

Wensum Working Group Meeting 9th Oct 2018 @ Great Witchingham Village Hall.

Attending

Kelvin Allen, Tim Ellis, Colin Howlett, Paul Doggett, Cass Singleton, Terry Houseago, Dennis Willis & Jez Wood

Apologies

Peter Cutting, Nick Cheeseman, Tim Venues

Kelvin welcomed the group and thanked both Paul and Cass for their membership giving it's their first attendance.

Matters Arising

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

Kelvin met with Phil the previous week and Phil has agreed in principle to an overarching role on finance and obtaining grants.

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

Completed Dennis a member.

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

Completed

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

Completed

Action: Kelvin to provide current EA sampling location waypoints.

Completed

Norwich City Corridor Strategy

This hasn't progressed as fast as we had hoped and still awaiting a meeting with Norwich CC.

Lenwade RDF Planning Application and Objection

The application has been approved on the 14th Sep.

EA Update

Jez announced the his replacement as team lead will be Adrian Wood from 14th Oct for a further 6 month period.

In terms of the Billingford pollution incident a large tanker containing 50,000 litres of ammonium nitrate was vandalised and it subsequently led to escaping via Foxley stream and into Billingford Trout lakes. Quick action from the farmer, EA and fire brigade stopped the chemical entering the IDB drain and subsequently reaching the Wensum. Kelvin has escalated the issue of management of this ammonium nitrate in vast quantities and the risk to the environment giving this is the 2nd such incident relating to tankers being breached in the region this year.

The EA has dealt with an extreme volume of heat related fishery incidents this summer, which has stretched resources to the limit.

Jez stated that a further application for a hydro scheme at New mills on the Wensum is currently with the EA. No consultation has taken place with anglers.

A discussion of current Wensum waters levels and analysis of the previous 5 year data, shows that the levels are no worse than previous for this time of year. Concerns were raised on the condition of the gauging stations, in measuring these low conditions.

Roach Project

Tim is working through a paper on listing all the specific issues facing the creation of a Roach restoration strategy, initially between Elsing and Lyng mills.

It was agreed that once Tim has this drafted, then a specific meeting would review this and formalise the group's position with partners and stakeholders.

Way forward on Sonde Deployment

After much discussion, it was unanimously agreed that any deployment of additional sonde hardware wouldn't provide real benefits to the groups objectives.
Action Kelvin to write to NRT and inform them of this position.

Siltation

The group overwhelming agreed that siltation is one of the major challenges facing the river and that the group should develop a strategy to both identify potential sources and deliver some actual tangible outcomes in removing point source incursion.

After some discussion, it was felt that the area surrounding Cadders Hill in Lyng should be explored further and a site visit undertaken when under heavy rain to capture evidence of run off.

Both Colin Howett and Cass Singleton agreed to undertake this.

Jez Wood also agreed to locate the existing reports on the issue.

Action Jez Wood to distribute the existing EA report on point source siltation.

Action Colin to liaise with Cass on a suitable site visit.

Cormorant Predation

Jake Davoile is meeting with Roger Gibbons on the 31st Oct to scope the current licences and gaps in the current licencing regime along the river. From this, landowners would need to be engaged to discuss proposals for licencing.

John Bailey

Following the recent articles on Roach stocking and quite clearly inappropriate language, it was agreed that the group should adopt an arm's length approach with John Bailey. Kelvin agreed to write to Trevor Harrop from the Avon Roach Project explaining the position of WWG.

Action Kelvin to write to Trevor Harrop.

Future Meeting Dates to be held Great Witchingham Village Hall.

8th Jan 2019

9th Apr 2019

9th Jul 2019

Regards

Kelvin Allen 19th 2018