

THE LAKE USERS GROUP

The Users Group is a fairly informal body set up by the NCA to keep Lake users across issues impacting on the Lake and to get feed back on the management of the Lake and any developing problems in relation to usage. Our interest is not confined to the water area but extends to the general environment of the Lake.

In relation to the Immigration Bridge in summary our involvement has been as follows: questions were first raised by members of the Group as a result of the publicity generated by the proponents which appeared to suggest that the proposal had some formal status. The NCA informed the group that although there had been discussions with the proponents nothing was agreed let alone approved and it was up to the proponents to come up with a formal proposal and a design which would then go through the normal NCA processes including consultation with both users and the general public . Notwithstanding that assurance the Group felt it should identify those criteria that from the point of view of lake users should be applied to any consideration of any proposal that might be received. Those criteria were formally relayed to the NCA and I am informed form part of the NCA submission to the Committee. In all the Group has raised the issue with the NCA on several occasions but has received the same assurance that the Authority has nothing formal to which it can respond. At the last meeting of the Group the proponents attended as invitees and the views of the Group were made known to them. In general terms they indicated that they believed those concerns could be accommodated.

Whilst the proper concerns of the Group are focused on the possible impact of any such development on the use of the lake it would be fair to say that there are more general individual concerns among members about the proposal and its promotion but as a Group we are agreed those matters are outside our charter.

If there is anything further I can do to assist the Committee please let me know, but apart from outlining the above history I don't believe there is anything I can add to the process.

Tony Blunn