

Wensum Working Group Meeting 23rd July 2018

Attending

Kelvin Allen, Tim Ellis, Colin Howlett, Nick Cheeseman, Dennis Willis, Roger Gibbons & Jez Wood

Apologies

Paul Doggett and Peter Cutting

This was the initial meeting in which the group now sits under the governance of the BASG CIC. Kelvin explained the governance structure put in place to support all of the groups sub committees of which the WWG is one. Each sub committee will have a nominated BASG director and a number of members as part of its structure.

For the WWG Kelvin Allen is the Director and Tim Ellis, Colin Howlett and Nick Cheeseman are the representative members. These appointments follow the discussion and action from the previous WWG meeting held on the 10th April. The group is further made up of currently 22 volunteers.

Kelvin explained that following the previous meeting, some of the previous members have decided to step away and not continue with the WWG journey. Yes we have lost some fishery owners, but these have been succeeded by more anglers who actually fish the Wensum.

Appointment of Officers

It was unanimously agreed that Kelvin should continue as Chairman

Roger Gibbons was appointed as Vice Chair

After discussion Kelvin agreed to undertake a joint Secretary and Chairman's role.

Volunteer Roles

BASG has adopted a policy of each of its volunteers should have a lead role on some activity. Kelvin has discussed and agreed some of the core overarching roles, but given the number of people involved (currently 58). This was delegated to each sub-committee to agree with its members.

For the WWG we discussed and agreed the following:

Wensum Roach Project	Tim Ellis
Wensum Slit traps	Colin Howlett
Wensum off channel refuge	Colin Howlett
Upper Wensum	Tim Venues
Wensum Diffused Pollution	Roger Gibbons
Wensum Predation	Roger Gibbons
Wensum Crayfish	Dennis Willis
Climate Change	Cass Singleton
Health and Safety	David Miller
Wensum Hellesden	Lloyd Collier
Grants	Rodney Slater
Urban	Nick Cheeseman
Data and Flow	Simon Slater

Action: Kelvin agreed to discuss with Phil Humm a role on exploring funding for the Wensum.

Action: Kelvin to write to the EA (Jez) to get Dennis a position on the Norfolk Crayfish Group.

Avon style Roach Project

Much discussion on this topic. It was felt that much could be learnt from the work Trevor Harrop and team have undertaken on the Avon another river SAC like the Wensum.

The following activities and actions were agreed to form what will become a Roach Strategy for the Wensum.

Jez Wood to investigate EA internal resource and position with regard to the SAC on the Avon.

Tim Ellis has agreed to visit Trevor Harrop and team on the Avon in August.

Jez Wood to scope an off channel refuge set of surveys this Oct-Nov on the Wensum to measure the standing crop of juvenile fish.

Deployment of Soundes

Ursula has £1750 left in the Your Fisheries budget for the Wensum and has proposed that this be used to hire two soundes for 6 months to independently monitor chemical input.

The team felt this was a practical use of the funds and supported it.

A small sub team was agreed to lead on this, led by Roger Gibbons, Colin Howlett and Richard Cooper UEA to agree the actual deployment location and timings to get the best value for money.

Action: Kelvin to write to Richard Cooper for his support and input.

Action: Jez Wood to investigate timing and location advice from the EA.

Action: Kelvin to provide current EA sampling location waypoints.

Norwich City Corridor Strategy

Kelvin, Nick and Tony Gibbons meet with Adrian Clark from BA to define the current angling access across the city reaches of the Wensum. This has identified some 5.8 km of bank owned by Norwich City Council. 2.5kms of which is upstream of New Mills and 1.5kms with potential for a winter urban fishery. We are currently awaiting the final document and mapping prior to a meeting with Norwich City Council to explore this further. The intention is to pilot a form of angling passport scheme on the Wensum, replicating and enhancing the current urban scheme run by the council for hosting competitions.

