

Notes of Meeting

Date: 8 July 2020
Time: 14:30 - 16:00
Place: Zoom Virtual

West Wolds
Slow the Flow

www.westwoldsslowtheflow.org.uk

1 Present

1.1 Amanda Foster, Becky Preston (EA); Becky O'Sullivan (Newbald PC); Bill+Elizabeth Blackledge (2B); Bob Munby (South Cave PC); Claire Wood (Ellerker PC); Gary Collins (Flood Risk Manager, Yorkshire Water); Richard Powell (Brantingham PC); Victoria Aitken (ERYC Ward Cllr); Jackie North (North Cave).

Apologies

1.2 Mike Kitching (ERYC) due to technical difficulties.

2 Actions/Matters Arising from the last meeting (4 June)

- 2.1 *8.1 ERYC / EA / YW (IDB?) to confirm future or imminent planning or site works in respect of flood or water management within Mill Beck Catchment (at each meeting). Did not happen at this meeting but see item 6.*
- 2.2 *8.2 HERCP to report back on position with WWSTF. See item 3.*
- 2.3 *8.3 BB circulate draft of WWSTF aims for approval by group. Done via email + website homepage. Everybody was happy that this represents our collective position.*
- 2.4 *8.4 BB Website/Mapping under development. Discussed in email of 10 June 2020. We have potential to use more sophisticated ArcGIS online mapping.*
- 2.5 *8.5 BB to check Gary Collins availability for next meeting. Gary was at the meeting. Requested information about the North Cave Finkle St relief drain not yet available - Gary is chasing his Opps Team. Gary said that YW had fitted a tideflex valve for surface water outfall to the beck following the 2007 flooding - but this was not the same intervention. Agreed to ask Andy McLachlan if he knows 'who and when'. BB to action.*

3 Hull + East Riding Catchment Partnership (HERCP) – status of West Wolds Slow the Flow

3.1 *As noted in email of 3/7/2020: HERCP is happy to be associated with WWSTF but, as WWSTF is effectively a partnership (agencies, parish councils and residents) HERCP has no way of affiliating with another partnership. At present they partner with individual organisations (e.g. EA, ERYC, Rivers Trust). As an example, if they partner with WWSTF and its parish councils, what is to stop dozens of other East Riding parish councils requesting to be part of HERCP? This is an issue, because WWSTF does need to be a partnership in its own right in order to function. There is considerable overlap between HERCP's and WWSTF's aims, but they are*

not the same. HERCP's aims are driven by the Water Framework Directive (mostly around water quality), ours are driven by reducing flooding and improving the environment in the Mill Beck Catchment. This does not mean that we cannot work together and exchange ideas. Amanda is a common link and Bill could attend HERCP meetings if the need arose. HERCP could still be a potential link for funding when our projects align with theirs.

- 3.2 Amanda considered that this slightly more informal relationship (affiliated with, rather than 'part of' HERCP) would achieve all the aims that we had sought, for example to unlock funding and link our approaches.

4 Status of WWSTF

- 4.1 The status of WWSTF was discussed. Those who spoke were content that it is a 'partnership' and wished to avoid complex formalities if possible (as experienced by charities for example). It was suggested by RP there should be something that partners sign up to. BB suggested Terms of Reference - (HEYwoods does the same thing) which all partners could 'sign' (or formally consent to agree to, confirmed in meeting notes) thereby indicating commitment to the shared principles. TOR to be drafted and issued for discussion.
- 4.2 BB also explained that he and Liz had a meeting, with a contact from National Flood Forum, to discuss Community Interest Companies (CIC), Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO) or other charitable status and were concerned at the amount of work involved. Whilst it might be possible to get other members of the community to take key roles (chair, treasurer, secretary) all those closely involved in WWSTF have existing commitments such as parish council work etc.
- 4.3 As the meeting went on, it became clear that the partnership role should function satisfactorily. GC suggested that his YW colleague, Andy Prest, might be able to advise further. HERCP partners such as ERYC or YW could act as 'bankers' for WWSTF if necessary.

5 Funding to achieve feasibility/masterplan

- 5.1 GC said that, as a result of WWSTF being set up, he had been talking to ERYC about a combined fund with YW to pay consultants for a feasibility study across the West Wolds, He would also expect contribution from EA. From YW's point of view their sewage-related issues are directly connected with surface water, so justify expenditure.
- 5.2 The consultants would identify a range of projects which could be further developed by the flood risk management agencies. WWSTF would set the brief and would be the core body that the consultants and agencies report to. Importantly they must work with communities and landowners. Noted that community experience of small-scale issues (e.g. surface-water flood paths) and suggestions for solutions is needed to fill in gaps that will not be apparent from desktop mapping. The brief may also ask how they would engage with communities

- 5.3 Agreed that part of consultants' brief should be to seek local knowledge on issues and solutions, perhaps via Google MyMaps or similar. Brief needs to set approach, not define specific local problems to be solved. The project needs to deliver catchment-wide multiple-benefit, multi-agency solutions, which has not happened previously. The result of the consultants' work should be available to WWSTF to develop and combine with other solutions and sources of funding.
- 5.4 This would be an important step forwards in funding the development of a working plan.

6 Agency Operations

- 6.1 All agreed that we need a much clearer understanding of agency activities and the geographic spread of their works. CW requested that each agency provide an operational update for each meeting so that we have a better collective understanding of our starting point. This was requested at the last meeting but the possibility of funded development adds urgency to the need to understand existing operations across the partnership area.
- 6.2 GC agreed that operational issues are directly linked to strategic needs.

7 Hull University

- 7.1 Would like to be involved in research, citizen science etc but faces funding issues. Our contacts in the Flood Innovation Centre have gone off to talk to other colleagues about the possible areas of involvement.

8 Any Other Business

- 8.1 AF said that following comments raised through WWSTF there is a new process to make Beck maintenance more sympathetic and to better integrate fisheries and biodiversity considerations within EA with the operational maintenance.
- 8.2 JN raised a question about the footbridge over beck at Paper Mill being closed. Reasons not known.
- 8.3 CW noted particularly bad issue of blanket weed in Ellerker Beck, similar issues at Newbald beck and Brantingham pond. AF to enquire within EA and report back to group.

9 Actions

- 9.1 **Ref 2.5 BB** to contact Andy McLachlan ref Finkle St relief drain.
- 9.2 **Ref 2.5** Subject to above, **GC** to obtain information from Opps Team ref Finkle St relief drain.
- 9.3 **Ref 4.1 BB** to draft WWSTF Terms of Reference and issue for discussion.
- 9.4 **Ref 5.1 GC** to pursue proposal of multi-agency funding for consultants.
- 9.5 **Ref 5 BB** to outline brief for consultants for discussion at next meeting.
- 9.6 **Ref 6 BP(EA) / GC(YW) / MK(ERYC)** to provide brief operational report of relevant activities in WWSTF area, ideally issued ahead of next and future meetings (no more than 1 side A4?).

10 Date of Next Meeting

- 10.1 Early August, to be confirmed ASAP by Doodle Poll.