

Team Updates for 10/11/2020 meeting

Agenda items:

3. WEIF Liz Walters

Project last year 2019/20 focussed on the Rowletch Burn as the most polluted tributary of the watercourse. This was a partnership between the Environment Agency, Groundwork North-east and Cumbria and Tyne Rivers Trust.

Industrial estates: Groundwork prioritised 100 industrial units based on their potential for causing pollution. They then contacted around 20 companies to arrange a visit, which most did not take up. Unannounced visits were planned by Durham County Council and EA but these were prevented by the Covid restrictions.

Agricultural units: Tyne Rivers Trust visited all farms and small holdings in the Rowletch catchment. A Pinpoint report was produced for each farm and brought together into one report. This report details the water quality issues and some other potential projects on each farm with the Bowes area being highlighted as of particular concern.

4. Team Valley FAS and surface water management plan Amanda McKeivitt EA

The proposed Team Valley Flood Alleviation scheme aims to deliver a catchment-wide solution to reduce the risk of river flooding to the Team Valley Trading Estate, and therefore contribute to maintaining the existing business activities, and both securing and promoting increased economic growth into the future. Included are a number of upland flood attenuation and natural flood management measures (NFM), along with raised flood walls and culvert daylighting. Additionally, the project offers great opportunities for additional wetland habitat creation, Water Framework Directive (WFD) improvements and environmental enhancements

On the 14th July 2020 it was announced that the Team Valley FAS would be one of the 22 flood defence projects receiving a part of a new £170m to immediately accelerate the construction of flood defence projects in 2020 and 2021 to drive growth and unlock a range of benefits for local economies. However there is still the need to seek contributions.

We are now working with our consultants and contractors, to develop detailed designs of the main elements of the scheme. This process will take several months and we will be carrying out environmental and topographic surveys as well as ground investigations, whilst adhering to the Government guidelines during this time.

Our consultants are also reviewing the potential for NFM measures in the upper catchments as we believe there is the possibility of doing more than was identified at the Outline Business Case Stage.

The project will still be phased with delivery through to 2023/24. We are working closely with our partners including Network Rail and Highways England.

5. Kibblesworth RA and Newcastle University Minewater model Geoff Parkin

Please see second attached document for update.

6. Hedley Hall project and feasibility Richard Wilson WT

No progress on the NFM project but tree planting is ongoing.

7. Horsiculture Liz Walters TRT

This issue seems to be becoming an increasing problem on the Team. Certainly, the Agriculture Report funded through WEIF last year found several sites where horsiculture was causing water pollution in the Rowletch Burn catchment. Peter Shield has reported that land in the Team is being bought and parcelled up into small grazing paddocks with temporary shelters. This changes the character of the landscape and 'urbanises' previously green field sites.

In the Team, development has recently been approved by planners for additional stabling for ten horses at an establishment which is already causing pollution through a lack of waste management.