



West Yorkshire Fisheries Forum

Brighouse Civic Hall, Bradford Road, Brighouse, HD6 1RW

7th March 2017

Meeting Notes

Before the presentations started Peter Dawson from Mirfield AC wanted to ask a question about canoers as he couldn't stay at the forum:

Q - We get the scouts canoeing on our stretch of non-navigable river when fish can be seen spawning on gravels.

A – This is civil law and the offence is trespass, the land owner would need to take these canoers to court.

Peter Mischenko – If they were paddling and the fish could be seen spawning and they were asked to stop and were shown evidence, then they would be committing an offence. Someone from the angling club would need to be willing to gather evidence of fish spawning, take photos and give a witness statement. The Environment Agency doesn't pursue prosecution of trespass.

Paul Breslin – The CRT has an agreement with canoe clubs and communication with angling clubs is key as is education. The canoe union pay for access and have been allowed to paddle on CRT waters since 1986.

Angling Trust Update including the work of the Fisheries Enforcement Support Service –
John Cheyne, AT, National Regions Manager and Giles Evans, Fisheries Enforcement Manager for Yorkshire

Q – Do Voluntary Bailiffs going to the induction day get travel and food expenses?

A – Yes, they do.

Q – Where can people find out about the Angling Improvement Fund on your website

A – At the top of the page - type Angling Improvement Fund into the search box and the details will come up.

Environment Agency Fisheries Update – Pete Mischenko, EA, Fisheries Officer will give an overview of how the agency have been working to improve fish stocks in your area

Canal and Rivers Trust – Paul Breslin, CRT, Angling and Fisheries Manager gives an update on their work to improve local fisheries

Q – Has anything been spent in West Yorkshire on habitat improvement and fish stocks?

A – A club got funding to replace lost fish. If there is a need for funding, please let us know. We undertake fish rescues after pollution incidents and maintenance work. If your club has questions or suggestions, please get in touch.

Q – Our platforms on the Brighouse Canal are in a very bad state of affairs, it's very dangerous.

A – This will get logged by the waterway and will get prioritised. Money for this work will come out the waterway and they will also design the solutions.

Q – What in law makes a river navigable?

A – In time perpetuity boats have navigated the rivers, also there is an agreed list of navigable rivers.