

## Herefordshire Record Centre, Rotherwas Hereford

### Notes of meeting

1. Apologies

Kevin Bishop, Herefordshire Council

Attendees

Perry Hobbs (DCWW)

Cllr Philip Price, Chair (Cabinet Member: Infrastructure HC)

Kevin Singleton (HC)

Samantha Banks (HC)

Robert Widdicombe (HC)

Andrew Ashcroft (HC)

Simon Evans (WUF)

Harry Adshead (DCWW)

Mark Rychnovsky (DCWW)

Chris Dyson (NRW)

Alan Humphries (Powys CC)

Claire Minnett (NE)

Mark Riches (CLA)

Dave Throup (EA)

Nick Read (Bulmer Foundation)

Clare Greener (NFU)

Jenny Gamble (EA)

Dane Broomfield (EA)

Ian Butterfield (NE)

2. Cllr Price (PP) welcomed the members of the Board and Andrew Ashcroft (AA) provided background information in respect of the new HARC building.

3. Dane Broomfield (DB) delivered a presentation upon the background to the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) & Action Plan process (see attached presentation).

DB summarised the plan highlighting the 3 parts to the NMP with the modelling of phosphate source apportionment and interventions necessary for achieving Powys/Herefordshire growth whilst achieving the conservation targets set for the R. Wye SAC. This modelling was also being done for the R. Lugg to give options for catchment management in the context of phosphate from different sources. From the evidence and the modelling there was a clear lag time between high rainfall and phosphate release to the rivers. Version 1 of the Action Plan was published and discussions were ongoing with DCWW coupled with Defra liaison on deliverability.

The NMP links in with the catchment based approach (CABA) in relation to the Water Framework Directive to the same end. With NMP published, an iterative approach with regular assessment will feed into the NMP process through formal reporting and the Action Plan website.

PP asked whether there were other things in the river other than phosphate? DB replied, yes of course but the river was particularly sensitive to phosphate but in dealing with the phosphate, these aspects are dealt to a large extent because of the same conveyancing process.

PP added that agriculture requires clear actions and DB replied that this was dealt with within the consultation process being undertaken.

4. Claire Minnett (CM) led a discussion regarding the Terms of Reference of the Board and the roles and responsibilities of the Board referring to a draft paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The detailed wording of each of the terms of reference was discussed and it was agreed that an amended version would be circulated for comment. The amended version would provide further clarification of the role of the Group in delivering the measures of the Action Plan and reflect the proposed collaborative approach to the working of the Board.

PP stated that it should be the role of the Board to offer 'the carrot' as well as 'the stick' to landowners and land managers. Some things could be secured by such mechanisms as Sec. 106 agreements but there is a need to have a consultative approach. Nick Read (NR) (from the Bulmer Foundation) declared that the stakeholder group he was spearheading was a good platform for this and that the various groups attached to the Board could deliberate on such matters and feed back to the Board.

It was agreed that the resource implications for partners raised by Perry Hobbs (PH) and (NR) should be taken back to the relevant organisations. IB pointed out that irrespective of resources it should be the Board's responsibility to iteratively agree actions/solutions regularly. A number of funding options could be explored and the Board needs to review this. It was agreed that the stakeholder group was the natural group to whom a variety of people can refer and Ian Butterfield (IB) affirmed that it should be the role of the Board to determine the strategy required to implement the NMP e.g. via enforcement or other approaches.

Claire Greener (CG) (NFU) expressed the view that education was a necessary part of the process and not just regulation. AA explained that a consensual approach with sustainable development in mind should also be adopted. This was affirmed by CM who stated that the Terms of Reference needs to address the collective approach and should reflect working together to resolve issues. The importance of credible delivery was underlined by SE and DB emphasised that what needs to be achieved (with the NMP) cannot be diluted.

AA underscored the fact that with securing growth, the expectation was that what is said will be done and that a rewording of the Terms of Reference should specifically identify targets and implementable action. This was agreed by all.

5. PP asserted that the Board needed to identify administrative responsibilities and ways of working. SE suggested that perhaps a timeline should be established for the Board to work to regarding NMP development. IB clarified that the NMP Action Plan is the element to be reviewed and re-written if necessary and DB stated that the Action Plan does state that will be fully reviewed every four years. Perry Hobbs (PH) averred that any changes should make the NMP fit for purpose.

It was agreed that initially the Board would meet on a 3 monthly basis with the Technical Group meeting around every 6-weeks. Meetings may not be required as frequently once the groups had been established. CG expressed a concern about actions being dictated by the group to stakeholders but DB clarified that the stakeholder groups should be ideally placed to feed to and from stakeholders. Dave Throup (DP) proposed that the technical groups should be centred upon the technical expertise of Natural England and the Environment Agency and this was agreed. CM proposed that the NMP progress, minutes and agendas etc. could be published on the Council website.

It was agreed that Herefordshire Council would provide the administration of the Board and EA/NE would jointly provide administration support for the River Wye Water Technical Group, which would be established to support the Board.

6. In respect of the relationship of the Board with other bodies such as the Local Nature Partnership and Catchment Partnership DT asked whether there needed to be a formal arrangement with such groups regarding their relationship with the Board. It was agreed that a formal arrangement would not be required but there should be a standing item on the agenda for the other groups to report upon their work. It was agreed that consideration should be given to streamlining the work of various groups to avoid duplication and jointly meetings may be possible. Some clarification of the organisation of these would be possible if an organogram or infographic of some description could be formulated and that an action to do this should be attributed.
7. Updates from participants
  - Kevin Singleton (KS) provided an update regarding the progress of the Herefordshire Core Strategy. The document was undergoing Examination in Public and Hearing Sessions had been completed in February. The partnership work between the Council and other Agencies had worked very successfully. Following the Hearing Sessions Main Modifications had been

published and it was hoped the Inspector's Report would be received in time to enable adoption in September.

- In respect of Powys Local Development Plan, Alan Humphries (AH) reported that the consultation period upon the 2<sup>ND</sup> Deposit Local Development Plan would end at 4:30pm. The representations were being processed with a view to Examination in later Autumn/early Winter. In the meantime Powys UDP was still in place. Powys CC had also begun monitoring the past 5-years of development activity in the County.
  - Mark Rychnovsky (MR) gave a presentation upon the future DCWW AMP6 programme (see attached presentation).
  - NR provided a report of the work of the Land Based Sector (paper attached)
  - Chris Dyson (CD) informed the group that there were potential issues in Wales with the P Target review. Existing targets were generally ok apart from some limited localised issues but with the new targets issues were likely to be more widespread. However, CD had been informed that there was a meeting happening today (20/7) to discuss the targets and some uncertainty whether the new targets would be implemented.
  - DB gave a presentation upon the emerging Retro-SUDS study (presentation attached).
  - SE provided a presentation upon the success of the WHIP2 project (see attached presentation). There was some discussion regarding whether bids for further funding to continue the work could be made through the LEP.
8. It was agreed that the Board would meet again on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in the HARC building.