

MANEA AND WELNEY DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

At a Meeting of the Manea and Welney District Drainage Commissioners
held at the Classics Restaurant, Manea on Wednesday the 8th June 2016

PRESENT

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| J E Heading Esq (Chairman) | P D Hawes Esq |
| M Buckton Esq | M E Heading Esq |
| N Cook Esq | Mrs A J Langley |
| C J Crofts Esq | C W Sears Esq |
| C F Hartley Esq | W Sutton Esq |

Mr Robert Hill (representing the Clerk to the Commissioners) was in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from M D R Fairey Esq, P Jolley Esq R M C Sears Esq and N V M Walker Esq.

C.634 Declarations of Interest

Mr Hill reminded the Commissioners of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any of them.

The Chairman and Messrs Hartley, M Heading and Sutton declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

Mr Sutton declared an interest in all planning matters as a member of Fenland District Council.

C.635 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Commissioners held on the 3rd February 2016 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

C.636 Clerk to the Commissioners

Further to minute C.599, Mr Hill reported that the Middle Level Commissioners hoped to appoint the Clerk's successor at the end of the month and that the Clerk would advise the Chairman in due course of the appointment made.

C.637 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute C.602, Mr Hill reported that the position remained as reported at the last meeting save that the River Basin Management Plan had been confirmed

C.638 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute C.603, Mr Hill reported that where a Board had more than one inlet, a separate licence would be required at a proposed "one off" charge of £1,500 imposed to recover the Agency's costs of considering the grant of the Transfer Licence, rather than an annual charge, where the abstraction took place from different watercourses.

Mr Hill reported that within the proposals was an exemption for ports abstracting below the tidal limit and that the Clerk had queried why this was not also an exemption for IDBs.

Following discussions with Defra, the Clerk felt it possible that this exemption could also be granted to IDBs.

The Chairman commented that while he accepted the need for registration of inlets, he was opposed to the registration fee and any possibility of having a quantity attached to the registration.

C.639 Ouse Washes Section 10 Reservoir Inspection

Further to minute C.605, Mr Hill reported that the Agency still proposed to raise low spots in the Middle Level Barrier Bank but that the position still remained very much as reported to the previous meeting.

The Chairman reported that the same engineer who had dealt with the Whittlesey Washes Reservoir works was also involved in drawing up proposals in this case. However, because of the better standard to which the Ouse Washes had been maintained, he considered that less works should be necessary.

C.640 Planning Application – Station Road, Manea (MLC Ref Nos 446, 449 & 482)

Further to minute C.610(ii), the Chairman reported that as part of this site was in the highland catchment area this had caused several issues for the Commissioners. He was concerned that all the proposed properties were to be attenuated but that any arrangements would need to meet the Consulting Engineer's requirements. He reported that he had only received one drainage complaint over the winter in relation to one of the attenuation ponds, which was not under the Commissioners' control, and referred to the ongoing maintenance requirements of these structures.

Mr Hill referred to page 24 of the Consulting Engineer's report concerning the formal complaint that had been made regarding an alleged loss of a sale on this development. A meeting was arranged, following which the applicants submitted further details concerning the foul water and surface water discharges and the access which was within the Commissioners' byelaw margin. However, it was found that certain information was still missing and the applicant had been informed of what was required to enable the application to be processed.

The Chairman commented that although the applicant had not made the correct application or provided the necessary information, he considered that the Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Officer had not necessarily dealt with matters in a timely manner, leading to complaints from the applicants. He reported that matters were now progressing and would hopefully soon be fully resolved.

In response to queries from the Commissioners, Mr Hill briefly outlined the process for transferring land from the agricultural sector to Special Levy; how the Commissioners received

income through highland water contributions and the basic calculations for development contributions for increased flows from developments.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to take any further action that may be required in relation to this development site.

C.641 Consulting Engineers' Report

The Commissioners considered the Report of the Consulting Engineers, viz:-

Manea & Welney D.D.C.

Consulting Engineers Report – May 2016

Pumping Stations

Other than the matters previously reported or described below, only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant at each of the stations is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

At their last meeting the Commissioners asked about the viability of securing the electricity supply to Glenhouse Pumping Station for future electrification at the station. The power supply to Glenhouse Pumping Station is currently on a non-half hourly (NHH) contract, the supply comes from a new 315kVA transformer which would not have sufficient capacity to power the four pumps. It is likely that only two could be connected to this transformer if the Commissioners in the future wish to convert some of the pumps, which are currently diesel powered, to electric drives.

