



2 May 2018 9.30am – 12.30pm

Gateshead Civic Centre

Present: Hugh Clear-Hill (Chairman), Liz Walters (Tyne Rivers Trust, note taker), Peter Shield (Gateshead Council), Gayle Wilson (Gateshead Council), Rob Carr (Environment Agency), Becky Hetherington (National Trust), Lesley Silvera (Groundwork), Chris Watson (Groundwork), Mark Dinning (Durham Wildlife Trust), John Robinson (Newcastle City Council), Michelle Hogg (South Tyneside Council), Phil Hartley (Newcastle City Council), Jamie Jasinski (Northumbria Water), Clare Ross (Gateshead Council)

1. HC-H Welcome and introductions

H C-H informed the partnership that that Malcolm Newson was unable to attend the meeting.

2. River Don update Rob Carr Environment Agency

IAMP has been split into two phases, the first, smaller phase will go to DCO in October 2018. There is no mitigation in this area and the flooding issues have been resolved by the flood zone modelling.

IAMP 2 is being developed over the next twelve months and the consultants will be meeting EA in the next few weeks to look at the plans for mitigation. It is still being considered as one whole site but with two planning applications. The Don is main river through the IAMP area and the mitigation will be located in the flood risk area.

The Don Improvement Project reports have been finalised and we are now looking at the recommendations. Eighty thousand pounds of the WEIF money is allocated for the Don in 2018/19 and EA is talking to TRT about how this would best be spent on the obstruction and land management projects. There are also HE (SWECO) bids in and EW is writing a WEG bid.

RC is trying to relocate SONDS in the Don to assess the effect of the improvements so far.

Gateshead Council's Follingsby salt store has been covered and blinded so that no run-off is getting into the river. There are plans to find a new site but these are funding dependant.

There have been no recent meetings about Follingsby but it is in progress.

Michelle Hogg updated TCP on Stage 2 of the South Tyneside work. JBA are leading on the modelling of three locations in the Don catchment. These results will be shared and would feed into the aspirational restoration at Tile Shed Crossings. There will also be a study of the Lindisfarne estate.

The Bede Burn/ Monkton Burn FAS project is ongoing. Replanting at Toner Avenue deculverting site had been rescheduled for June due to bad weather.

There is an opportunity to find out more about IAMP on 23rd July from a PLAN NE presentation which will be planning focussed, an invitation will be sent round via email.

3. Ouseburn Update Lesley Silvera

The draft report has been sent to Lucy Mo. The West Farm, Callerton work has been completed and the work at Broomhall is almost complete. Groundwork are applying for an abstraction licence for Woosington Pond to use it as a settling pond/NFM site. The flow data will be crucial to the outcome of this project.

Catchment in Crisis, a Citizen Science project funded by HLF has gone live and Groundwork are working with TRT on this project.

Chris Watson will be chairing the Ouseburn sub-catchment partnership in the future and the date of the next meeting will be shared soon. An Ouseburn bid for SWECO money has been submitted and the WEG bid is ready pending a query to DEFRA about VAT which needs resolving.

Rob Carr

The Ouseburn catchment is very similar to the Newcastle City Council boundary however, there are some additional waterbodies that it would be helpful to discuss within the same forum eg Big Waters, Hartley Burn and Prestwick Carr. It was suggested to enlarge the Ouseburn Board to include these areas for convenience and efficiency reasons on a trial basis initially. It was also acknowledged that additional partners would need to be included for example Northumberland County Council and Northumberland Rivers Trust.

ACTIONS

- Set up a meeting about Reay Burn SSSI to discuss maintaining its condition.
- Widen the scope of Ouseburn Board Meetings to include a slightly larger geographical area on a trial basis.
- West Farm meeting has been postponed until 22 May 9-12.

4. Team Valley Sub Catchment Partnership Liz Walters

The first meeting has been held and we are looking to engage more partners including Durham County Council. Further work will be carried out on a 'Vision' the notes from the last meeting will be shared in due course. Gayle Wilson is creating an internet sharing system.

Developments are planned at the Tyne Marshalling yard at Ibstock which would lead to the loss of a large area of high quality grassland habitat with Great Crested Newts, Grayling and Dingy Skipper all present. Licensing mitigation work will need to be carried out and GCN trapped out and moved possibly to Birtley Union Local Wildlife Site.

5. Rowletch Burn Lesley Silvera

Michelle's Rowletch report is due on the 9th May 2018. The number of possible improvement projects has been whittled down to three. There are many issues in the Rowletch catchment and Chris Watson has submitted a proposal to EA for the WEIF money allocated to this area.

Lesley met with Station Road residents and was well received. The group was set up 18 years ago in reaction to local issues with contaminated land. The business case for the FAS will be outlined on 23rd May and is subject to a decision by the project board.