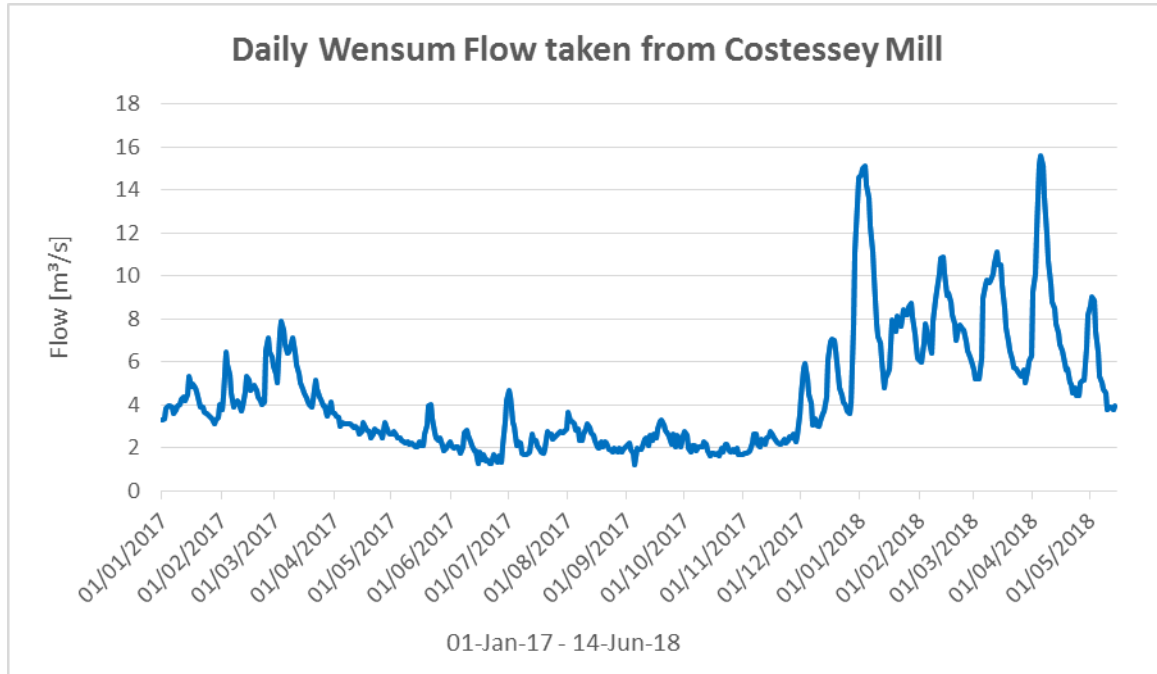
Lenwade RDF Planning Application and Objection

Kelvin has again been in dialogue with Paul Webb as the latest news is a potential planning committee proposal on the 14th Sep 2018.

The applicant has now created a new set of drainage strategy proposals which we welcome the implementation of new Stormwater Filter & Klargestar - Fuel/Oil Separators. However this new drainage strategy still proposes to use the existing surface drainage via the 60 year old concreted yard area with the inherent leakage to groundwater. Paul is seeking further advice on this matter before any further objection, as these proposals have changed the EA stance to now not objecting to this application. With the resultant objections from both NE and LLFA also now removed. Some members felt that this site is already engaged of some form of recycling processing, under the banner of Poly-Pure Ltd.

Wensum Flow

A huge amount of data has been provided by the Agency to provide the underlying data to investigate flow levels. Below is a chart demonstrating the highs and lows in flow over the last 18 months.



More work is currently ongoing to understand this and its impact outside the protected area of the Wensum.

AOB

Future venue for meetings. It was felt that now the meeting room at Taverham Mill is no longer available, we should look for an alternative location. The Memorial Room at Great Witchingham Village Hall could be a potential solution

Action: Kelvin to investigate the booking for regular quarterly meetings.

Future meetings potentially 2nd Tuesday each quarter.

9th Oct 2018

8th Jan 2019

9th Apr 2019

9th Jul 2019

Regards

Kelvin Allen

24th July 2018