

MARCH WEST AND WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the March West and White Fen Internal Drainage Board
held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Tuesday the 2nd May 2017

PRESENT

J L Brown Esq (Chairman)	R A Dring Esq
M J Mottram Esq (Vice Chairman)	D J Fountain Esq
T E Alerton Esq	C Miller Esq
N J Bates Esq	R Potts Esq
S R Court Esq	D G West Esq

Miss Samantha Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr Morgan Lakey (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance. Mr Graham Moore (Planning Engineer) attended for part of the meeting.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from M Cornwell Esq, H T Kisby Esq, J A Neal Esq and H W Whittome Esq.

B.39 Declarations of Interest

Miss Ablett reminded Members of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any individual on the Board.

B.40 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 12th April 2016 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.41 Clerk to the Board

- a) Further to minute B.10, Miss Ablett reported that Mr David Thomas had been appointed as Clerk to the Board and that Miss Lorna McShane had been appointed Solicitor/Assistant Clerk.

Miss Ablett reported that the Chairman had authorised a donation of £250 towards the gift to mark Iain Smith's retirement and that Mr Smith had asked that his thanks be passed on to the Board for their generous contribution towards his retirement gift and would like it recorded that it had been a pleasure for him to serve the Board and that he wished it all the best for the future.

b) Changes to bank mandate

Further to minute B.13, Miss Ablett reported that, as most of the invoices raised came through the engineering department, the Internal Auditor had advised that David Thomas should not be named on the bank account and that the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the Middle Level Commissioners should be the officers authorised to make payments of authorised accounts and that in pursuance of minute B.13, the Chairman had authorised the appropriate changes to the mandate.

RESOLVED

- i) That the action taken be approved.
- ii) That the donation to mark the retirement of the Clerk to the Board, authorised by the Chairman, be approved.

B.42 Anglian Water Services Ltd – Bank Slippage at Hostmoor Attenuation Pond

Further to minute B.3, Miss Ablett reported that the Clerk had written to Anglian Water who had responded suggesting that there may have been some misunderstanding with regards to how the asset functions.

Mr Lakey advised that he had inspected the site on several occasions and had spoken with Anglian Water regarding the operation and design of the facilities and all was found to be functioning as it should.

B.43 Works affecting the District system – Mr D Betts

Further to minute B.4, Miss Ablett reported that both byelaw and discharge consent applications for the laying of tarmac and installation of pipework had been submitted by Mr Betts and were currently being processed.

B.44 Residential Property – Australia Farm – Mr C Baxter

Further to minute B.5, Miss Ablett reported that a discharge consent application together with a discharge consent contribution of £300 had been received and consent had been granted on the 15th July 2016. Miss Ablett advised that the consent would terminate on the 15th September 2016 if the septic tank was not removed and that it was unclear at this point in time whether this had been done.

The Chairman reported that, having seen diggers and a septic tank at the site, he thought the tank had been removed and advised that he would have a look and confirm the position to the Planning Engineer.

(NB) – The Chairman and Mr Court declared an interest when this item was discussed.

B.45 Differential Rating Order

Further to minute B.15, Miss Ablett reported that the Differential Rating Order was confirmed by Defra on the 9th September 2016 and that, as resolved, the Order would run for 5 years from 2017/2018.

B.46 Standing Orders

Further to minute B.17, Miss Ablett reported that the draft Standing Orders were approved by Defra on the 9th June 2016.

B.47 Election of Board Members

Miss Ablett reported that the term of Office of the elected Members of the Board would expire on the 31st October 2017 and submitted the proposed Register of Electors applicable to the 2017 election.

RESOLVED

That the Register be approved.

B.48 Land Drainage Act 1991 Board Membership - Fenland District Council

The Clerk reported that Fenland District Council had re-appointed Councillors M Cornwell, S R Court and A Pugh to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.49 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute B.24, Miss Ablett reported that there had been no further developments, apart from Mr Paul Sharman being appointed as the IDB representative following the retirement of Mr Iain Smith, but advised that, due to the Environment Agency no longer being able to support it, the River Basin Liaison Panel had since been disbanded. She also reported that the Clerk was satisfied that there were other partnerships in place and would continue to update Members when required.

B.50 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.25, Miss Ablett reported that ADA had met with Defra officials, including Sarah Hendry, on the 11th October to discuss the Water Transfer Licences and it appeared that the Minister was keen to avoid over regulation. ADA had proposed certain points to Defra, including that ADA would hold one licence for the industry or that the opportunity should first be given for the information which the Environment Agency allege that they do not have to be provided other by regulation but perhaps through a form similar to the present IDB1. Defra officials had, it was understood, agreed to consider these proposals.

Miss Ablett gave a brief update on the current position in relation to proposed licensing changes and made it clear that unnecessary bureaucracy and unfair charging would be resisted.

B.51 Proposed Retail Park to the west of Hostmoor Avenue, March – Brossman Mills Ltd

Further to minute B.26, the Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting last October with Graham Moore, Planning Engineer, other members of the sub-group, Richard Sears, the developer and Liz Dent, the developer's agent.

He advised that the developers wished to re-route the Board's watercourse away from its current position, which was virtually straight across the development, and reposition it around the edge of the southernmost field alongside the railway and back up to re-join the Board's watercourse to the west.

