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## West Kirby Lake closure?

Posted by markh - 2008/05/25 12:19

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I've been told by a number of WK residents that the Lake will be closed for upto 12-months whilst contractors replace (not repair) the original 100 year old section of wall on the south end of the lake. All I can find on the subject is this article in the Daily post dated 16th May. Has this proposal moved on & since been approved? Any body know start & completion dates? And how does this effect licence fee's? Long term, its good that the repairs are being done, but its a shame that the repairs couldnt have been carried during the summer light wind session instead of the stronger wind session.

Daily post 16th May.

ONE of Merseyside's most popular seaside walks could be washed away unless urgent repair works are carried out.

West Kirby Marine Lake's outer wall is crumbling, and engineers say it is only a matter of time before it becomes too dangerous to allow visitors to continue walking along it.

The popular seaside walk, along the outer wall of the lake, has become a feature of the promenade in west Wirral since it was built more than a century ago.

But a report to Wirral Council says "the rate of degradation is increasing such that it is now important that works are carried out as a matter of urgency".

However, the works will cost £750,000 and could also mean closure of the lake while the repairs are carried out.

The Marine Lake, at West Kirby, was originally opened in 1899 as a leisure facility, with the outer wall retaining the water in the lake and providing a walkway for the public.

The construction also reduced the exposure of South Parade to tidal attack during times of storm.

But, by the early 1980s, the outer wall had deteriorated to such an extent that it was in some doubt whether to even repair the lake wall or even to demolish and abandon it, or whether to carry out the necessary reconstruction works.

Following a full economic and technical analysis, the decision was taken to demolish the existing lake outer wall and build a new one to the seaward side, providing a much larger area of water.

This had the result of also retaining the walkway around the lake and the sheltering effect of the outer wall on South Parade. This work was carried out in 1986/87.

The inner face of the outer wall was constructed using a specialised marine bituminous mixture which had a life expectancy of 20-25 years, and is now showing signs of "distress".

The report, which will be considered by the council's cabinet later this month, said: "There have been a number of localised failures of the material, which have been repaired. However, the rate of degradation is increasing such that it is now important that works are carried out as a matter of urgency.

"If works are not carried out, then the outer wall will become unsafe for the public to use, debris from the failing wall will accumulate within the lake, and the protective effect of the wall on South Parade will be lost."

There are also concerns that rising sea-levels, increasing stormy weather and the increasing age of the outer wall are all likely to accelerate the rate of deterioration.

If, as expected, the council approves the repair work it is likely that work will start on site in November and finish in spring, 2009.

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## Re:West Kirby Lake closure?

Posted by CaptainNemo - 2008/06/01 16:53

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Mark,

I contacted the Daily Post the day after their article via email, however, there was no reply.

interestingly enough there is no real mention of this world class windsurfing venue which is a pity.

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I guess the timing is based on the frequency of walkers without consideration of lake users.

Does anybody know what the sailing club take is on this issue as I guess they may have a bit more leverage.

I am sure they have similar thoughts to us on the opportunities for expanding the lake as well as the timing for closure?

Cheers

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## Re:West Kirby Lake closure?

Posted by gopher68 - 2008/06/02 11:44

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If I were on the Council I would be leaning on the developers for a substantial contribution, without the Lake and its' amenities their complex doesn't have a lot to offer.

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## Re:West Kirby Lake closure?

Posted by Coany - 2008/06/03 01:35

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mmm Why did the victorian wall last 100 years & the modern design 25??  
And shouldn't we be building hydro electric barriers across the whole estuary these days? with the by-product of more windsurfing time as a bonus....

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## Re:West Kirby Lake closure?

Posted by boardy - 2008/06/04 12:17

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Mark,

I found an article at the website below advising closure in November.

[http://icwirral.icnetwork.co.uk/news/hoylakeandwestkirbynews/tm\\_headline=marine-lake-must-close%26method=full%26objectid=20939185%26siteid=80898-name\\_page.html](http://icwirral.icnetwork.co.uk/news/hoylakeandwestkirbynews/tm_headline=marine-lake-must-close%26method=full%26objectid=20939185%26siteid=80898-name_page.html)

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## Re:West Kirby Lake closure?

Posted by TwoFish - 2008/06/04 15:45

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boardy wrote:

Mark,

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[http://icwirral.icnetwork.co.uk/news/hoylakeandwestkirbynews/tm\\_headline=marine-lake-must-close%26method=full%26objectid=20939185%26siteid=80898-name\\_page.html](http://icwirral.icnetwork.co.uk/news/hoylakeandwestkirbynews/tm_headline=marine-lake-must-close%26method=full%26objectid=20939185%26siteid=80898-name_page.html)

Clicking the link didn't work for me. Instead I got two links to articles on shedding belly fat. Clearly the linked material is very cleverly targeted :blush:

A quick search on 'Marine Lake' on the linked site soon produced the article though.

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## Re:West Kirby Lake closure?

Posted by markh - 2008/06/04 17:58

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I could do with loosing a few kilos due to the prevailing light winds.

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## Re:West Kirby Lake closure?

Posted by bobapcoed - 2008/06/16 17:05

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Having read the article a bit more closely, it says "could mean closure", during the works. It also says that they would be building on the seaward side, leading to 2 possibilities :- a bigger lake and no need to close the lake, except for demolition and dredging out the old wall. Ok it wouldn't get it's tidal replenishment, but most lakes don't.:laugh:

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## Re:West Kirby Lake closure?

Posted by robthe? - 2008/06/16 19:57

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from what i've heard from lisening to other instructors/ wardens

the metal cladding on the outside of the wall is going to be done,  
the concrete is going to be redone where worn away and reinforced  
two new 'sloshers' are going to be fitted to help with the drainage of the lake a removable of mud  
at the lake is going to be made 10cm ish deeper

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## Re:West Kirby Lake closure?

Posted by bert - 2008/06/19 17:39

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I heard that it may be closed for about three months in the winter. I understand a certain local club are slightly worried about a competition which is traditionally held on the lake in the beginning of May.....

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## Re:West Kirby Lake closure?

Posted by cleggy - 2008/06/20 17:24

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I'd be miffed if it is closed for a long period as I've paid for my annual licence.

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## Re:West Kirby Lake closure?

Posted by markh - 2008/06/20 19:47

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The lads in the hut told me that as its not clear how long the lake will be closed for (builders schedule, cups of tea etc), we will have to apply for a refund on outstanding amounts once the lake re-opens. The school wanted to extend licences to keep it simple, but the council wanted to go down the refund route.

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