

The New Dovey Fishery Association (1929) Limited

Y PLAS, ABERYSTWYTH ROAD, MACHYNLLETH, POWYS, SY20 8ER.

RICHARD N. EVANS
Hon. Secretary.
TEL. / FAX: 01654 702721

Office hours: Mon. & Fri. only
10a.m. – 12noon
(except Bank Holidays)

Ms Virginia Hawkins
Clerk to the Committee
Sustainability Committee
Welsh Assembly
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

31st August 2009.

Dear Ms Hawkins

The New Dovey Fisheries Association have been made aware that Canoeist organisations are trying to persuade AM's to alter the law allowing access to Welsh rivers for their members.

The New Dovey Fisheries Association (NDFA) wish to make the following representations for your consideration.

1. The NDFA since its formation in 1929 have managed and improved fishing and access arrangements to the river which has resulted in the creation of a very popular amenity for locals, visiting anglers and tourists, the latter being able to purchase a day ticket from local outlets.
2. Approximately Four hundred anglers will fish the river in a season, the majority of these being local, and also voters.
3. The NDFA employ two full time keepers to manage and administer the facility provided. A comprehensive stocking policy serves to maintain and increase fish stocks. These are bred and reared by a local company.
4. Recently owing to the major works being carried out on the river bank, Railway embankment by Network Rail, the NDFA had to obtain valuation of their 15 mile stretch of river. The expert valuer employed confirmed a value of 2.6 million pounds.

In several parts the river, at times, is very shallow and is considered unsuitable for use by Canoeists. There are other obstacles such as farm boundary fences running into the river or sometimes constructed across the whole river where there exists a boundary between two neighbouring farmers.

5. It is inevitable that the use of the river by Canoeist will result in a depleted fish stock and breeding will be interfered with. Fish have to be very carefully managed and new stocks have to be introduced at particular times of the year and at particular ages all of which calls for limiting any


disturbance to the environment naturally and artificially created in and immediately surrounding the river

The NDFA are certainly of the opinion that Canoeist organisations would not fully appreciate the very fine balance that exists between the management of this natural habitat and the disturbance that can be created by the lack of appreciation for the habitat created. This factor came to light in the negotiations that took place between the NDFA and Network Rail recently when Network Rail had to concede that disturbance can lead to a total destruction of fishing habitat created naturally and artificially.

5. Local business and services fully appreciate the contribution this well managed local facility makes to the local economy. Anyone attempting to disturb and prejudice this amenity would not only be very unpopular with local anglers and tourist but also by owners of businesses locally. If Canoeist were allowed on the river it would decrease the value of our asset and we would look to the Welsh Assembly for compensation.

Should you wish to have any further information regarding the fish catches, breeding programme, number of anglers and day tickets sold the NDFA would be very happy to oblige.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. N. Evans', written in a cursive style.

R. N. Evans
Hon. Secretary