

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Strategic River Group

Wednesday 30th September 2015

Kingston Room, Pump Rooms, Bath

DRAFT Minutes

Chair: John Wilkinson (B&NES)

Present: Cllr Martin Veal (B&NES), Tim Hewitt (B&NES), Mark Minkley (B&NES), Jim Collings (B&NES), Cathryn Humphries (B&NES), Dan Green (Wessex Water), Zoe Hancock (Wessex Water/B&NES), David Crowson (EA), Richard Rutter (CRT), Mark Evans (CRT), Aiden Johnson-Hugill (CRT), Dave Laming (RRT), Alison Howell (Natural England),

		Action
1.	<p>Apologies Louise Fradd (B&NES), Lisa Bartlett (B&NES), Simon Martin (B&NES), Ruth Barden (Wessex Water), Rob Seaman (Avon Fire & Rescue)</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes and outstanding actions from previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate plans for Pulteney Railing Project • Develop a Communications Plan for Water Space Study that aligns with all project partners • Set up a webpage/twitter account for SRG and Water Space Study • Invite SRG members to contribute to Communication Plan • Develop a business plan template for River Corridor Fund- for consideration at SRG • Set up a Grant Programme- help with administering River Corridor Fund • Produce case studies/summary document- raise awareness of good work being delivered via River Corridor fund 	<p>SM ZH</p> <p>ZH ZH TH</p> <p>TH ZH</p>
3.	<p>Questions- Update Papers <u>River Safety Group Paper- provided by Cathryn Humphries (Chair of River Safety Group)</u> RR- How have the River Safety Cabinets been received? CH- 14 bespoke river rescue cabinets have now been installed along the River Avon in Bath between Windsor Bridge and Pulteney Weir. There has been no emergency use of the river cabinets since their instalment, two of the River Cabinets have had graffiti removed, and all of the cabinets remain intact so far. The cabinets are checked every 2 weeks. A promotional film has also been developed as part of a communications campaign to educate the public on how to use the cabinets. This has been widely promoted at the University Fresher's Fairs and has over 1000 hits already. Link to video below: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM9Hq82PD7w Action- All SRG partners to promote this video where possible via websites/twitter AH- Enquired how much light the cabinets emit with relation to impact on local bat population</p>	All

