

## River Team sub-catchment Partnership Notes

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 virtual meeting on Teams

**Attendees** Ceri Gibson - Chair(TRT), Peter Shield(GMBC), Jimmy Young(GC), Liz Walters(TRT), Zoe Lewin(DCC), Brian Weatherall(DCC), Richard Wilson(WT), Amanda McKeivitt(EA), Sally Gallagher(EA), Lucy Mo(EA), Stephen Thompson(NWG), Hellen Hornby(Groundwork), Michele MacCallam(Groundwork), Neil Wilkinson(GMBC), Clare Sweeney(EA), Nicola Wilkes(HE), Lee Wyatt(CA)

Apologies: Peter Burrows GMBC, Geoff Parkin, Donna Robinson EA and others.

1. **Welcome** CG TRT

2. **Team Valley FAS – Eslington Park Culvert, SuDs and NFM** Amanda McKeivitt (EA)

Eslington Park culvert detailed designs being discussed with GMBC, Amco and Network Rail. Once the works to the bridge are completed, the burn will be deculverted. This work is likely to start in April 2022. Additional storage in the lake at Watergate is being considered along with a review of NFM in the catchment. It was hoped that NFM would reduce the need for flood storage downstream and therefore a lower flood wall in the Industrial Estate and less storage at Lamesley. But NFM has not been found to reduce flood risk enough to justify a big increase on the amount of NFM proposed. A geometry model is being created to simulate the impacts of these interventions. The screen at Lady Park Burn is being replaced. Amanda has been in contact with Nicola Wilkes (HE) regarding reducing the impacts of the highway on flooding and also reducing risk of flooding to the highway.

EAW read out an update from Peter Burrows who was unable to attend this meeting. Much of the potential flood prevention work is centred around Black Burn as it is a significant area of combined surface water and fluvial flood risk, as identified by the Team Valley Integrated Flood Model, and offers the chance to trial a variety of different techniques. The aim would be to roll out further retrofit schemes in future based on the original findings of the Team Valley SWMP. The potential interventions identified by Peter and Carl Hodgeson are initial ideas and there has not been any consultation with relevant organisations/departments at this stage.

AMcK added to the update from Peter Burrows saying that the cost of these interventions would need to be justified by the amount of potential they had for flood prevention.

JY Asked AMcK about some funding and asked for confirmation/proof of receipt.

### **ACTIONS**

A McK to send confirmation/proof of receipt of funds to JY

EAW to circulate Peter Burrows update with these notes

3. **Hedley Hall** Richard Wilson WT

No delivery as yet. Meeting held with engineers.

Richard keen to know if the project is going ahead how much of the potential NFM would be delivered. Lots of work going on at Hedley Hall, helpful to know more details.

AMcK Hedley Hall is part of Scheme 6 NFM projects. The engineers are looking at it, they were hoping that large scale NFM would reduce flood risk downstream more significantly. There is a need to prioritise and focus on particular NFM projects but EA are keen on Hedley Hall as there are direct

benefits to nearby properties as well as for downstream areas. More information will be available in quarter 4 or more likely early in the next financial year.

**ACTION** AMcK and RW to meet next week and update the partnership

#### 4. **Team WEIF update** Liz Walters TRT

20/21 – Feasibility document and outline designs produced for 6 obstructions to fish passage on the Causey/Beamish Burn. Some feasibility carried out on the straightened Urpeth section which is eroding in several places.

21/22- Likely to include delivery of easement to the Causey Culvert and further feasibility and partner discussions at Urpeth. Business Case currently being drafted.

**ACTION** EAW to share Team Obstructions report with A Mck, ST and ZL

#### 5. **Beggars Wood** Peter Shield GMBC

This project is part of the HE A1 improvement proposal for the section between Birtley and the Coal House roundabout. It will serve as mitigation for the works. The proposal is to plant trees at Beggars Wood. Approximately 1ha of woodland would be created, the Black Burn is culverted through this woodland. There is potential to create a further 7ha of woodland which would link to existing semi-natural woodlands. Most would not be riparian woodland but it would be a significant addition to woodland coverage in the catchment. This project would be delivered by Durham Wildlife Trust as part of the Healing Nature project.

