



# TYNE CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

**14 September 2017 9.30am – 3.30pm**

**St Andrew's Church Hall, Lamesley**

Present: Hugh Clear-Hill (Chairman), Susan Mackirdy (Tyne Rivers Trust), Liz Walters (Tyne Rivers Trust, note taker), Abi Mansley (Northumberland National Park Authority), Peter Shield (Gateshead Council), Graham Holyoak (Tyne Rivers Trust), Gayle Wilson (Gateshead Council), Davey Parks (The Skill Mill), Stuart McLeod (Port of Tyne), Clare Deasy (Northumbrian Water), Jennine Jonczyk (Urban Observatory), Rob Carr (Environment Agency), Becky Hetherington (National Trust), Vicky Cuthbertson (Groundwork), Heather Brittlebank (Natural England), Frances Fewster (Natural England), Stephen Marshall (EA)

## **1. HC-H Welcome and introductions**

### **2. Adopt – a – Stream** Graham Holyoak Tyne Rivers Trust

Adopt – a – Stream aims to involve the community in monitoring rivers, issue reporting and working to solve issues with partners.

In the last six months Graham has been working on the website, app and branding of the project which has resulted in 'My Tyne'. This brand will be available for anyone to use who is working with communities in the Tyne catchment. The logo can be interpreted in several different ways and could be used on t-shirts, bags and other merchandise.

The project has taken a lot of its principles from the Haltwhistle Burn Community project and the website and app are currently under development by TAC, who developed the website for The Sill. When developed the following monitoring themes will be included:

- Water quality
- Flooding
- Wildlife rare/key species
- Invasive species
- Enjoyment/land management issues eg access/litter

So far the basic function of the app has been completed but the branding has not been added to the app. The site will include an interactive maps which will highlight individual records.

So far the project has been funded by Tyne Rivers Trust. A bid for funding to Esmee Fairbairn Foundation has been turned down but a First Stage application to the Postcode Lottery has been accepted recently. It is hoped that some partners will feel able to part fund adopt – a – stream. The level of funding is in the £10,000s, but it can be as big as we would like to make it. The critical thing is to fund a person to run the project.

Tyne Rivers Trust has spoken to some corporates including Robertsons, ESH, Isuzu, Keir, Karbon Homes and Riley's Fish Shack. Most are not interested in funding the development of Adopt – a – Stream but would be interested in funding a community based project eg working with a local school.

Tyne Rivers Trust will approach these companies again when AAS is set up and is currently concentrating on companies who are more likely to give a cash donation for the development of the project.

The next steps are the following:

- Finish and test the app
- Launch to groups that we already work with
- Test the app on new groups
- Approach our partners
- Continue with the funding bids

The Partnership discussed Adopt a Stream and the following points were made:

- The data collected will be held by TRT on behalf of the Tyne Catchment Partnership (TCP), it would be available to all the partners and sent to relevant places eg ERIC and EA. Additional functions could be added in at any time and could include any river related publically collected data.
- Capacity issues: would TRT be able to carry out an initial interpretation of the data before sharing or pass on reports of INNS?
- Expectations. Care needs to be taken to ensure the launch tests the website and project properly and in the right way.
- Opportunities to work with schools and businesses eg introduce water management in the form of SUDS schemes and take advantage of meetings with developers to mention the project – promotional material available.

### **3. The Skill Mill Davey Parks**

Davey explained that he is a Team Manager at the Newcastle Youth Offending Team. The Skill Mill began as a partnership between the Youth Offending Team, Environment Agency and Northumberland Wildlife Trust. The people who take part in the Skill Mill are young offenders, who are trained to work on watercourses (eg. reducing flood risk and improving habitat) and the project has successfully reduced their likelihood of reoffending.

The outcomes of the project are that:

- Young people have positive experiences
- They learn new skills
- They increase their employability
- They benefit from contact with wildlife
- There is a positive benefit to the community

The Skill Mill found that it was very difficult to help people gain the skills essential for employment. This led to a social enterprise which directly employs the young people to work and this is still being developed. The social enterprise has brought other partners eg ARCO, Apple computers and Royal Haskoning. There is lots of interest in the project because of the fantastic outcomes and the reduction of the rate of reoffending. Leeds and Liverpool are setting up their own 'Skill Mills'. Durham intends to shortly and North Yorks is already working with the North York Moors National

Park. The model can be replicated everywhere. The Newcastle Team are now working with the Ministry of Justice and EA to look at rolling it out nationally.