	<p>Action- CH to send information to AH (Natural England) with regards to light levels from cabinets</p> <p><u>River Task Group Paper- provided by Zoe Hancock</u> No questions were raised.</p>	CH/TH
4	<p>Update- Lead Local Flood Authority JC provided a summary with regards to the Bath & North East Somerset Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) which is currently out for consultation. Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA's) were set up after the Pitt Review to deal with local flood risk including surface water, ground water, and ordinary water course flooding events. The EA remain responsible for main rivers. The Strategic Flood Board was formed in B&NES to focus on managing flood risk, as we can't stop flooding the focus is on prevention measures and raising awareness/ educating local residents. LLFA's also have a statutory consultee role and comment on all major developments with regards to flood risk.</p> <p>The LFRMS consultation finishes in mid-October, the summary document is below: http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/lfrms_summary_doc_draft_for_consult_150827.pdf</p> <p>The main document can be found here: http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/lfrms_main_doc_draft_for_consult_150827.pdf</p> <p>The Surface Water Management Plan identifies wet spots throughout B&NES and has collated 900 reports of surface water flooding; this Plan also supports the LFRMS.</p> <p>The LLFA has also been working on Property Level Protection measures in the Chew Magna area and will be carrying out a practice flood day on Saturday 3rd October, with all key partners supporting the event. Flood wardens have played a key role with local coordination and communications.</p> <p>DC- The LFRM Strategy would benefit from signposting to other relevant documents more clearly- how does this align with other work that is going on?</p> <p>DL- Very encouraging to see all of the work that has been done to date with regards to Broadmead Peninsula, DL offered his time/help to progressing this further</p> <p>MM- Does the LFRMS take into account SUDS/ Blue infrastructure work?</p> <p>JC-The LFRMS does not incorporate SUDS, LLFA left in limbo after Government dropped Schedule 3; there is no tools/policy guidance to enable planners to implement SUDS as a standard. At present, developers need to incorporate sustainable drainage <u>if</u> financially viable. LLFA will be asking for a steer from Cabinet as to how to address this moving forwards in B&NES</p> <p>ZH- One of the key outcomes of the Water Space Study is to improve communications and alignment of flood defence delivery work, this could be another communication channel to raise the profile of SUDS and strengthen the case for implementing tools/guidance required.</p>	
5	<p>Water Space Study ZH provided an update via PowerPoint presentation, (attached with minutes). Key points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding has now been agreed from the following partners to support the Water Space Study: Environment Agency, Canal & River Trust, Wessex Water and Bath & North East Somerset Council 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Project Steering Group is meeting for the first time in October, this group will review the Project Brief/Consultancy brief • A Communications Plan will be developed to ensure the project delivers clear outputs and we achieve join up across the partner organisations <p>Key aims of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve our evidence base- this will enable us to make more informed decisions, especially with regards to boating requirements and policy guidance for boat dwellers • Consult with key stakeholders- this will ensure that local people and businesses are engaged and involved with the process of restoring our river/canal networks • Align this Study with other key work programmes- this will ensure that the Study compliments and strategically supports other project delivery • Develop a Work Programme (Action Plan)- this will provide a balanced social, economic and environmental delivery programme that prioritises actions to deliver sustainable improvements along the river/canal network • Develop a joint Mooring Strategy/Management Plan <p>Potential Outputs/Benefits of the study (need prioritising by the Steering Group):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work Programme for River/Canal (2,5, 10 year projects) 2. Development of collaborative River Fund 3. Improved communications/alignment of Flood Work 4. Improved evidence base to inform boating policy 5. Mooring Strategy/Management Plan 6. Way forward to resolve Navigational Authority 7. Improve access/transport links around canal/river 8. Improve health and wellbeing benefits for local residents 9. Identification of commercial opportunities and energy projects 10. Biodiversity and water quality improvements 11. Review of all un-used space along the river/canal- improve for community and economic benefit 12. Long term- River Officer (supported by partnership) <p>River Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeployment underway • Provisional interview mid-November 2015 • Appointment asap thereafter • Overlap with River Co-ordinator: induction for first 3 months <p><u>Feedback from SRG:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to define a ToR for the Steering Group/Project Board - Need to define a clear communications structure- need to be clear how SRG joins in to this process; establish a framework for how decisions will be made - Consider the role of the River Officer and WSS in funding bids - Need a data base of information that can be shared with SRG, River Safety Group, Strategic Flood Board, external partners etc - River Officer needs to have strong project management skills- what structure support will the officer have- who will be the programme manager for this work? Need Project Teams to deliver different outputs - Outcomes of WSS need to incorporate Water Framework Directive targets- all have a statutory responsibility to improve health of water environment (EU legislation) - Need to understand how the river and canal corridor functions and provides 	
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	<p>for local wildlife, including bats. Need to develop a joint strategy for bats across the whole corridor crucially understanding how bats and development can co-exist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to understand the existing/planned work scheduled for the river - Should aim to collate all evidence base over the next few months, so when consultants are hired we understand what the baseline information is <p>Action- River Officer position needs to be advertised on all partner websites</p> <p>Action- All partner organisations need to think if anyone within their organisations who could be seconded into the role</p> <p>Action- Communications Plan and Structure needs to be reviewed at first Steering Group meeting with ToR</p> <p>Action- a Baseline study is required for bats across the corridor, need to understand what light levels there are now, need to understand where key sites are for bats. Also need to review existing survey data collected in previous planning applications and conduct surveys next year</p> <p>Action- investigate if a BSc/MSc/PhD student can develop a study on the bats and conduct surveys</p> <p>Action- invite academic institutions to consult and support the Water Space Study</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>ZH</p> <p>AH/TH</p> <p>AH/TH</p> <p>MM</p>
6	<p>River Corridor Fund</p> <p>TH provided a summary of previous spend via the River Corridor Fund; please see attached presentation for more details.</p> <p>£150k has been confirmed for the 2015/16 River Corridor Fund. This will be allocated to the following projects as agreed at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulteney railings- pedestrian safety measures (ongoing) • Bathampton/Batheaston recreational improvements (proposal presented at meeting and supported) • Interim mooring management solutions for Pulteney and Saltford, Mead Lane (with CRT)- (ongoing discussion with CRT) • Potential slipway- Saltford (proposal suggested at meeting) • The Boathouse- renovations for River Community Hub (RRT and CRT) (ongoing) • River Officer- to support Water Space Study (ongoing) <p>TH has applied for £150k for 2016/17, proposed projects so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further safety improvement work • Lighting/Bat Strategy (with Natural England) • Flood Radial Gate studies/research • River Officer- Water Space Study • Signage and Wayfinding (e.g. Bath Rugby to Spa Station) <p>Action- Request individual costs for Bathampton Project and check for high risk areas for safety</p> <p>Action- Consider recruiting a flood officer at Bathampton project- could help with flood warnings and closing off recreational areas (12 hour warning). Site needs to be checked for high risk issues with safety</p>	<p>ZH</p> <p>ZH</p>
7	<p>████████████████████</p> <p>██</p> <p>██</p> <p>██</p>	

