is feeding the fish giving them more strength to get through the spawning process.