

Cuckmere and Pevensey Levels Catchment Partnership

Turkey Barn – Seven Sisters Country Park – 27th January 2015

Partnership wide items – Minutes and Actions

1.1 Catchment Host and Co-ordinator Update – Henri Brocklebank and Rosie Pyper

Actions from last meeting

All actions were completed, with the exception of the project log, which has been produced but will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting in April. (*Please see below for sub-catchment actions*)

Funding and Projects

HB has asked all relevant parties to let her know expected expenditure for the rest of the financial year. There is likely to be a small underspend for the Partnership budget, but it is possible that Defra will allow this to be carried forward to next year.

Sessingham Weir was agreed as being the best project to take forward next year – further details about this are detailed in the Cuckmere sub-catchment meeting below.

An announcement from Defra is expected in the next few weeks regarding the next phase of the Catchment Restoration Fund. Last year they announced there would be £85k for each catchment for the next financial year, however this is now expected to be around £45k, which will significantly reduce the amount available for projects. £15k of this will go towards running the Partnership, potentially leaving only £30k for projects. It is unclear whether the Fund will run for 1 or 2 years. There will be a 2 week window for applications to be submitted for projects. The Defra announcement will be communicated to Partners as soon it is made.

Website

Following the last meeting, MD has produced a website for the Partnership. Those present at each sub-catchment meeting gave their comments, and the following changes will be made:

- Remove news section, replacing the homepage panel with a link to Our Work.
- Links will be added to relevant Defra pages explaining catchments, the Catchment Data Explorer, other relevant external sites, and each partner website (where available).
- New images will be added – all partners were invited to send images to MD.

Project details and documents will be added as they become available.

Actions
• HB/RP to communicate Catchment Restoration Fund announcement from Defra when available
• ALL to send any images they would like included on the website
• ALL to send any project information to MD for inclusion on the website

1.2 River Basin Management Plan Consultation

RP and HB are preparing a collaborative Partnership response to the consultation and would like partners to provide input. Prior to the meeting, RP circulated questions to make it easier for partners to respond. These were discussed in each sub-catchment meeting and all comments will be discussed at the steering group meeting on 11th February. A response will then be prepared and circulated to everyone for final comment, before being submitted.

Actions
• LP to circulate maps of cycle 1 and 2 of the WFD to everyone
• Steering Group members are invited to attend the meeting on 11th February 1.30 – 3.30pm to discuss the response to the RBMP consultation – at SWT, Woods Mill.
• RP/HB to circulate the draft response to everyone prior for final comment
• ALL to send comments/further input to the response to RP/HB

Combe Haven Sub Catchment Session – Minutes & Actions

Attendees			
Henri Brocklebank (HB)	SWT - Partnership Host	Helen Godfrey (HG)	EA
Rosie Pyper (RP)	EA - Partnership Coordinator	Nicole Collomb (NC)	Groundworks
Louise Parker (LP)	EA	Mary Devlin (MD)	Partnership Secretariat
Dave Brown (DB)	SERT		
Apologies			
Alice Parfitt	SWT	Jan Cutting	Rother Voluntary Action
Nick Sangster	Hasting Borough Council	Paul Linwood	Southern Water

2.1 Actions from previous meeting

All actions were completed.

2.2 Project Updates

Hastings Pollution Assessment Volunteers & Bathing Water – Liz Lewis

Liz Lewis was not present at the meeting – update to be circulated via email

Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD to ask LL for a project update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD to ask for project updates prior to all future meetings

Hollington Stream – Jane Birch (update provided during next session)

Walkovers have not been carried out yet but at the catchment walkover training last week it was decided that EA could carry them out themselves in each area.

Jane Birch met with the developers who seem open to habitat and river enhancement suggestions

Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB to speak with Fran and Sandra about their input to the project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB to involve SERT in walkovers so they can provide ideas of costs for any work identified

Combe Valley Countryside Park – Nicole Collomb

Following on from the last meeting, NC gave a presentation about the work being carried out by Groundworks and other partner organisations to establish the park, which sits between Bexhill and St Leonards.

A community interest group has been formed which is aiming to make the park financially sustainable, and what budget there is being used to set things up. A strategy is also under development, setting out prioritised improvements such as developing park hub, establishing a volunteer group and forest schools. The park hub is being funded through section 106, however there is no other money available so NC would be interested to hear from partners about any other possible funding streams.

The presentation will be uploaded to the Partnership website.

Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD to make presentation available on the Partnership website
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL to send NC any information about possible sources of funding for the project

Pevensey Sub Catchment Session – Minutes & Actions

Attendees			
Henri Brocklebank (HB)	SWT - Partnership Host	Helen Godfrey (HG)	EA
Rosie Pyper (RP)	EA - Partnership Coordinator	Jane Birch (JB)	EA
Louise Parker (LP)	EA	Mike Richardson (MR)	SDA
Dave Brown (DB)	SERT	Mary Devlin (MD)	Partnership Secretariat
Natalie Bumpus (NB)	Wealden DC		
Apologies			
Alice Parfitt	SWT	Dan Sargeant	EA
Paul Linwood	Southern Water	Fran Southgate	SWT

3.1 Actions from previous meeting

All actions were completed – see comments below regarding the Pennywort volunteers.