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<p>8</p>	<p>Communications</p> <p>TH presented a summary of some of the projects/work programmes that are currently ongoing in the B&NES area, see attached presentation.</p> <p>DC- a comprehensive communications plan is required for the Water Space Study, B&NES should be the communications lead but have clear people to speak to across all partner organisations.</p> <p>Action- Communications plan should include an agreed protocol</p>	<p>ZH</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>A.O.B</p> <p>DC- Funding has been secured from the LEP in Taunton to improve river and complete river work, up to £9 million has been made available. We must ensure the Water Space Study identifies projects that the LEP are interested and able to fund in the future. WSS will need to demonstrate growth and link to LEP interests</p> <p>MV- Will be chairing the Construction Excellence Club in Bath, invites partners of the SRG to attend and network.</p> <p>ZH- On behalf of David Fearn from Kennet & Avon Canal Trust raised the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Twerton Flood Defence Scheme- concerns from K&A Canal Trust will be raised with the Project Manager for this scheme at the Council - Trees overgrowing into the river- this will be considered with other management issues as part of the Water Space Study - Pulteney Weir Radial Gate- concerns from K&A Canal Trust will be raised with the Project Manager for this scheme at the Council - River Moorings at Pulteney Weir- this issue is currently being considered by CRT and B&NES, looking at options for an interim solution to re-open the moorings during safe periods until the Water Space Study is finalised in Spring 2017 <p>Action- MV to send invites to Construction Excellence Club to SRG members</p> <p>Action- ZH to follow up the above issues with the relevant project manager at the Council and report back to the K&A Canal Trust</p> <p>Action- ZH to set dates for 2016 SRG dates</p> <p>Date of next meeting Tuesday 8th December 2015 Venue: Aix en Provence Room, Guildhall, Bath</p>	<p>MV</p> <p>ZH</p> <p>ZH</p>

Summary Table of Actions:

Agenda Item	Lead	Action Detail
3	ALL	All SRG partners to promote this video where possible via websites/twitter
3	CH	CH to send information to AH (Natural England) with regards to light levels from safety cabinets
5	ALL	River Officer position needs to be advertised on all partner websites
5	ALL	All partner organisations need to think if anyone within their organisations who could be seconded into the River Officer role and contact MM
5	ZH	Communications Plan and Structure needs to be reviewed at first Steering Group meeting with ToR- with regards to Water Space Study
5	AH/TH	A Baseline study is required for bats across the corridor, need to understand what light levels there are now, need to understand where key sites are for bats. Also need to review existing survey data collected in previous planning applications and conduct surveys next year.
5	TH/MM	Investigate if a BSc/MSc/PhD student can develop a study on the bats and conduct surveys/help with this work
5	MM	Invite academic institutions to consult and support the Water Space Study
6	ZH	Request individual costs for Bathampton Project and check for high risk areas for safety next to river
6	ZH	Consider recruiting a flood officer at Bathampton project- could help with flood warnings and closing off recreational areas (12 hour warning). Site needs to be checked for high risk issues with safety
7	RR	CRT to circulate a timeline for project delivery to SRG
7	EP	B&NES to send update to CRT on most current planning application information
7	AJH	CRT to identify commercial stakeholders who have an interest in the venture, this will consider looking at regional, independent businesses
8	ZH	Communications plan should include an agreed protocol for press related work for the Water Space Study
9	MV	Send invites to Construction Excellence Club to SRG members
9	ZH	Follow up the issues raised by K&A Canal Trust with the relevant project manager at the Council and report back to the K&A Canal Trust
9	ZH	ZH to set dates for 2016 SRG dates