The Young Offenders that are chosen are those who enjoy the outdoors and who are likely to benefit. The cost of interventions with young offenders is about £800,000 so the potential to make a big difference is enormous.

The Skill Mill provides a service both to young offenders and to the community and it needs partners to pay for young offenders to carry out the work they require. It doesn't work without partners and employers. They need new opportunities including one-offs and long term possibilities.

The Partnership discussed The Skill Mill with the following points being made:

- The Skill Mill has an excellent reputation for managing risk and all the feedback is positive, an enormous achievement considering all the young offenders worked with are initially categorised as high risk and of the 65 who have been employed only 5 have reoffended. The national statistic is that 50% reoffend.
- After the 6 month initial employment only about 50% of the young people are given longer term employment opportunities. But the other 50% are not reoffending even though they have not been given a 6 month placement.
- Organisations can sign up to be involved and find marketing material on the website. [www.theskillmill.org](http://www.theskillmill.org)

#### 4. **The Urban Observatory** Jennine Jonczyk

Jennine has been at the Urban Observatory for two years as part of a team of 5. There are lots of opportunities to work with the other projects being discussed here. The idea of the Urban Observatory(UO) is to build sustainability and resilience into surveys and recording.

Catchment science is further ahead than city science and is being studied in much more depth. In cities until now, data has only been collected annually or for samples of time.

So far UO has purchased £1/2 million of sensors but has a total of £3.5 million to spend on scientific hardware. So far 400,000,000 observations have been made.

The data is available to everyone in a raw state with some visualisations. This is the second year of the project and the funding is secured until 2020. So far fundraising has been successful and the project has rolled forward. The idea is to run experiments across Newcastle.

The data comes in →data brought together→data sorted and visualisations created

The website is interactive but unless you write code it is currently slightly clunky. Jennine was keen to hear any feedback from those who have used the website.

The initial funding was from Newcastle University and now central government UKCRIC is funding other observatories.

The first urban observatory was in Newcastle and there are now UO in Sheffield and Bristol and funding is being found to create them in Cranfield, Manchester and Birmingham.

So it is possible to compare the Newcastle data with that from other cities.

The Urban Observatory was discussed by the Partnership and the following points were made:

- Other cities are learning from Newcastle and initially the UO has been focussing on water quality but will now also be looking at air quality, traffic, noise and building other sensor

networks to look at system health, resilience and interdependencies. They are also looking into studying people and biodiversity.

- Sensors can be used outside Newcastle
- Air quality sensors are £4000 each and they are two types: pervasive and precision. There are three pervasive sensors to install, one at Central Station, one next to UO and one will be mobile. They record PM 2.5, NO and NO2. There are 13 other sensors that are about to be installed outside schools.
- Community groups should be aware that the sensors might not help their cause as the results might not confirm their views.
- UO can only make the observations, they can't do anything to solve the issues. However Newcastle CC are looking to tackle some of the issues eg planning a Northumberland Street regeneration project including pedestrianisation
- Water level and water quality sensors are being installed on the Ouseburn to support the Tyne Catchment Partnership's activity in the sub-catchment.

## **5. Medium Term Plan Rob Carr**

All partners feed into MTP which is a 6 year plan which is refreshed annually. All the projects are submitted to the national EA for consistency and that the money is allocated from the national pot.

There are £2.2 million worth of projects that have been put forward and the funding will be distributed in November. Delivery will have to take place by the end of next year.

Some new funding is available from DEFRA which originates from Europe so needs to be spent fairly quickly. Its a Rural development programme for the environment.

DEFRA have told EA to look at the MTP and highlight projects that will fit into the criteria for the RDP funding in case it gets turned down for MTP money. Also EA are looking for new projects that fit the criteria. The concern is that if we get the money then we might not be ready to deliver.

The focus is on multi-year projects with feasibility/design/delivery at different times.

Some rivers that are now not failing under WFD anymore may still be able to get funding. For Example Shotley Bridge weir may well get funding even though the Derwent is no longer failing for fish.

So any obstruction/land use/pollution or invasive species projects are eligible.

The Partnership discussed the Medium Term Plan and these key points were made:

- If any partners would like to submit projects could you get in touch with SM and RC so the projects from the Tyne catchment can be co-ordinated and everyone is aware.
- There may be issues with capacity and deliverability. EA are saying that having a central process will make it more efficient but at present they do not know how many projects will be submitted.
- Initially the NE EA are submitting 73 projects from the whole region.
- About 40% of the MTP projects can be included in this funding application
- EU funding is multi annual and the pot needs to be spent in the next two years.

