

Poole Harbour Delivery Group Meeting
7th October 2020 10.00 – 12.30, via MS Teams

Attendees

Fiona Bowles	Chair	Y
Natalie Poulter	Catchment Partnership Co-ordinator	Y
Emma Sumner	PHCI, Catchment Partnership Technician	Apologies
Ian Rees	Dorset AONB, Countryside Officer	Apologies
Ali Quinney	Natural Environment Team, Dorset Council	Apologies
Matilda Manley	Litter Free Coast and Sea Co-ordinator, Dorset Coast Forum	N
Oliver Rendle	Dorset Council	N
Chris Osborne	Flood Risk Management Team, Dorset Council	N
Jez Martin	Biodiversity Projects Officer, BCP Council	Y
Amanda Broom	River Catchments Manager, DWT	Y
Angus Menzies	Riverfly Coordinator, Dorset Wildlife Trust	Y
Dave Jones	Regulatory Scientist, Wessex Water	Y
Doug Kite	Conservation Advisor and water specialist, Natural England	Apologies
Louise Stratton	Dorset County Advisor, NFU	N
Paul Cottington/	Environment Advisor, SW National Farmers Union	Y
Nicola Hopkins/ Tim Bowden	Farm Conservation Advisor, FWAG South West,	Y
Charlotte Woodford	Catchment Sensitive Farming Advisor	N
Wakely Cox	Farmer member of the Agriculture Group	Y (after 11:15)
Stephen Gregory	Salmonid Research Team, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust	Apologies
Scott West	Fisheries Scientist, Westcountry Rivers Trust	Y
Richard Illingworth	Chairman, Frome, Piddle & West Dorset Fisheries Association	Y
David Brown/ Gen Crisford	National Trust - Purbeck	Apologies Y
Keith Calder	Catchment Co-ordinator for Dorset and Hampshire Avon, Environment Agency	Y
Cally Barnes	Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole Council	Y
Aly Maxwell	NFM Co-ordinator, Environment Agency	Y
Correspondence members		
Renny Henderson	RSPB	N
Alan Frampton	FCERM team, BCP Council	N
Andrew Probets	Dorset Council	N
Ben Davis	LUSH	N
Will Beaumont	GWCT	Apologies
John Humphreys	Chair, Southern IFCA	N

1. Actions from last meeting

Who	Action	Progress
NP	Circulate Seafish information document on Norovirus and Bivalve molluscs	Complete
All	Partners who are interested in a farmer led monitoring project for PHNMS please contact NP, FB or ES	Complete
ES	Distribute the job advertisement for the NFU post for Poole Harbour Nutrient Management Scheme Project Manager. Note- closing date Sunday 17 th July.	Complete
All	Send on further responses to slido questions/ catchment plans to NP & ES to feed into the catchment plan update	Complete
All	Feedback to IR/ NH on ideas for Dorset Wild Rivers and how partners can be involved	Complete
NP & ES	Organise workshop in early August for prioritising and developing projects to be added to the EA's MTP list in their September refresh.	Complete
All	Develop project plans to basic level, and complete proformas 24hr before the workshop date	Complete
IR	Share opportunity mapping from the Dorset AONB test and trials when made available (possibly in August)	Ongoing
DJ, SG, AM, IR & FB	Further discussion around fish data and river health once the data from the two mapping exercises were available in order to help inform the wider mapping exercise	Ongoing via Fisheries sub-group
ES	Share draft ELMS response with partners asap w/c 20 th July	Complete
All	Send relevant information to be captured in Catchment Partnership response for ELMS consultation by Tuesday 28th July. Send to info@stourcatchment.co.uk	Complete
AM	Send on webinar links for distribution to wider partners	Complete
All	For further information and feedback on Stage Zero contact AM	Complete
All	Forward relevant information and input for the Catchment Monitoring Consultation by 17 th July to NP	Complete
NP	Circulate presentation slides for CaBA Catchment monitoring co-operative consultation hub	Complete

Welcome to Tess Tidman- new Project Manager for PHNMS scheme.

2. INTERREG Preventing Plastic Pollution project- IJ

Dr Iwan Jones presented and overview of Queen Mary University London's contributions to this INTERREG project to understand and reduce micro and macro plastic introduction to Poole Harbour; presentation is attached which includes notes.