3.2 Project Updates

Pennywort update – Jane Birch

Following discussions at the last meeting JB explained that the idea of using volunteers for the project had been dropped due to health and safety issues – EA and University of Brighton were unable to take on the liability. DB agreed to look into how SERT could deal with this – they may be able to register volunteers with them and take on the health and safety liability side of things. MR explained that he hasn't had any volunteers from the angling community yet, but he will look into it further.

JB explained that EA are open to meandering their section, however they will need to negotiate this with ESCC. Surveying and spraying has been carried out in Pevensey but they have not carried out de-silting yet because of the weather and staff issues. The work is being done in sections on a cycle basis – this should be a 15 year cycle, but it hasn't been done for a long time so they are looking to re-establish this cycle.

LP highlighted that on the Arun Valley site a species of snails had been found in early successional ditches, which is unexpected according to EA guidance. JB said that they have not found them in the ditches they've worked on so far. The ditches are being maintained for vegetation as well as biodiversity. Unfortunately Pennywort is still coming through again in the areas that they have worked on.

Southern Water update – Paul Linwood (via email)

Southern Waters Board are currently reviewing the Final Determination they have received from OFWAT in December and need to decide whether to accept it or whether to seek a review of the proposals. Southern Water must decide whether to challenge or accept it is 12th February.

As well as including details about the funding of environmental improvement schemes, the Business Plan Final Determination examines all aspects of Southern Waters regulated business and goes into financial details about many other issues, in addition to the funding of their environmental programme.

Paul Linwood hopes to be able to share details of their funded schemes in Cuckmere and Pevensey after February, however due to timings of the WFD they will not be able to share information about their WFD investment until January 2016 at the earliest.

NB explained that Wealden DC are expecting results on options from Southern Water in March, which will feed into their strategy for work in Wealden, most of which will focus on the south of the area.

Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD to include Southern Water works as an agenda item for the next meeting. • LP to attend the next meeting and provide feedback on how the work will impact Pevensey and Cuckmere.

Cuckmere Sub Catchment Session – Minutes & Actions

Attendees			
Henri Brocklebank (HB)	SWT - Partnership Host	Helen Godfrey (HG)	EA
Rosie Pyper (RP)	EA - Partnership Coordinator	Richard Brown	CVPC
Louise Parker (LP)	EA	Gill Hesselgrave	CFF
John Gallop (JG)	EA	Mike Richardson (MR)	SAA
Louise Forder (LF)	EA	Mary Devlin (MD)	Partnership Secretariat
Dave Brown (DB)	SERT	Simon Lohrey (SL)	SE Water
Apologies			
Russell Long	EA	Paul Linwood	SW
Fran Southgate	SWT	Alice Parfitt	SWT
Dan Sargeant (DS)	EA	Andy Thomas (AT)	WTT

4.1 Actions from previous meeting

All actions were completed, with the following update:

A landowner workshop was discussed at the last meeting, however this has been put on hold as it was decided that the Sessingham Weir project will be prioritised.

Actions	
•	MD to put Chris Manning presentation on the website

4.2 Project Updates

South East Water – Simon Lohrey

As is the case for Southern Water (See item 3.2 regarding Southern Water), South East Water are in the process of deciding whether to accept or challenge the OFWAT response to their business plan. It looks likely that they will accept it. [**post meeting note**: The Final Business Plan has now accepted and adopted – see below].

The plan will begin in April, running for 5 years, and includes two main programmes:

Scheme Name	Driver	Catchment Scheme Actions
Cuckmere DrWPA Investigation	WFD	Investigation: Sampling, Catchment Walkovers, Aerial Photography, Pesticide Usage Data, Office Based Desk Study
Cuckmere DrWPA catchment scheme	WFD	Comprehensive programme of catchment management activities to address metaldehyde.

SEW are keen to work with Natural England to deliver Catchment Sensitive Farming in the Cuckmere catchment. New staff will also be appointed to deliver parts of the programme.

Cuckmere Structures – Helen Godfrey

There has been no progress on this work since last year as the project lead has changed. HG or Russell Long will keep the group updated.

Sessingham Weir – Dave Brown

The Partnership decided that Sessingham Weir was the best project to take forward, however pending the Defra announcement it is unclear if there will be enough funds for it yet. Andy Thomas and SERT have been working together to put together a project proposal and costings. The project would need about £40k and would need to be run over 2 years.

It was suggested that the project could be done in stages, for example just lowering the weir, with the option of putting it back if that causes problems, or removing just the middle part initially.

Shermans Bridge

RP explained that low cost baffles were planned for Shermans Bridge however they were the wrong design so Southampton University students are looking into what is needed.

Esmee Bid – Henri Brocklebank

HB explained there was no further update since the last meeting as SWT have only just started working on it again.

Estuary Task and Finish Group – Henri Brocklebank

No update as HB was not at the last meeting. ML not present

Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HB to keep partners updated with the group

Seaview 2027 – Rosie Pyper

This is a new project being run by the EA, looking at transitional and coastal waters, which have to date not been mapped out. A process was run in the Solent which looked at what good water status looks like and this is now being carried out in Sussex. The EA regional marine representative is changing so the programme will continue once a replacement is in place.

4.3 AOB

RB raised the need for better communication between EA and landowners regarding maintenance work planned for the Cuckmere.

Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RP and HG to feedback to their team leaders and agree a better way of communicating their work, to be included in their processes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RB to provide a list of people who would need to be kept informed about EA work in the Cuckmere
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RB to send comments on the Flood Risk Management consultation to RP by 30th January