

Best Practice Bulletin #2

Five star community engagement

The Nottingham Left Bank project involves the construction of a 27km flood defence along the River Trent. With such varied working environments, every step of the project presented fresh challenges and tested our team to the limit. We thought we would share some of our best practice examples with the wider framework team, to make all our lives a little bit easier...

Keeping Disruption to a minimum

Throughout the project, the team worked hard to ensure that their work caused the minimum amount of disruption to residents in the area. Initially, two footpaths running through the site at Attenborough were due to be closed for the duration of the project. By installing a gated system across the footpaths, they remained open throughout the project and were only closed when the team needed access to the area. Additional haul routes were also constructed around the site to ensure that movement of heavy plant and machinery around Attenborough village was kept to a minimum.

Direct Community Engagement

Throughout the project, the team was in close contact with residents affected by the works. The project had two dedicated Public Liaison Officers available to answer questions from the public. Public information boards were placed in areas accessed by the public and updated on a regular basis to inform them of project developments and a number of evening consultation events were held to provide residents with information about the scheme and to answer any queries or concerns.

Working with local businesses

Wherever possible, the team tried to work with local businesses to ensure their impact on them was minimised. For example, when the water and electrical supply was interrupted to the Attenborough Nature Reserve, the team supplied bowzers and generators to the reserve in order to keep it running. The team also held weekly meetings with staff at the reserve to ensure they were kept informed on the programme of works within the reserve. The team also managed to reduce the closure of Tamworth Road in Sawley from four weeks to two weeks, to ensure the minimum impact to businesses on this road.

Putting something back

The team has also worked hard to keep local residents happy and tried to mitigate any disruptions to the local area by giving something back to the community. Prior to commencing work, the site had to be cleared of trees. Rather than disposing of all the wood, the site team offered it to local residents to use for firewood. In addition, engineers from the Attenborough site visited Dunkirk Primary School for a day to teach the children about site safety and engineering.