## **6. PR19 Claire Deasy**

NWL are putting together a business plan using the themes that came out of the regional workshop. There is a workshop on the 27<sup>th</sup> September to discuss water quality, land management and water

stewardship, flooding, SUDS and development at a regional level. Those present were asked to list projects they are working on the maps on the table.

Discussions about this process followed:

- Claire wanted people to mention any new areas they are working in, with land owners or on reservoirs. If networking in an area it would be useful to know if partners are working there.
- There is a month to collect the information and another team are working on developments
- This is a brilliant opportunity to develop regional ambitions.
- At the workshop there will be 6 tables representing the different topics and the invites have been targeted at the people who have not been involved before.

## **7. Regional Data Day** Susan Mackirdy

Susan Mackirdy reminded the group that there is a CaBA group that works from within The Rivers Trust to look at data. They are putting water data: river and coastal into an accessible format to help catchment partnerships identify, understand and solve problems/issues. TCP has not relied on the data for the Tyne as we have tended to rely on expert information from partner organisations because there is a good attendance at TCP meetings.

SM suggested that with recent work undertaken by the Data group the time may now be right to look at the amount of data we have access to, perhaps as a regional event with other catchment partnerships. Data is held by many partners, including CaBA, EA, UO, Port of Tyne, TRT, Newcastle University. If everyone is keen then SM could get someone from the CaBA data group to come, as well as the other organisations.

It was agreed by the TCP that this would be a useful initiative and SM undertook to work with the CaBA data group and other regional catchment partnerships to develop something, ideally within the next 6 months.

## **8. TCP activity plan** Susan Mackirdy

Susan Mackirdy explained that a draft had been circulated before the previous meeting, and partners had been invited to comment. The comments were disparate – and some people commented on the terms of reference which have already been decided on. Susan apologised for not making that clearer. The main comment by various partners was that they wanted to include more detailed actions, which conflicted with the strong steer that had originally been given to create a high level plan that didn't immediately become out of date.

Options for the Activity Plan were discussed by the partnership and the following proposals were made:

**SM** proposed to keep the activity plan as it is, but to also have a detailed log of activity which is split into different issues/locations and is regularly updated by the groups working on those projects.

**SM** proposed to task staff at TRT to draft the activity log which will be sent out to the partners for comment before being published on the TCP website and be regularly updated.

These other issues were highlighted:

- Flooding schemes should be brought to the attention of the TCP so that partners can seek multiple benefits from the projects. TCP needs better links with LA Flood Risk officers.
- The activity log could be used to learn from the experience of working with developers on previous projects and it should have a section on Natural Flood Management projects.

## **Actions :**

**SMac** to send out a further draft of the Activity Plan for the partnership to approve and any amendments must be sent to her within a fortnight when it will be published.

**Sub catchment partnership leads** to update the sub-catchment group notes on the Tyne Catchment Partnership website

### **9. Team Valley flood alleviation project** Stephen Marshall

Stephen Marshall gave a presentation on the Team Valley flood alleviation scheme. The Team Valley Trading Estate is strategically important and will have a big impact on the scheme. There are two schemes:

- The Core scheme gives 1 in 25 year flooding protection
- The Lamesley Water Meadows scheme gives 1 in 100 year

The source of the River Team is in the North Durham hills and it flows into the Tyne. It has many industrial sites and old mines, lots of culverted sections, some sections run through Durham Wildlife Trust sites and there are some archaeological sites. The leachate from the old industrial sites and landfills leads to poor water quality.

In 1934 Tyne Valley Industrial Estate opened and the river is culverted right through the trading estate. It is strategically important for the North East. The Industrial Estate has had problems with flooding and there are 5 sites still empty from the 2012 flooding (Thunder Thursday) – which was due to surface water and flooding.

There are two elements to the scheme and the main driver is ERDF/ESIF – all EU funding.

The core scheme is to reinstate the original meanders through Urpeth wood, this scheme relies economically upon the creation of 12 hectares of new habitat.

The project was discussed by the Partnership and the following points made:

- The proposed worksites are in private and public ownership.
- The individual projects include leaky dams, low earth embankments, channel constrictions and increasing the capacity of ponds
- In the industrial Estate, the Team is culverted and there are plans are to remove two culverts, improve the diversity of the river bed in one currently culverted section and remove a weir.

