



TYNE CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

2 May 2017 9.30am – 11.30am

Environment Agency offices, Tyneside House Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, NE4 7AR

Present: Hugh Clear-Hill (Chairman), Susan Mackirdy (Tyne Rivers Trust), Liz Walters (Tyne Rivers Trust, note taker), Abi Mansley (Northumberland National Park Authority), Derek Hilton-Brown (Newcastle City Council), Michelle Hogg (South Tyneside Council), Natalie Smith (Port of Tyne), Clare Deasy (Northumbrian Water), Tony Baines (Northumbrian Water), Rob Carr (Environment Agency), Becky Hetherington (National Trust), Dorothy Fairburn (CLA), Michelle MacCallum (Groundwork), Vicky Cuthbertson (Groundwork), Angus Collingwood-Cameron (Northern Farmers & Landowners Group).

1. HC-H Welcome and introductions Rob Carr introduced himself as the newly-appointed Tyne Catchment Coordinator for the Environment Agency.

2. River Don Feasibility Study Michelle Hogg South Tyneside Council

Update on the River Don project feasibility study. The aim of the study is to identify areas of flood risk and places to focus on for Stage 2.

RC EA funding for the River Don is £40,000 17/18 and £100,000 18/19 WFD money

River Restoration Centre study and Wild Trout Trust report due imminently

Land management issues in upper catchment eg poaching, farming practices

The Future: fill gaps in knowledge of catchment and look at further funding

HC-H This type of project has a high profile nationally and is an exciting opportunity

RC Don, Team and Ouseburn projects have similarities and should share lessons

DF How much 'proper' agriculture is in the Don catchment?

RC A surprising amount of arable at the top of the catchment. Often farmed right up to the river with no buffer. There are also 2 golf courses.

DF 'Horsiculture' has a big impact on water courses with poaching and muck heaps

MH There is significant horsiculture on the tribs of the Don

VC In discussion with Highways England over Testos roundabout, currently there are no plans for treating the run-off.

RC The A1 and Ouseburn road development plans have not progressed as far as Testos.

MH The Testos plans are being treated as separate to IAMP in case IAMP is not approved.

DH-B Do these other developments put IAMP at risk?

RC Follingsby has a different purpose to IAMP – distribution whereas IAMP is primarily for Nissan.

DH-B IAMP has huge momentum

3. Update on Ouseburn Vicky Cuthbertson and Michelle MacCannon

VC

Description of Ouseburn catchment and the main challenges: private ownership, time consuming to obtain permits – some projects slipped from Year 1 to Year 2. Some projects being delivered by partners. HLF advised not to apply for a Heritage Grant but two Our Heritage grants.

M MacC

Complete: Woosington Pond and Sediment Trap project HC-H

Year 2: wet woodlands

Remeandering River at Callerton

Butterlaw Meadow

Woosington pond restoration

Divert drainage off A696 into pond

Remeandering Ouseburn in Great North Park

Discharge issues from A1 widening

H C-H What does the Ouseburn Project need from the TCP?

General discussion about the need to encourage/compel developers to not only leave the buffer area undeveloped but also to improve the area.

Possible channels:

RC There is still a need to monetise ecosystem services

CD Councils policy and planning could a part in encouraging developers but it needs time and understanding. Also successfully completed developments that can be used as a model would help.

MMacC Could be a part of the planning conditions

H C-H There needs to be more proof of the relationship between NFM works and reduced flood risk, as well as linking the flooding and planning agendas.

MMacC No baseline flood modelling of the Ouseburn because of the lead-in-time and the costs so there will be no scientific proof of any improvements. Ideally we need to be at the design stage of developments and working from the start to reduce the risk of flooding.

CD There is a new development team at NW.

D H-B Information about current projects is not distributed widely enough through Newcastle CC at present

MMacCHighways and developers need to understand the risk of not considering water management

4. Northumbria Water's Thinking Ahead workshop Clare Deasy

Workshop aims were to engage with NW partners and to fund opportunities to work together. Clare has written up the notes from the Tyne catchment workshop and they will be circulated shortly. She outlined some of the activities that took place during the workshop, summarised the themes that came out during discussions and Northumbria Water's next steps.

There was positive discussion of the benefits of this approach by Northumbria Water and comments on possible differences between the themes and priorities in neighbouring catchments.

5. Natural Flood Management funding HC-H

H C-H outlined that £1 million is available for NFM projects

Those projects already been proposed in the Tyne catchment are:

- Langley Burn
- Bonnyrigg Hall
- Cleadon

TCP could bid for money and anyone who has a project in mind should send them through to SM by the 15th May.

CD Asked if there was any prioritisation of projects.

H C-H No

DF This funding is really just PR as there is too much preparation work for the amount of money available. It undermines NFM and is wasting people's time and effort.

RH NT Proposes to submit a bid to scope out the options for NFM at Allenbanks on similar lines to the NT's Hardcastle Crag project.

6. TCP Activity Plan Susan Mackirdy

Tyne Catchment Partnership develop a Business Plan and previous discussions have led to this being re-termed as an Activity Plan. The Activity plan was started by Abi Mansley and a first draft is now finished. It is deliberately pragmatic in approach and focussed on high level ambitions. The document needs to be finalised so please send any comments by email to Susan before 23rd May and the intention is to sign the final version at the next meeting.

7. Other Tyne Catchment Partnership updates

Adopt a Stream SM

Susan updated the partnership on the progress of this project.

A stage 1 bid is about to go to Esmee Fairburn Foundation for £60,000 project which includes elements of education and a new website. The Adopt a Stream website will link to the new TRT website to utilise the shop for sponsorship.

Metals Pollution CD

Claire highlighted the Metals Discussion Group and its contribution to WFD

The Discussion Group notes are circulated through the TCP

Catchment Partnership Funding SM

There is £15,000 funding available this year for hosting the TCP and TRT intend to add £5,000.

Susan also requested that notes from meeting of the Team/Ouseburn and Don Partnerships should be added to the TCP website.

VC thought that would be possible with Ouseburn notes and RC will ask Jim Cokill about Don notes.