As two electric pumps would considerably increase the capacity requirement to the station, Anglia Farmers, the Commissioners' electricity supplier were asked if there was a way of securing the required increase in electricity capacity to the station for future electrification. They have responded that they consider this to be a question for the DNO (UK Power Networks) and that a new Half Hourly MPAN to replace the existing NHH MPAN is likely to be required and they are not able to negotiate with them on the Commissioners' behalf. They would, however, arrange for new metering to be installed once a new MPAN was arranged.

The question therefore has now been put to UK Power Networks and their response is awaited. They are however likely to require more information though, such as the number of pumps to be supplied, starting currents and when the project will take place etc.

It is considered likely that the only way to secure the capacity would be to enter into a new contract and pay the half hourly availability charges etc, which for two pumps would be in the order of £350/month.

Purls Bridge

The refurbished no 1 pump was reinstalled and returned to service during January 16.

Pumping Hours

Glenhouse

No1 Hours Run 14 Jan 2016 - 7 May 2016 = 75
No2 Hours Run 14 Jan 2016 - 7 May 2016 = 146
No3 Hours Run 14 Jan 2016 - 7 May 2016 = 124
No4 Hours Run 14 Jan 2016 - 7 May 2016 = 69

Total Hours Run 14 Jan 2016 - 7 May 2016 = 414

No1 Hours Run 7 May 2015 – 13 Jan 2016 = 136
No2 Hours Run 7 May 2015 – 13 Jan 2016 = 101
No3 Hours Run 7 May 2015 – 13 Jan 2016 = 107
No4 Hours Run 7 May 2015 – 13 Jan 2016 = 154
Total Hours Run 7 May 2015 - 13 Jan 2016 = 498

No1 Hours Run 14 Jan 2015 - 7 May 2015 = 83
No2 Hours Run 14 Jan 2015 - 7 May 2015 = 65
No3 Hours Run 14 Jan 2015 - 7 May 2015 = 70
No4 Hours Run 14 Jan 2015 - 7 May 2015 = 49
Total Hours Run 14 Jan 2015 - 7 May 2015 = 267

No1 Hours Run 30 May 2014 – 14 Jan 2015 = 160
No2 Hours Run 30 May 2014 – 14 Jan 2015 = 179
No3 Hours Run 30 May 2014 – 14 Jan 2015 = 196
No4 Hours Run 30 May 2014 – 14 Jan 2015 = 206
Total Hours Run 30 May 2014 – 14 Jan 2015 = 741

Purils Bridge

No1 Hours Run 14 Jan 2016 - 7 May 2015 = 53
No2 Hours Run 14 Jan 2016 - 7 May 2016 = 113

Total Hours Run 14 Jan 2016 - 7 May 2016 = 166

No1 Hours Run 7 May 2015 – 13 Jan 2016 = 70
No2 Hours Run 7 May 2015 – 13 Jan 2016 = 316
Total Hours Run 7 May 2015 – 13 Jan 2016 = 386

No1 Hours Run 14 Jan 2015 - 7 May 2015 = 51
No2 Hours Run 14 Jan 2015 - 7 May 2015 = 51
Total Hours Run 14 Jan 2015 - 7 May 2015 = 102

No1 Hours Run 30 May 2014 – 14 Jan 2015 = 159
No2 Hours Run 30 May 2014 – 14 Jan 2015 = 147
Total Hours Run 30 May 2014 – 14 Jan 2015 = 306

Eel Regulations

Since the last meeting a further Environment Agency (EA) and IDB liaison meeting has been attended by the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Engineer. At the meeting clarification was sought on the latest position. Particular areas of interest were the next steps and timings and interpretation of the position statements which have been issued (both previous and proposed). It was pleasing to have it reaffirmed at the meeting that the EA and defra wish to work with IDBs to

define appropriate actions. It was also confirmed that the EA is currently only looking at high priority sites and will not presently seek to act on any low or medium priority sites. This is why where exemptions are issued they are only for the high priority sites. As there is a legal requirement to act, unless an exemption is in place on sites, it will be necessary to consider when it may be possible to instigate an eel passage solution. To do this, key maintenance and asset replacement should be estimated and what solutions might be possible looked at, along with their cost and affordability. This will align with the issued statement that no works on a flood risk management asset will be required purely for eel passage, but that they must be considered as part of any maintenance or replacement works. A proportionality test should also be applied when works are considered to ensure that the balance of investment remains firmly weighted in favour of managing flood risk. Questions that remain unclear include what might be considered as proportionate, who makes the final decisions and what would be the trigger for the eel works in terms of maintenance activities, eg would it include simple pump refurbishment? No further action is required immediately but members should keep it in mind that a plan of action will need to be drawn up once the picture is fully crystallised.