Discussion:

- IJ confirmed that local partners including Litter Free Coast and Sea and Litter Free Dorset are already linked into the project, and that OSPAR data (which is used by established beach surveys such as the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch beach cleans) are linked into this project also so that data can be shared.
- Water company data is also being included, and IJ is keen to engage more closely where possible. DJ- no detailed outfall information is available at present, but also keen to engage where helpful and useful for mutual benefit.
- KC- sampling for micro-plastics? IJ- being sampled, and sources being identified through spatial patterning where possible, although this is difficult for many fibres. Also testing bags/traps for washing machines to limit/prevent release of microfibrils from domestic settings. A number of studies are ongoing, but the range of methodologies being used makes comparison of data quite difficult.
- Ecotoxicology suggests that potential for ecological damage from microfibrils is quite low. Assessing ecological risk is part of the project, using existing data and through further experimentation.
- NH- FWAG SW operate a plastic recycling scheme for agricultural plastics and may have data which would be useful.
- KC- developing catchment strategies for the EA and have already identified litter as a significant issue; keen to link up.

Action all: Partners are encouraged to contact IJ if they have interest in collaborating with, providing data to or using data from the project. Contact Dr Iwan Jones, Head of River Communities Group, 020 7882 5735 (diverts to local office at FBA River Lab, East Stoke). Email j.i.jones@qmul.ac.uk.

3. WFD data for the Poole Harbour- 2019 update headlines

NP presented the attached presentation on the 2019 WFD data update, some of the detail below the headlines and the limitations of what we understand about the data. There are a number of questions highlighted which KC and others within the EA are helping to answer so that this data can be put to good use.

Discussion:

- Noted that, other than the chemical changes, the catchment's overall ecological position is quite similar to that of the 2016 data.
- Finer scale data is needed for project planning, assessment of data gaps and measures of progress.

Action all: report to NP if there are particular aspects of data which would be useful for project development/delivery.

4. Catchment Planning- NP

Less progress on this than NP had hoped, although the work done at previous delivery groups has been worked up to form draft goals and a broad direction of travel; this now needs to be underpinned by a GIS mapping exercise to identify issues, constraints, opportunities, to help prioritise work areas and themes going forwards.

NP introduced the two GIS projects for partners to consider.

FB- would be good to set up a small working group to develop the project with the contractor and make sure all appropriate data streams are included.

Action: Any partners who are interested in quoting for the GIS projects, particularly project 1 please contact NP with a ball park figure for outline project costs by 21st October.

Action all: please look at the briefs and feed back on any additional needs that should be covered by the work.

Action NP: set up working group for developing the GIS project(s) further.

5. MTP prioritisation progress & next steps

KC presented the MTP prioritisation within the EA; presentation attached. Note- slide 3 shows potential options which are still under consideration; these should not be taken as finalised or agreed. Partners are requested not to share this slide.

Discussion:

- There are pros & cons for joining up the Stour/Frome/Tone & Parrett as a single project. KC- key link between these projects is opportunities for NFM work; a single strategy for NFM is likely from the EA for this area, which might work well even though the geology and land management for these areas is different. This is early stages of thinking and input and feedback is welcomed.
- NH- Great to see Stour Headwaters is a priority project going forwards. Ownership is key and needs to be factored into the delivery of the project to keep landowners on side.
- DJ- Potential to bring funding sources together to magnify impact of delivery.
- FB- having different geographical areas linked together does give potential for increased funding, and including things like catchment markets, however delivery is more likely to continue at a county/catchment level due to planning & organisational structures.
- Input welcomed from DWT once AB is re-established in role.

6. Other CP updates

- Variety of funding opportunities cropping up at the moment with bids in from various partners including Covid Green Recovery Strategy Fund:
 - Dorset AONB leading on fencing & cattle grids project for Purbeck NNR;
 - FWAG SW leading on a farmer cluster project on farmland birds across the county from PH to Cranborne Chase;
 - national AONBs project supporting the approach in West Dorset which Ian Rees is working on.
- RBMP Catchment page template and format has been released; deadline is 'Early 2021'; NP looking at template to ensure we have information in good time when deadline is confirmed.

7. Partners' and Chair's updates

A) Partners' updates

Dorset Council Natural Environment Team (NET): Alice Quinney

- All NET still working from home until at least March but still carrying out surveys and site visits.
- We have a permanent and full time post advertised internally; **Nitrate Mitigation and Compensation Project Officer**. This post will ensure funding brought in from development mitigates impacts of nitrates on Poole Harbour (under Nitrogen Reduction SPD) and compensate for residual loss of wildlife habitats

(under the Dorset Biodiversity Appraisal Protocol). Post is two part time roles, one funded by DC and the other by BCP, fulfilled as one full time post based within the DC NET.

Dorset Wildlife Trust: Amanda Broom

- Organisation is restructuring; catchment work will now come under Imogen Davenport who will be leading the new 'Nature-based solutions' team, which will include Amanda and Steve.
- SO has advised that, despite some set-backs in timetabling for works the beaver project is still on target for a late 2020 release, provided that the beavers can be obtained from Scotland as planned.