6. Roman Wall Loughs Rob Carr on behalf of Heather Brittlebank

The second Catchment Partnership meeting has been held and discussions took place over what is already known about the Loughs. The partners agreed to put together all this information on GIS and to apply for WEG money to carry out a 'wet weather conditions' drone survey to identify the additional sources of water during heavy rainfall. The WEG bid will be submitted to NE, rather than EA, as all three Loughs fail the PA status but only 2 fail WFD.

Further discussion took place on the proportion of WEG bids going through the EA and NE routes from the Tyne catchment.

7. South Tyne Jamie Jasinski

PR 19 has allocated £1/2 million to be spent in 2020-2025 to improve the South Tyne. NWG will set up a sub-catchment partnership steering group to link projects in the South Tyne and use the PR19 money to lever more from other sources/organisations. NWG are also looking at their priorities the outcomes they would like to see.

NWG are also awaiting a final decision from OFWAT on how the money should be spent. The sub-catchment area has been increased to include the Allen Valleys it suffers similar impacts from mining. There are already projects in the area including Water and Abandoned Metal Mines (WAMM) and a TRT bid to WEG for metal mitigation in 3 sub-catchments.

There are lots of environmental obligations to consider, not just water quality and ideally additional stakeholders such as CCC and EVDC should be involved. It is hoped that the partnership will lead to additional funding from other sources to match the £1/2 million from Ofwat which is not a substantial amount of funding for such a vast catchment. A formal link between the Roman Wall Loughs and South Tyne partnerships should be established.

Further discussions took place about responsibility for the mines at Nenthead passing from CCC to a charity (Phil Hartley is involved with this).

8. WEIF update Rob Carr

WEIF 2018/19 grants confirmed as the following:

- £80,000 Don Terry Robson Obstructions and Land Management
- £70,000 Rowletch Terry Robson projects recommended by Groundwork
- £30,000 Tyne Estuary for scoping study around the mitigation measures against urbanisation. Hull University are likely to be involved as they have done fantastic similar work on the Tees. Also looking to bring the partners together.
- £80,000 Metro Green Meeting planned to discuss the Gateshead development planned around the Metro Centre near the Team.

WEIF is more flexible than WEG but requires 25% match. Over the next two weeks discussions will be had about what to spend WEIF on, depending on what is bid for successfully through WEG and Highways England routes.

Further discussions took place about South Tyneside Council's Local Plan process and whether the timescales would coincide.

Tyne Estuary project is led by Zara Ravenscroft, an EA project manager whose area extends from Berwick to the Humber, national EA funding is available for marine projects or from the MMO.

There was further discussion about the funding for Shotley Weir fish pass which will be 75% EMFF and 25% EA.

9. WEG update

WEG The deadline is 11th May and there are several bids from the Tyne:

- NWT (Duncan Hutt) have bid for some FWPM money to look at sedimentation and water quality as well as create a nursery in one of the tributaries where juvenile FWPM could be located.
- Groundwork and TRT are working together on an Ouseburn bid
- South Tyne, Allen Valleys and Derwent Metals project bid TRT & AONB
- Team – Woodland Trust are working on a bid for Hedley hall
- River Don TRT
- Loughs – NE
- Newcastle City Council 2 projects Hartley Burn and Reay Burn

Use the TCP Activity Plan as the supporting document but TCP could write a supporting letter collectively.

ACTION EW & HCH to work together and produce a letter

9. Tyne Catchment Partnership activity plan and log Liz Walters

TCP Activity Plan has been updated where required and the Log is finished. Both have been circulated and comments/ additions to the Log should be sent to Liz Walters.

The TCP website has been updated with recent Ouseburn, Don and TCP meeting notes and the revised Activity Plan.

ACTION All to look at Activity Log and send comments to EW

10. Highways England Rob Carr

SWECO have contacted lots of TCP partners for projects as they are keen to spend money in Tyneside. The estimates of available funding vary from £800,000 to £6 million. SWECO was looking for high profile projects, environmental projects that could be logoed. The money would not be released until March 2019. Projects put forward included: Callerton River, Ouseburn Culvert and Weir, Ouseburn Land Management project, Byker Ashlands, Gosforth Park NR, Cleadon NFM, river Don Obstructions, River Don Land Management, Mill Dene Farm and Primrose LNR, Norwood NR, Clean Tyne, Reay Burn, Tyne Estuary mitigation and River Lyme.

This could be put together into a Tyneside bid or smaller sub-catchment groups and there has been no information about when feedback will be given but the next stage would be funded detailed designs.

Discussions followed about EA staff working with organisations such as NR and HE to prioritise projects regionally.

11. AOB and date of next meeting

Discussions took place about reducing the number of TCP meetings to two per year because of the increase in the number of sub-catchment partnerships. TCP role is to review the progress of each sub-catchment and ensure that lessons are learned collectively. Possible 2019 TCP site visits to Bede Burn deculverting or South Tyne.

Date: 5th September 9:30-12:30 **Location:** Lancaster House.