

## **Messages from the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group and Community Working Group**

### **Consultation, communication, and engagement throughout the Project - including PPSG/CWG/public consultation**

The consultation process was broadly felt to be good and informative, but some people had their doubts about the impact the group had on the final proposals. It was suggested it would have been helpful to have more clarity on what aspects of the scheme were fixed and which were not. Overall it was felt that the design process was iterative and inclusive. It was noted that the experience by different members in part reflected the different points at which they had joined the evolving process. The level of disagreement and debate amongst the stakeholders was felt to have been an important part of the process and inevitably reflected the differing perspectives. However there was a concern that there was insufficient representation from those downstream.

The information provided to the CWG was felt to have been useful, consistent and reflected a high degree of openness and transparency.

The magnitude of the design storm was never fully understood or accepted by some of the group. There was also some confusion about the purpose of the scheme and the issue of dam safety vs flood alleviation.

It was commented that City's position was not always well articulated. Some of the group felt that the City seemed determined or even enthusiastic to proceed, whereas other felt this was not evident or the City seemed reluctant. Overall it was felt that City could have done better in communicating the necessity of the scheme, particularly in respect to the public consultation. The issue for discussion was "how" not "if".

### **Appointment of a construction contractor**

The engagement of the stakeholders in the process of recruiting BAM Nuttall was felt to have been positive. It was noted that the 70% quality / 30% price tender evaluation has resulted in the right quality of contractor and works. There was an appreciation of the accessibility of BAM and their inclusion in the design process within the stakeholders as part of Early Contractor Engagement.

### **Building the scheme**

It was noted that the construction phase of the project there were some elements, such as aerators and cabinets, which came as a shock to some people.

Some of the group were not convinced by the extent of inclusion of water quality and biodiversity within the scheme. Some people perceived this as a fig leaf given the level of disruption rather than fundamental to the scheme.

The Ponds Project Liaison officer's role in the project and consultation process was highly praised.

There was significant praise for BAM Nuttall who were described as being nice, helpful, courteous and responsive to questions. It was commented that the logistics and coordination displayed during the installation of the ladies changing room was impressive.

There was continued disappointment about the removal of the trees at Stock Pond. The timing of the removal in particular was felt to have been unfortunate. Some members of the group continued to feel that an alternative should have been given greater consideration.