

Team sub catchment partnership update April 2020

Team Vision Liz Walters

A final draft has been produced and sent to all partners. I have attached a copy to this email please could partners now look to adopt this Vision? If there are any issues with this please let me know so I can facilitate the acceptance of the Vision by all partners as soon as possible.

Team Valley FAS Update March 2020 Amanda McKeivitt Environment Agency

The Outline Business Case for the Team Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme received its final approval at the start of February this year. Discussions are ongoing with Arup on the scope for the detailed design for the scheme and we are hoping to enter into contract over the next few weeks. The scope includes a review of the Natural Flood Management/flood storage and attenuation proposals for the scheme and to determine if there are additional opportunities in the catchment, including at the Woodland Trust land near Hedley Hall. The aim is to get Full Business Case (FBC) approval by April 2021.

The current programme after FBC approval is to carry out demolition of Eslington Park culvert and weir beginning in 2021/22 which will tie in with Network Rails timescales for their bridge works. The construction of the other elements of the scheme including the NFM, Black Burn and Lady Park Burn works, flood walls in the trading estate and at Lamesley are planned to take place from later in 2021 through to April 2024.

Rowletch Burn WEIF project 2019/20 Liz Walters TRT/ Michele MacCallam Groundwork

The Environment Agency, Groundwork and Tyne Rivers Trust have delivered a partnership project in the Team catchment over the past year. The project was focussed on improving the water quality in the Rowletch Burn which is the most polluted part of the River Team catchment. The delivery partners were tasked with identifying sources of diffuse pollution from industrial estates and farms and suggesting appropriate interventions.

Groundwork focussed on the industrial estates and carried out a desk-based study of 253 industrial units located in 4 different estates. This study identified those businesses most at risk of polluting the watercourse and prioritised those units for a visit. Letters were sent out to these addresses and site visits completed to a total of 10 units. The findings from the visit to each premises have been written up in a report.

Tyne Rivers Trust were tasked with visiting all the land holdings in the catchment. A desk-based process of identifying contact details and land holding names was carried out before organising site visits. A total of sixteen land holdings have been visited including allotments, a golf course, stables and arable farms and a report written up for each location. These reports have been collected into one document in which the issues have been summarised in a matrix and areas requiring focus discussed.

Hedley Hall update Richard Wilson Woodland Trust

Ongoing talks with Gateshead CC regarding the natural flood management design and if this is financially viable as a stand-alone project or as part of a wider project.

Latest figures look like if it was carried out with Council in house teams it would be too expensive to be covered by an EA fund, however initial discussions with Woodland Trust regular contractors there could be a significant cost saving.

The current work has only looked in detail at the 13ha eastern extension and not the rest of the site which has numerous other natural flood reduction potential.

Kibblesworth Lee Wyatt Coal Authority

Kibblesworth has been continuing to pump in excess of 300 L/s and the water levels are 12m lower than the peak in March 2016. The current water level at Kibblesworth is 4m below sea level and we are within the winter season, when water levels would naturally rise with increased rainfall. The current water level is 6m below the high level control and 11m below the decant level.

A1 Widening Liz Walters Tyne Rivers Trust

After a recent TCP meeting I contacted Michele Gregory at the Planning Inspectorate regarding the A1 widening and was told that there was no channel by which Tyne Rivers Trust could now register as an 'Interested party' (deadline was 14 November 2019) and therefore submit a 'Relevant Registration' but that:

' Non-interested Parties are able to submit representations in accordance with the Examination Timetable published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website (see link below), however the acceptance of these submissions is at the discretion of the appointed Examining Authority. Similarly it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority to allow Non-interested Parties to make an oral representation at any of the Examination hearings.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/a1-birtley-to-coal-house-improvement-scheme/?ipcsection=exam>

Further information about the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning projects can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Notes 8 to 8.5:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

I have not received any further updates on the A1 widening from partners but will circulate them if I do so in the future, likewise if you have information about other Team catchment projects you would like to forward to partners, do let me know.