

Wensum Working Group Meeting 9th Apr 2019 @ Great Witchingham Village Hall 18:00 – 20:30

Previous Minutes

Matters Arising

Action: All members to discuss with their respective clubs the possible adoption of a small membership donation to WWG to cover its fixed costs and report back at the next meeting.

[Completed](#)

Action: Colin agreed to capture some images of the impact of low water levels, so we have evidence of the impact and cause and something to highlight within the wider roach improvement plan.

[Completed](#)

Action: Tim to discuss with Phil Humm and John Bailey on the way forward with Manor Estates.

[Completed](#)

Action: Kelvin to discuss further with Jez Wood the communications on FIP projects. [Completed and proposals to be reviewed on 16th April area management meeting](#)

Action: Tim to explore with Steve Lane the potential for this location to host spawning boards this spring. [Completed](#)

Actions: Kelvin to discuss the recommendations from the APEM 2010 paper on Silt ingress with Rory Sanderson EA Catchment Manager to understand what progress, if any has occurred at these locations. [Discussed at catchment meeting 15th March. Completed](#)

Action: Cass Singleton has agreed to attend a farming event looking at these sort of issues with the wider partners on the 17th Jan at Bradenham Estates, to explore building partnerships and traction on the Wensum. [Completed](#)

Action: Kelvin to update Norfolk CC re Balsham Bash [Completed](#)

BASG Update

Kelvin gave an update on the major projects being addressed by the CIC.

The Hoveton Great Broad proposals for a major bio-manipulation and isolation from the Bure system has major impact on the Broads catchment in terms of Bream. All the evidence and study data has been forwarded to the IFM, who we have engaged to undertake an independent study and ramifications'. This study is costing BASG £600.

The development of Whitlingham as a fishery is now formally being considered by the working group involving all key stakeholders.

The lease agreement of the platforms at Rollesby Broad is progressing.

Donations

Roger Gibbons has offered that the NFF club will cover the GWVH costs for the next meeting of £25. Members agreed that an annual donation of £10 per club, seemed a workable solution starting from the Oct-19 meeting, given the costs are limited to hire of meeting room.

Wensum Past Present Future

Kelvin and Tim introduced the document, shared with the agreed review group last week.

The document, which has grown from the initial Wensum Roach Project paper and now captures on the wider challenges facing the Wensum and reflects on the past, present and future challenges.

All thought this was a sound and structured piece of work and thanked the team for pulling this together. It was agreed to share this with the full membership and seek comments and feedback prior to its formal consultation in May. The document is attached to members.

Action all to review this current draft v10 and feedback comments to Cass Singleton by 31st April.

Catchment Partnership Approach

Given that much of the future contained in section 5 and 6 of the Wensum Past Present and Future reflects on adopting the Catchment Partnership Approach, Kelvin took the opportunity to attend and present this at last month's wider Broads Rivers Catchment Partnership meeting. The presentation is available [here](#). This was very well received and firmly put the issues facing the Wensum on the map.

Since the meeting, Kelvin has received correspondence from the Upper Wensum Farming Cluster Group, a group of 21 farmers and landowners within the upper Wensum to join together in seeking a way of working together in partnership. Kelvin has also received offers on financial support from the Broads Rivers Catchment Fund in funding projects. This is quite a step of WWG and careful consideration is needed in how we can deliver this, within our volunteer structure.

Kelvin in meeting with Rory Sanderson on the 11th April to discuss a potential governance structure for the Wensum, modelled on that used within the CamEO catchment.

Members also agreed that this should be presented to the WACA committee, who have shown much interest in the process.

The focus of all of this remains silt ingress, which we need to structure a layered approach in dealing with this, both at field level, headland / buffer level and silt trap projects.

The APEM document from 2010 on Wensum Rural Sediment is available to download [here](#).

Resultant Projects and ownership

The Wensum Past Present and Future documents will take each of the specific issues and lay out a set of recommendations on the project by project basis, thereby creating a plan of action broken into specific component elements. Combined this is a huge task, but if broken down into manageable elements with achievable outcomes, then across all the stakeholders some traction must be achievable.

EA Update

Jez gave an update on activities across the Agency relevant to the Wensum.

Clearly things are progressing in terms of improved communication and consultation, which can only help things progress. His presentation is available [here](#).

Jez offered a potential site visit to Costessey and the restoration activities. Members thought this would be a good idea. **Action** Jez to arrange with RWRS team.

Lyng Silt Trap

Colin has attended site meetings with both 'Ed Bramham-Jones NRT Matthew Philpott from the IDB. This had now matured into a larger project in potentially providing silt traps and off channel refuge within the IDB drains associated with the fields and flood plain. Matthew has taking this away to pull together a project plan. Kelvin and Jez have secured an additional £3000 FIP money to support this.

Cormorant Predation

Roger provided Kelvin with a written report.

I have made Jake aware that NFC application for culling on our stretch of river had been rejected by NE. I also advised him that I was now trying to get answer from NE on whether they would permit culling under licence on any parts of River - hence my e mail (copied to Jake) to Nik Bertholdt at NE

Norwich Office. This NE policy decision is key to what we can or cannot do with regard to Cormorant Predation on River Wensum.

Balsham Bash

This has received a sound response from members and we are awaiting notification from Norfolk CC on when the planned campaign will start.

AOB All

Future Meeting Dates to be held Great Witchingham Village Hall.

9th Jul 2019

8th Oct 2019

14th Jan 2020

Regards Kelvin Allen 10th April 2019