

## River Don Partnership

Minutes of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1.30pm at Rainton Meadows (DH4 6PU)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Present were – Eilis Furlong (NW), Vicky Cairns (NW), Jimmy Young (GC), Gayle Wilson (GC), Peter Shield (GC), Clare Rawcliffe (STC), Michelle Hogg (STC), Lucy Mo (EA), Rob Carr (EA – chaired the meeting), James Hudson (EA), Jim Cokill (DWT) – Liz Walters (TRT) joined the meeting at 1410.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted as a true record.

### 3. Matters arising

TRT are proposing to take forward the bid to HLF to support the development of the partnership.

Eilis provided an update on data sharing. NW are happy to share models, but not reports generated from models for data protection reasons. Location information on flood incidents can be shared at 100m resolution, not individual property locations for data protection reasons. Likewise, information on property level protection cannot be shared in a way that identifies individual properties. Eilis will liaise with South Tyneside Council as a project partner and provide more detail on data sharing and how data can be requested. Rob Carr will establish what rules are in place by other water companies when they are sharing data with EA. This may provide a model that can be followed.

Eilis confirmed that the £8k held by DWT can be used to support the project, potentially as additional funding for the South Tyneside study.

### 4. Partner Updates

South Tyneside – the study will be out to tender via NEPRO, with a return date of 2<sup>nd</sup> December and contractor appointed 19<sup>th</sup> December. The potential for partnership involvement in assessing tenders will be explored.

Gateshead – updating their flood strategy documents and would welcome the opportunity to see similar documents produced by South Tyneside.

DWT – beginning to look at potential water vole conservation projects and the River Don will be an important part of that.

NWL – Study information from Washington North will be available to the project.

NWL – Vicky Cairns provided information on Water Rangers, a NWL scheme to recruit volunteers to monitor water courses for pollution incidents and other potential problems. The volunteers walk a specified route and pass relevant information to Vicky. The scheme started with 32 routes and there are now over 50. There are several routes in the Don catchment, but all volunteer opportunities are filled.

#### **Partners are asked to -**

- Forward any suggestions for other routes to Vicky

- Forward any suggestions for volunteer training to Vicky

**Vicky will –**

- Forward maps of routes in Don catchment
- See if any wildlife data is available from volunteers and can be passed on

Contact information for Vicky – [vicky.cairns@nwl.co.uk](mailto:vicky.cairns@nwl.co.uk)

EA – The feasibility study on river restoration by the River Restoration Centre is underway. EA have commented on the planning documents released in relation to IAMP and are trying to re-open discussions with Arup (IAMP lead consultants) on relevant issues. Sonds are still in place and providing water quality data which will be made available.

**Claire Rawcliffe agreed to provide information on the IAMP development timetable so that the partners can coordinate activity with the IAMP development process.**

Tyne Rivers Trust – Liz Walters provided an update on her recent appointment and role. TRT have contacted HLF to discuss a possible Resilient Heritage bid to support development of the Don Partnership. HLF thought that there could be a conflict with the Resilient Heritage bid that TRT had already submitted to HLF to support the development of their own organisation and its support for the Tyne Catchment Partnership. As the Don is a sub catchment of the Tyne there is potential overlap between the two bids.

**Liz agreed to find out more detail on whether TRT were in a position to take the bid forward and provide an update to the partners.**

**Partners agreed to send relevant information to Liz so that she could start to put together a Project Initiation Document for the Don based on**

5. HLF bid

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**Liz agreed to find out more detail on whether TRT were in a position to take the bid forward and provide an update to the partners.**

6. Project Initiation Document – structure and content

Partners agreed to send relevant information to Liz so that she could start to put together a Project Initiation Document for the Don based on the format used for the Bright Water project. [e.walters@tynerivertrust.org](mailto:e.walters@tynerivertrust.org)

7. AOB

**Ellis agreed to create a shared area for documents and send out a link to partners.**

8. Next meeting

**Suggested date for the next meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1.30pm at Rainton Meadows.**

**Please confirm attendance with Jim.**