

River Wye Nutrient Management Plan Board

4th October 2016, 2pm

Herefordshire Record Centre, Rotherwas Hereford

Cllr P Price, Cllr E Swinglehurst, Kevin Singleton, Samantha Banks (Herefordshire Council)

Dane Bloomfield, David Throup (Environment Agency)

Mark Rychnovsky (Welsh Water)

Simon Evans (Wye Catchment Partnership)

Nick Read (Bulmer Foundation)

Sarah Falconer (National Farmers Union)

Claire Minett (Natural England)

Draft notes

1. Apologies
Perry Hobbs (WW), Richard Gabb (HC), Steve Morgan (NRW), Kevin Bishop (HC).
2. Notes of NMP Board of 5th July (attached)
Item 4 – amended NUF to NFU, Should reference the continuing importance of water quality despite Brexit to ensure profile remains.
ACTION: correspondence from NMP Board (via Cllr P) would be useful to emphasise to DEFRA the continuing importance of water quality, others agreed to help in drafting correspondence.
Item 5 – spelling mistake ‘Wye catchment’
Item 9 – Draft informative is now attached to relevant planning decision notices.
Pollution event – Not possible to determine the root cause of the pollution and not enough evidence to prosecute.
Otherwise notes were agreed.
3. Update on the development of the monitoring “dashboard”
DB reported that the dashboard was still work in progress. Details of the information gathered was circulated for discussion.
Section 1 – Water Quality Results – three sample points from the Lower Lugg and 4 points from the River Wye currently any risk.
River Lugg has more samples above average in later years and on the River Wye there are some high results which are having an impact on the average.

It was recognised that a wider set of sampling points should be included and in particular to look at the Welsh section of the Wye.

DB – will look at a wider network for the dashboard.

ACTION: add the historic targets to the graphs

CM – there is no set date for review of the SAC condition. The Board will need more information to understand that the condition is moving in the right direction.

NR – need to understand the reasons for the spikes and the conditions which have caused them

DB – EA are undertaking such an exercise to understand spikes on the River Lugg and give us some indications and this will be shared in due course but doing this for historic data.

DB – Lab tests are undertaken and results reported within a week. Often the conditions which causes the spikes have ceased. However in forecasted wet weather and in areas of risk, tests are taken in high risk locations. Testing is intended to be random and designed to be that so the conditions can be tested along the whole river at different times. NE will look at the data and have regards to the frequency of samples and spikes to draw conclusions. Monitoring equipment can be engaged in areas where risks are being shown.

NR – could citizen science help?

DB – getting a test kit which is sufficiently accurate and easy to use is difficult and some safety issues regarding the agents used in the kits

NR – Could be useful to explain why there a difference between the targets for River Lugg and the Rover Wye?

ACTION: DB – add a paragraph regarding the difference between the targets for the River Wye and the River Lugg.

SE – should be a catchment wide dashboard

ACTION: DB – add some details of the wider catchment and liaise with SE to select the appropriate tributaries.

Section 2 – Development in Herefordshire

KS explained the housing completions results within the river catchment areas.

Powys are yet to supply the equivalent data.

NR – are there assumptions behind this that development impacts on phosphate could a paragraph be added to understand this.

DB – direct link between numbers of dwellings and water treatment works.

ACTION: add explanation about the red line on the graph, include the Housing trajectory graph and potentially some hyperlinks to details in the plan.

DB – could need to with an additional material for public consumption as this maybe too much information for a dashboard.

With time Welsh Water schemes will be added to the dashboard to indicate to improvements of the STWs.

Enterprise Zone – within the allocation figures of the Core Strategy and the EZ order.

ACTION – Ask Powys whether they can provide their data regarding development.

DB – additional work and data to be collected to complete the dashboard background datasets.

SF – relying on the CSF may be limiting

DB – Farm Herefordshire and EA working on additional data sets on agriculture

DB – dashboard will be hosted on the HC website with the minutes of the Board.

4. Need for review of NMP Action Plan
Two years since the Action Plan has been developed. Board should request that the TAG Group to review the action plan.
ACTION: TAG Group to review the action plan and bring update to the next board meeting.
5. Update from WUF
SE provided an update regarding continuing work. Work continues and looking at options for water protection zone. Farm visit programme continues and improving Maize programme continues.
Projects continue to be honoured post Brexit so Soil and Water project can continue.
Submitted bid for farmer engagement regarding improving land-use.
Recent visit from the Head of the EA.
6. Farm Herefordshire update
NR reported that there was little to add from the last meeting although more videos have been produced and are available on YouTube.
7. Update from DCWW on AMP6/7
Main scheme Yazor Brook complete in the next two weeks. £1m scheme and should be cost beneficial and create new headroom for development in Hereford.
Modelling ongoing
Phosphate piolets ongoing and complete in the new year
Starting to consider investment plans for 2020-25.
8. PP reported back from the joint Powys/Herefordshire NMP Seminar 15/18 Cllrs from Herefordshire attended and probably more aware of the issues and actions.

Thank for those you presented on the day especially to Dane– very interesting, understandable and informative. A repeat of the event at a later date.

KS – Herefordshire Council Overview & Scrutiny would like an annual update.

Press release had been issued following the event.

Request from the Development Team for an event to keep them informed, this could include those members who did not attend. DB/SE happy to repeat the session.

ACTION: to organise presentation for Planning Staff and remaining members.

9. Questions from the public.
No members present but questions received in advance by two members of the public via email.
DB provided draft answers. Answers discussed and amendments suggested and agreed. DB to provide amended answers for PP to sign off and respond.
ACTION: include link to the .gov webpage where the open data is already available.
Include information regarding the work to establish Core Strategy housing targets.
Cllr Price to send response to questions from the public

10. AOB
None
Meeting closed at 15:42

Next meeting dates 10th January 2017.

Web link to the NMP Action Plan:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nutrient-management-plan-river-wye>