Changes to Planning Procedures

These include the following:

- (a) Since the introduction of the development control and consent “surgery” the up take has been limited, but feedback from people that have used the service has been positive. The “surgery” has helped to improve received applications enabling them to be processed smoothly. The “surgery” will continue to be held on the third Tuesday of the month and this will be reviewed again at a later date.

- (b) The soakaway certification and checking service has been running for over a year and a number of people have followed the process. Again like the “surgery” the feedback has been positive. Generally this has allowed simpler applications to be processed efficiently. The service will be continued and, as above, will be reviewed at a later date.

- (c) An initial surge in requests for the “Acceptability of Surface Water and Sewage Effluent Discharge” form has recently slowed but the feedback has been positive and the service will continue for the foreseeable future. However, we have had to advise some applicants/agents that this is not a consent document nor does it confirm agreement that a water level/flood risk management strategy has been agreed.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 5 new development related matters have been received and, where appropriate, dealt with since the last meeting:

| MLC Ref. | Council Ref. | Applicant | Type of Development | Location |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 516 | F/YR15/1121/F | Mr M Balaz | Residence | Wisbech Road, Manea |
| 517 | F/YR16/0020/F | R O & G Fowler Farms | Farm office building and 1.5m high post and rail fencing | Days Lode Road, Manea |
| 518 | F/YR16/0062/F | Mr D Allen | Residence | East Street, Manea |
| 519 | F/YR16/0052/AG1 | Sears Brothers Ltd | Agricultural building | Days Lode Road, Manea |
| 520 | 16/00615/O | Mr & Mrs R Symons | Residence | Wisbech Road, Tipps End |

From the information provided it is understood that all the developments propose to discharge surface water to soakaways or similar infiltration systems.

Some of the above are likely to discharge treated effluent into the Commissioners' system either via private treatment plants or Manea Water Recycling Centre (WRC).

Erection of 26 no 2-storey dwellings comprising of 5 x 4-bed, 16 x 3-bed and 5 x 2-bed with garages and parking on land south west of Fire Station, Westfield Road, Manea – Maurice Crouch Growers Ltd (MLC Ref No 260) & F Crouch on behalf of F & S Crouch & Maurice Crouch Growers Ltd (MLC Ref No 432)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agent concerning this site and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

Residential development involving demolition of existing buildings at International House, Station Road, Manea - Mr J Daniels (MLC Ref No 365) & Homestead Development Company Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 386 & 436)

Byelaw and Discharge consent applications have been received from the Geoff Beel Consultancy and these are currently being processed.

Erection of semi-detached bungalows with associated parking on land south west of 61 Station Road, Manea - Broadway Ltd (MLC Ref No 367) & Commercial Investments Trusts (MLC Ref Nos 379 & 382) & Erection of a 2-storey 2-bed dwelling (additional plot to site) at south-west of 61 Station Road, Manea - Allgood Services Ltd (MLC Ref No 440)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents concerning this site and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

Erection of 14 dwellings; comprising; 2 x 3 storey 5/6 bed, 1 x 3 storey 5 bed, 5 x 2 storey 4 bed and 6 x 2 storey 3 bed with associated garaging at Station Road, Manea – Mr Short and Mr Fox (MLC Ref Nos 446, 449 & 482)

Following a post-application discussion regarding an access to the field to the rear of the development, a series of revisions of the surface water arrangements were submitted for review. Unfortunately the post application agreement did not cover surface and foul water arrangements; hence the information submitted was not reviewed.

There was an alleged loss of a sale on the development and the Commissioners and the Middle Level Commissioners were blamed. A formal complaint was received and responded to and Peter Humphrey Associates (PHA) were reminded that they have not dealt with the issues surrounding the site and that the only application regarding foul discharge was received and refused in 2014. As a result of this post-application discussion was undertaken to help resolve the issues and a meeting between ourselves, Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council, MTC, PHA and local land owners was held on the 6th May. A number of issues were resolved at the meeting although additional information including maintenance schedules, a method statement etc needed to be submitted to support the application. In the last week, the additional information has been received and has been passed to the Chairman for comment. The application will be processed as usual.