National Trust: Gen Crisford

- Funding received from Wytch Farm grant for next stage of consultation and engagement on the Purbeck beaver project. Scoping being worked up based on early consultation work.
- Working on a phased project, beginning with Littlesea, progressing to Rempstone Estate and lower Corfe; each phase would be separately licensed. Looking to begin detailed engagement soon. Planning, depending on licencing and funding, for a release at Littlesea in late 2021. Licensing application submission is aimed for end 2020/early 2021.
- Site assessments being carried out for sites where concerns have been expressed; management plan will be drawn up once these are fully understood. To include long-term systems and funding for those.
- Most 'traditional' engagement mechanisms on hold due to Covid, but being innovative and looking at alternative means of engaging key stakeholders and more widely so momentum is not lost, e.g. webinars and other online engagement.
- Anticipating an England Beaver strategy by end of 2020. Government running consultation on new releases.
- Delivery is intended to be funded externally, so will not be affected by any cuts within NT.

EA- Stage Zero feasibility mapping: Aly Maxwell

- Final mapping due end of October, which may feed in well to beaver project, GIS projects and others.

West Dorset, Frome & Piddle Fisheries: Richard Illingworth

- Working on long-term issue with swans- particularly breaking up large groups of young male swans. Understand that there are sensitivities around this kind of work. Researching the effect on ranunculus sp.
- Interested in the beaver project- have concerns about it, but accept that it will go ahead. Focus has therefore shifted from seeking to stop it, to making sure it is well managed.

Westcountry Rivers Trust: Scott West

- New member of staff has recently been appointed; this post will work with Scott, freeing him up for more work in Dorset.

BCP Council (Jez Martin)

- JM has provided a separate paper (attached) as an update on the AI-based water quality sensors which have been installed in the Harbour. Please note that the data included as a screenshot is provisional and has yet to be verified- it should therefore be used with caution and not be regarded as accurate.

Dorset AONB (Tom Munro via Natalie Poulter)

- Selected to make a full application to Green Recovery Challenge Fund for the Purbeck Heaths NNR, which Tom Munro is leading on; c£500k, for lots of cattle grids & fencing for grazing with cattle, ponies & pigs across a single 1300ha unit.

Wessex Water (Dave Jones)

- Our Investigations in Poole Harbour have been paused due to Covid. These are now restarting, but the timescale for completion of the investigations has been extended in agreement with the Environment Agency to reflect this pause. The marine sampling will be undertaken by Titan marine and we've now started sampling which will continue over the next year or so. This has been extended to include analysis for bacteria and BCP have also asked for virus analysis in Poole Harbour - we're talking to CEFAS currently to see whether this is feasible.
- We're continuing to prepare the delivery of the DEFRA Environment Land Management test and trial to deliver natural capital improvements in the catchment (e.g. NFM, biodiversity, carbon, nitrates etc). The plan was to hold the auction in spring 2020, but this has been held up due to a number of unforeseen circumstances. However, we are still planning to have an auction this autumn/early winter and if successful will hold further auctions over the next couple of years and we plan to keep partners informed in advance of these auctions

B) Chair's update

- Dorset Local Nature Partnership has been looking at potential projects to contribute to the Local Investment strategy once a call is opened. These are looking at improving approaches to environment and natural capital for business and enhancing Dorset assets for tourism. There is a good range of catchment initiatives in the Wessex area for catchment markets to fund measures to deliver natural capital and environmental services in development.
- The National Steering Group for CaBA has highlighted the developing Nature Recovery Network proposals which will be enshrined in the Environment Bill and delivered through Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Pilots for LNRS in 20/21(possibly).
- New Water Improvement Fund opportunity to provide trees for water. Projects to be submitted by Oct 30th close (information attached with minutes)
- EA FCRM Innovation Resilience Fund- primarily targeted at LLFAs (and partners), but may provide an opportunity to develop a stage zero demonstration project.

8. AOB

Date of next meeting: 10am Thurs 11th Feb 2021; venue TBC, MS Teams as a fallback. Proposal that meeting could include a site visit.

Action all: propose appropriate site visits that could showcase work being done on the ground.

Action Summary

Who	Action	Progress
All	Partners are encouraged to contact IJ if they have interest in collaborating with, providing data to or using data from the project. Contact Dr Iwan Jones, Head of River Communities Group, 020 7882 5735 (diverts to local office at FBA River Lab, East Stoke). Email j.i.jones@qmul.ac.uk .	
All	Report to NP if there are particular aspects of data which would be useful for project development/delivery.	
All	Any partners who are interested in quoting for the GIS projects, particularly project 1 please contact NP with a ball park figure for outline costs for delivering these projects by 21 st October.	
All	Please look at the briefs and feed back on any additional needs that should be covered by the work.	
NP	Set up working group for developing the GIS project further.	
All	propose appropriate site visits that could showcase work being done on the ground.	