

River Wye Nutrient Management Plan Board

3rd December 2018, 2pm-4pm

**Committee Room A, County Hall, Powys County Council, Llandrindod Wells,
Powys, LD1 5LG**

Agenda

1. *Introductions & apologies – Chair*

Attendance: Cllr Price, Beth Lewis, Claire Minnett, Claire Walters, David Letellier, Sarah Faulkner, Richard Pitts, Nick Read, Simon Evans, Dane Broomfield
Apologies: Kevin Bishop, Richard Gabb, Jenny Gamble, Mark Rychonvsky

2. *Notes of the meeting of June 2018.*

Apologies that these were not provided. These will be circulated for approval before next meeting.

3. *Monitoring “dashboard” update.*

Still awaiting some housing data which should be provided by the end of the year.

Data is reporting for April 2018 for housing but some are reporting Dec 2018.

Agreed that the aim should be to update the Dashboard by the end of September each year.

It is not anticipated that there would be any major changes visible on the dashboard as the time lapse has not been enough. Farm activity on engagement will be positive.

There were ongoing reviews of ways of trying to meet the challenges around diffuse pollution

A new project would be undertaken to provide greater monitor of phosphate within a whole watercourse catchment. This was expected to improve understanding regarding issues such as the spikes in phosphate.

Bid for a river monitoring programme to monitor conditions of the river better to help target the effects better.

Sharing evidence from these projects will be valuable to this catchment.

Try to show on the dashboard how housing activity is performing by catchment against headroom/targets.

4. *Update of the NMP action plan.*

TAG workshop on the 17 Dec in order to review the action plan.

Some progress has been made but needs to be more.

This will be reported to the board in the spring.

The action plan needs to be kept current and lots of activity is going on.

5. *Joint Powys/Herefordshire Member seminar feedback.*

Attendees included 8 members from Herefordshire (all Planning committee members) and 13 from Powys.

5 presentations given – to introduce the NMP, policies of both Powys and Herefordshire, Welsh Water AMP updates and Wye Catchment Partnership. Very good meeting to inform those of the work of the NMP board, but some considered that there was some disappointment on lack of progress from some members.

Pleasing to see more Powys members at the seminar.

Farm Herefordshire work was praised at the meeting.
Value of monitoring from DCWW is having a positive effect on progress.
Is there anything that can be done during the two years between the seminars to engage members?

A review of the Herefordshire Core Strategy maybe a point when it would be appropriate to engage Herefordshire members. Plus a possible briefing for any new members after the April 2019 elections in Herefordshire.

6. *Update from WCP*

WCP is some distance ahead of others around the country. Bids had been made for more than £5m for a number of projects.

4 focuses – monitoring, regulations (solutions enforced to 12 issues in farming practices), Farming Connect funding targeted for pollution awareness work, funding from Co-op to set up a business group on the Wye to provide support mechanism for farmers.

Natural flood management launch in Brimfield – lead by the community. Seeking to obtain some monitoring data which will benefit the NMP work.

Rephokus – 2 in the UK looking at phosphate and how it can be used better. Seeking to include the Wye within the project.

7. *Farm Herefordshire update*

National Trust has expressed an interest in joining
Rural Payment Agency are also be approached.
Working with Marches NP to assist in the LEP post Brexit.
Being to struggle with a lack of resource
Want to begin a monitoring project next year to see how attitudes are changing

8. *Update from DCWW*

11 WWTW identified for improvements
More investigations on the smaller WWTW

Submitted to Ofwat and awaiting outcome
Could the local authorities indicate the order in which AMP updates should take place?

ACTION: to review priorities for AMP updates with WW

9. NRW Update

NRW currently undergoing a restructure.

Work in England has been inspiring and attempting to see how this model will work in Wales.

Pollution incidences in West Wales and a group has been created to look at agricultural pollution and potential actions

Officer appointed to visit and advise on farming pollution from diary on the upper Wye
Involved in Earth observation project – can view changes of use on land which can then advice farmers on soil loss.

Increase number of poultry units in the upper Wye - working to improve the information obtained at the planning stage.

10. *NFU Update*

Updated on current Brexit understanding for farming with health warnings that things change daily.

8 points of the Agricultural Bill

Top 10 asks for the Agricultural Bill from the NFU.

NFU are lobbying both locally and nationally. Preparing a Brexit toolkit and a call centre to support farmers.

80% of Herefordshire farms reliant on CAP to be viable

11. *Development Plan update from local authorities.*

Herefordshire:

Hereford Area Plan – draft plan anticipated for consultation in June /July

Rural Areas – site options consultation anticipated for June/July 2019

Mineral and Waste – draft plan consultation in Jan 2019

Core Strategy review – late 2019 and roll forward to 2041. Review will include consideration of revised approach to housing needs/requirements in accordance with the new standard approach for defining housing figures in England.

Powys:

Biodiversity SPG adopted in Oct 2018

Renewable energy and Landscape SPG to be consulted upon in January.

Discussions are planned with DCWW to review the pinch points in the county.

Questions from the public.

CPRE were disappointed that the dashboard is not functioning over 3 years. CPRE have produced an interactive map which is still available. EA water quality data is

offline and has been for 9 months. Are there any concerns that this data is not available?

Answer: EA facilitate the production but it is the Board's dashboard. EA would like the website working as soon as possible and this is a technical issue. Data is available by email. The Board's plan is long term and many schemes are still within the planning stage, therefore the lag times in improvements may not reflect in the data.

Alison Caffyn explained that she was completing a 3 year research project regarding poultry units, mainly in Shropshire and Herefordshire. She had spoken to members of the Board and would be happy to meet others for further discussion.

12. Dates of next meeting

Week commencing 15 April 2019, Herefordshire

13. AOB