Additionally, at Allerdene Burn which passes under the A1 there is a proposal to significantly improve the current situation. However, this project can't be made public at the moment as the details have not been finalised.

Further woodland creation is proposed with the Woodland Trust in the Whickham area. This is not a riparian site but would again constitute a considerable increase of 30ha to woodland coverage in the catchment.

NW happy to share the Allerdene project with the understanding that the project has not been finalised.

**ACTION** PS to share Allerdene Burn project with the partnership

#### 6. **Birtley and Kibblesworth Minewater heating scheme at Lamesley** Peter Shield GMBC

This project is in the feasibility phase. If it goes ahead, it will be a single-phase scheme to connect 3000 homes to the minewater heating system at a cost of between £40 - £45 million. This is a sizeable grant and it is likely that planning permission will not be sought before next year.

CG What is the payback timeframe for this project?

What are the ecological impacts of this project?

**ACTION** PS to find out what the payback timeframe for the Birtley and Kibblesworth minewater scheme is. (likely to be a ballpark figure at this time)

## 7. **Kibblesworth Housing Scheme** Peter Shield GMBC

This area was allocated to housing in the Core Strategy and Plan. The outline planning permission is currently in abeyance, with the developer looking at the viability of the scheme. The planning application was started some time ago and there is now a new Local Plan document. If a new application was submitted, it would be subject to the new planning policy which include more stringent water environment policies. There is no timescale for this at present.

SG Is the minewater constraint mapping being used in this area?

PS The planning policy covers these issues as far as flooding risk goes. Assumption is that the minewater heating scheme is making full use of the constraints mapping.

SG It would be useful to know if it helps to address and mitigate the risk and if it helps builders to make informed decisions at the start of a project.

PS EA has had direct input to the Kibblesworth housing scheme, even though it was only outline permission, the developers had to submit detailed proposals for water management.

SG Lots of planning and development schemes are not looked at by the groundwater team at EA. If it hasn't been picked up, then extra work might be needed or more detailed generic planning conditions that EA or the planning authority should be doing.

Amended after the meeting - Peter Burrows was not able to attend this meeting, but he is the officer who looks at Gateshead planning applications with regard to the water environment.

SG It would be a useful heads up if the LA thinks that formal corporate response is light then we can pick up on it. EA is committed to refreshing and updating the constraints layer which needs updating after some recent work on mining blocks.

### **Extra Item - Update on the Water Environment Opportunities** Stephen Thompson NWG

Feasibility stage, still developing plans and working to secure funding up to 2025. There is a small pot to support 2 projects this year. Now looking further ahead at 2022,23,24 and at providing more information on criteria for partners. Stephen is also working closely with Clare Deasy at wider catchment work.

ZL Westline industrial Estate in the Rowletch burn has water pollution issues, no site visits have taken place and DCC is waiting for more information and as to whether any intervention is required from DCC.

MM outlined the Groundwork industrial estates prioritisation work that took place two years ago that included the Westline Industrial Estate.

AMcK Any chance of getting a project planned this year?

ST There are not any sufficiently developed projects in the Team.

AMcK Could you circulate the criteria?

**ACTION** Stephen Thompson to circulate the Water Environment opportunities criteria.

Amanda McKeivitt will speak to Donna Robinson about the Westline industrial estate issue.

8. **AOB** CG TRT

Update from Geoff Parkin - the Groundwater flooding from mineworkings report will be available soon, and that it will feed in to the FCERM Innovation Resilience project that is just starting to progress this week.

Tyne Catchment Coordinator appointed and awaiting start date now.

TRT as TCP host has the CaBA monitoring form to complete. CG will be contacting the partners for their project updates for this document.

**ACTION** EAW to doodle poll potential dates in October/November