The main economic driver for the Lamesley Water Meadows element is countryside stewardship. It is a big scheme and material removed may be used for the Coalhouse embankment work. Lamesley is a Durham Wildlife Trust site and is in countryside stewardship. There are other areas of land which will be added to stewardship as part of the scheme. The project was scheme started in 2014 driven by ERDF/ESIF application in April next year.

The Partnership discussed the River Team flood prevention project and the flowing points were raised.

- There is an emphasis on partnership.
- The whole scheme will be subjected to planning.
- Each of the individual interventions have detailed design documents. The projects will need to reduce flooding and create multiple benefits eg reduce leachate and increase biodiversity.

The other priority areas have sub-catchment partnerships eg the Ouseburn but there is not currently one for the Team. It would be good to have Durham Council's involvement in the Rowletch Burn project. It is probably the most polluted tributary on Team, it has a low WFD classification and lots of other issues. Groundwork are currently leading a project on it which one of their landscape architects is leading on. There has been an initial meeting and there are plans to have a stakeholder meeting.

There will be a feasibility study for the Meadows into Rowletch Burn project and that will be a focus for the sub-catchment partnership.

#### **10. The River Don update Rob Carr**

The River Don has received WFD funding, is massively altered, has many rural issues, historic industries and urban issues. The partnership has received some NWL funding and there have been several studies undertaken into the Don this year.

- RRC opportunities to improve river habitat creation and restoration and Fish obstructions
- WTT trout into towns
- We are working closely with South Tyneside Council who has contracted JBA to look into both river surface water and sewer flooding. This should lead to multiple benefits.

There is a Don Catchment Partnership (DCP) meeting next week. There is also a huge amount of development including Follingsby, IAMP, A19 and upgrade to Testos and lots of housing. The sub-catchment partnership is focusing on the issues and opportunities and who does what. Obstructions will be discussed with Highways Agency at the DCP meeting next week. Medium Term Plan money from EA will be used on land management projects managed by Tyne Rivers Trust. The type of obstructions varies and EA is trying to get the organisations responsible for them to address them and will then prioritise the rest. There is lots going on and the Catchment Partnership drives it forward, also Highways England is looking at water quality on the A1(M) and A19.

These are the points raised by the Partnership during their discussion:

- There may be an opportunity to create some saltmarsh habitat at the mouth of the Don (Port of Tyne) but this should be taken up as an estuary project.
- All the Local Authorities are in the Don Partnership, there are lots of strategic enhancements going on and opportunities for development in the Don corridor.

#### **11. Ouseburn CP Rob Carr**

Groundwork are progressing the River Restoration projects. There is a focus on monitoring through the Urban Observatory as EA funding has decreased to such an extent that we are reliant on 3<sup>rd</sup> party monitoring data.

The data from the UO is a fantastic resource and really demonstrates water quality in the Ouseburn. Tyne Rivers Trust's Facilitation Fund is focusing on land managers in Ouseburn catchment. It enables us to be aware of all the pressures in the catchment and is countryside stewardship funded.

Groundwork have been working with some developers who have now sold land to house builders. It is a 'contracted stage' so they have to leave them to work through it. It is a slow and painful process but the house builders have no objections to the proposals although the maintenance is an issue and there is some legal wrangling. The Duke of Northumberland has some non-developable land in the Upper Ouseburn so is in a different situation to all the other land owners who are all holding out to develop their land; proposals for this land are being explored.

When the board meetings have finished we need to find a way of keeping the momentum going.

## **12. Future management and resourcing of the sub-catchment projects**

We have two successful sub catchment partnership groups but the Team currently has no catchment partnership. The focus area on the Team has similarities to the Don and Ouseburn. We are learning lessons from each one and the biggest stop on progress is ownership of the sub – catchment groups. Rob Carr is doing the secretariat for the Don but it would be nice for other organisations to help out.

There was also general discussion about the lack of funding for sub catchment partnerships and if they are the right group to discuss flooding issues in catchments.

### **Actions**

**VC** to extend the agenda of the Ouseburn Project board to the whole Ouseburn catchment

**SMac** to set up a Catchment Partnership for the Team

**HB** to consider setting up a Catchment Partnership for the Hadrian's Wall Loughs

## **13. Any Other Business**

**PS** reminded everyone about the issues on Stanley Burn.

**HB** highlighted the fact that the recently opened Facilitation Fund will be very competitive and not everyone will succeed.

**Action EW** to organise doodlepoll for the next meeting to be held in December.

Following the meeting some members of the Partnership attended a site visit for the River Team flood alleviation scheme.