Photo of pond 2 (right) and pond 3 (left)

Erection of residential development comprising of 43 dwellings, garages, associated parking, the formation of allotments, public open space, and a new access on land west of Teachers Close, Manea - Portman Developments (MLC Ref No 453)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this site and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

Residential development on land south of Bungalow Station Farm, Fodder Fen Road, Manea - Mr R Wales (MLC Ref Nos 456 & 477)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this site and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

Anaerobic digestion plant comprising tanks, silage clamps and associated equipment necessary to produce biogas to fuel a 500kW electricity generator and new access from Byall Fen Drove at land at Holly House, Farm, Horseway, Chatteris – Allpress Farms (MLC Ref No 464)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this site and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

Erection of 26 dwellings at land west of 49-49A High Street, Manea - Cole Properties (Manea) Ltd (MLC Ref No 471)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this site and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

Erection of 22 dwellings involving of existing dwelling and outbuildings at 35 Westfield Road, Manea – Mr S Wilson (MLC Ref Nos 474 & 479)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this site and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

King's Lynn & West Norfolk Local Plan

The Borough Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Consultation on a Draft Charging Schedule and Proposed Main Modifications to the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Document (SADMP) are currently out to public consultation. The former ended at the end of April and the latter in mid-May. At the time of writing the documents are being considered and draft responses being prepared.

Fenland District Council (FDC) Neighbourhood Strategy

In respect of previous responses made to the District Council on the Commissioners behalf, the current position is:

(a) ***Fenland Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) Draft Update October 2015 – Public Consultation***

The comments made by the MLC and associated Boards were, together with other representations received, considered and where appropriate amended. The report was adopted by Full Council on 25 February.

(b) ***Fenland District Council (FDC) District Wide Level 2 SFRA***

In the absence of funding no further progress has occurred.

Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Further to the last report, sections of a revised draft document have been issued to the Steering Group for further consideration and comment and these are currently being considered.

The County Council currently hopes that the SPD will go before the County Committee on 9 June and subsequently be adopted by each of the Cambridgeshire local planning authorities.



Consulting Engineer

24 May 2016

Manea & Welney (317)\Reports\May 2016

The Chairman referred to the possible future electrification at Glenhouse pumping station and considered that, when the pumping units became due for refurbishment/replacement, the Commissioners should look to replace two of the diesel motors with electric motors.

He reported that Pump No 1 at Purls Bridge pumping station had been removed, overhauled and returned to service.

RESOLVED

That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.

C.642 Public Sector Co-operation Agreements

Further to minute C.613, the Chairman referred to the Environment Agency's issues concerning the maintenance of the Old Bedford River. He considered this channel was now at approximately 1/3rd of its' design width and that, as any future maintenance was not likely to be a high priority, he had therefore started discussions with members of the Environment Agency for Manea and Welney District Drainage Commissioners to organise maintenance works on the Old Bedford River using contractors under a Public Sector Co-operation Agreement.

Mr Hill confirmed that both Sutton and Mepal and Upwell IDBs had agreed in principle for works to be carried out in this way.

The Chairman reported that, although the Commissioners would be able to provide an increased level of maintenance at better value for money, he considered that to get more works completed, the Commissioners may have to make a financial contribution.

Mr Sutton commented that as this was not budgeted for how would it be provided for.

The Chairman considered that if a contribution was to be made, it would come from balances and not affect the annual rate requirement.

Mr Hill reported that, under the Local Choices arrangements with the Environment Agency, the three Boards would be proposing the works would be funded from the precept arrangements and therefore could be funded fully by the Environment Agency through the precept.

In response to the Mrs Langley, the Chairman indicated that to attend to the maintenance of the Old Bedford River would be a five year programme.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Commissioners approve, in principle, the proposed arrangement and that the Chairman be authorised to take any further action he considers necessary.
- ii) That the Chairman be authorised to spend up to £20,000 from balances if a contribution is required towards these works.

C.643 District Superintendent's Report

The Commissioners considered the Report of the District Superintendent.

RESOLVED

That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved and that the Superintendent be thanked for his services over the preceding year.

C.644 Environmental Officer's Press Release and BAP Report

Mr Hill referred to the Environmental Officer's Press Release dated April 2016, previously circulated to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

C.645 Maintenance Works in the District

Further to minute C.617, the Chairman reported that it was the Commissioners' policy to machine cleanse all District watercourses annually and he intended to continue with this policy. He advised that if any Commissioner had any concerns over any part of the District they should contact him ahead of the maintenance programme being commenced.

C.646 Environment Agency – Precept

- a) Mr Hill reported that the precept for 2016/2017 would remain unchanged at £67,910.
- b) Local Choices Update

Further to minute C.620, Mr Hill referred to the Environment Agency's newsletter dated April 2016 and updated the Commissioners on the recent Environment Agency/IDB Strategic Meeting.

C.647 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

- a) Mr Hill reported that the sum of £47.81 (£581.39 less £533.58 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency based on the Commissioners' actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2014/2015 together with the sum of £489.89 in respect of 80% of the Commissioners' estimated expenditure for the financial year 2015/2016.
- b) Further to minute C.587(b), Mr Hill referred to the discussions with the Environment Agency over the monies available to fund highland water claims.

RESOLVED

That the position be noted and the situation kept under review.

C.648 Association of Drainage Authorities

Mr Hill reported:-

a) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities would be held in London on Thursday the 17th November 2016.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to obtain a ticket for the Annual Conference of the Association if a Commissioner wishes to attend.

b) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

On the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association held in Prickwillow, Ely on Tuesday the 8th March 2016.

C.649 Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Further to minute C.627, Mr Hill reported that issues reported in February still remained under discussion. The County Council were, however, considering a project to extend the number of rain gauges within Cambridgeshire.

C.650 Banking Arrangements
Changes to the bank mandate

Mr Hill reported that due to the Clerk's impending retirement relevant changes to bank mandates to name his successor would be required in due course.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to make the necessary changes to the Commissioners' bank mandates.

C.651 Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

Mr Hill referred to the recently issued Practitioners' guide to proper practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory Annual Accounts and Governance Statements which will apply to Annual Returns commencing on or after 1st April 2016.

C.652 Budgeting

Mr Hill referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2016.

C.653 Risk Management Assessment

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the insured value of their buildings.

C.654 Exercise of Public Rights

Mr Hill referred to the publishing of the Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited Annual Return, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit and right to inspect the Annual Return.

C.655 Annual Governance Statement – 2015/2016

The Commissioners considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2016.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Commissioners, for the financial year ending 31st March 2016.

C.656 Payments

The Commissioners considered and approved payments amounting to £150,887.37 which had been made during the financial year 2015/2016.

In response to Mr Sutton, Mr Hill confirmed that the ADA subscription listed under minute C.624(c) (£609) was net of VAT and the payment made in the listings (£730.80) was inclusive of VAT (£609.00 + £121.80) and that the VAT element would be reclaimed on the Commissioners' VAT return.

(NB) – The Chairman and Messrs Hartley, M Heading and Sutton declared an interest (as Members of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest (as a member of the ADA Board) in the payment made to the Association of Drainage Authorities.

C.657 Annual Accounts of the Commissioners – 2015/2016

The Commissioners considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2016 as required in the Audit Regulations.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return, on behalf of the Commissioners, for the financial year ending 31st March 2016.

C.658 Dates of next Meetings

RESOLVED

That the next Meetings of the Commissioners be held as follows in 2017, viz:-

- i) Wednesday the 8th February 2017 and
- ii) Wednesday the 14th June 2017; to be confirmed at the February meeting.

C.659 Inspection of the District

At the conclusion of the meeting those Commissioners present undertook an inspection of the District which embraced, inter alia:-

- i) Development at Station Road, Manea (agenda item 9)

The Commissioners stopped at the development site and the Chairman referred to the outstanding issues concerning the site.

- ii) Purles Bridge Pumping Station

Mr A Maddams, the District Superintendent, joined the Inspection at this point.

- a) The Chairman referred the pump overhaul which had been completed and that it was now back in service.
- b) The Chairman briefly informed the Commissioners on the RSPB Pilot Project area, which was to provide an alternative site to the Ouse Washes.
- c) Mr Maddams gave a demonstration of the operation of the pumping control equipment and the operation of the pumping equipment.
- d) The Chairman referred to issues concerning the removal of the pumping unit concerning the hired crane which had damaged the roadway to the pumping station and that the Consulting Engineers had to then utilise alternative measures to remove the pump. He informed the Commissioners that this had subsequently required remedial repairs to be carried out to the roadway which had been charged to the Commissioners and that he had queried the validity of these charges.

Mr Hill commented that, prior to the crane being mobilised, an assessment had been carried out and that such a crane had been used at the site before. The alternative lifting measures employed were required as these were the only other method available as it was essential to remove the pump, carry out the overhaul and return it to service as soon as possible. He commented that the costs of the alternative lifting method and the remedial works to the roadway were overall less than the costs of two crane hires to remove and replace the pumping unit.

The Chairman was authorised to discuss the matter further with the Clerk in an effort to resolve the matter.

The Commissioners viewed the outfall from the pumping station into the Old Bedford River. The Chairman drew the Commissioners' attention to the reduced width of the channel as a result of limited maintenance by the Environment Agency, and to the proposals to carry out works under the Public Sector Co-operation agreements.