The Chairman advised that the sub-group were unhappy with this and suspected that National Rail would probably not allow it anyway. He reported that in view of the amount of land that would be lost it would compromise the 9 metre access/byelaw strip. The matter had been discussed in some length and Mr Sears had been advised that the route of the waterway would be best served to stay where it was.

The Chairman reported that Mr Sears had to provide an access to the southern field, farmed by Mr Alerton, as the route of the former Wisbech Road, which currently leads to the field, would be cut off due to the formation of the roundabout on the A141. He added that Mr Sears had enquired whether he could have access over the end of the existing culvert into the field, which was agreed 'in principle' however, when Mr Sears submitted plans they indicated a 50 metre long highway specification tarmaced road within the 9 metre byelaw strip.

The Chairman reported that both he and the Vice Chairman, Messrs Kisby and Alerton, being interested parties, and Messrs Moore, Fenn and Lakey, Consulting Engineers, had inspected the site in February to discuss the proposals and revised submitted plans and confirmed that the proposals had been rejected.

Whilst at this site meeting, it had been proposed that maintenance of the watercourse be carried out sooner rather than later in order that further maintenance works could be left for a period so as to assist with the project, which will be of benefit to the town.

The Chairman pointed out that there was a proposed culverted access across the drain which appeared to coincide with a mini-roundabout and internal estate road leading into the development, indicated by a blue circle on the plan included in the Consulting Engineers' Report and this would be a much better option in relation to an access to the southern field.

Mr Moore joined the meeting.

The Chairman enquired whether the second plan amended by Middle Level Commissioners and included within the Consulting Engineers' Report included a reduction in the road through the 9 metre byelaw/access strip. Mr Moore advised that the plan showed two possible locations for access culverts, one by the site of the mini roundabout, the other nearer the flyover (Point 36), indicated by a blue cross, on the aforementioned plan in the Report and that, in his opinion, the Board should reject the culvert near the flyover.

The Chairman reported that at the October meeting Mr Sears had asked to extend an existing culvert in the private watercourse on the southern side of the Wisbech Road, which, 'in principle', was acceptable, however Mr Sears was advised that he could not install a second culvert further up in the Board's drain. Mr Moore advised that the private watercourse was on the southern side of Wisbech Road and at some point would be piped and filled as the roundabout on the A141 would be built over it.

In response to the Chairman, Mr Moore advised that Mr Sears had subsequently submitted plans with a lower specification access road than originally submitted.

The Chairman stated that this would still impinge on the Board and Mr Moore confirmed that he had not yet responded to Mr Sears as he was waiting for instruction from the Board following this meeting.

The Chairman advised that this was one of the Board's major drains, taking a significant amount of water and flows very well and, although the Board had tried to accommodate Mr Sears as much as they could, the Board's functions could not be compromised and also the Board must consider that in the future they must have the ability to maintain the drain in order to cope with any increase in volume.

The Chairman advised that any water coming off the new development would have to be attenuated and not be delivered into its system at a rate greater than that already being delivered as a green field site.

The Chairman enquired whether the development could be granted planning permission without the Board's consent to which Mr Moore confirmed that planning permission for the site had already been given.

Mr Potts enquired what could be done if the development went ahead without the Board's consent and the Chairman advised that if that was the case the Middle Level Commissioners would have to assist the Board legally.

The Vice Chairman stated that the plans supplied did not show how Mr Sears would dispose of the surface water and until they did the Board should not grant consent for an access, as the water entering the drain would be considerable and could cause problems to the Board.

Mr Miller enquired whether Mr Sears was required to show an attenuation pond in the plans before planning was passed and the Chairman confirmed that he was under the impression that the attenuation pond would be underneath the development.

Mr Moore advised that this was an option open to Mr Sears, as attenuation crates or similar systems could be used rather than a pond, but such details had not yet been shown on the plans.

The Chairman enquired what information was required from the Board to enable the process to move forward and Mr Moore advised that he needed the Board to make a decision on how they wished to proceed.

Mr Lakey advised that at present Mr Sears had no consent for discharge, either attenuated or unregulated, and the Board needed to highlight to him that they required a surface water drainage plan.

The Chairman enquired whether the Board had any legal right to prevent Mr Sears from commencing work on the site before the information was presented to the Board.

Mr Moore advised that the Board could not prevent work from commencing on site but it had powers to take any action against those items that breached its byelaws.

The Chairman asked Mr Moore to confirm that if Mr Sears started to put in the access road/temporary track on the 9 metre access strip, the Board could take immediate action and Mr Moore confirmed they could, but hoped the situation would be resolved before then.

The Vice Chairman stated that the Board did not wish to discourage development, but had concerns about the surface water discharge which needed to be relayed to Mr Sears.

RESOLVED

That the developers be advised that the Board:-

- i) Does not agree with the installation of a culvert within the Board's drain immediately downstream of Point 36 and that consent be refused.
- ii) Agrees to the extension of the existing culvert in the private watercourse on the southern side of Wisbech Road, to the north of Point 36, provided that the Board's requirements are met.
- iii) Would consent to an access culvert that met its requirements near to the site of the proposed mini roundabout at reach 36-34.
- iv) Rejects the proposal for a track within the 9 metre access strip.
- v) Wishes to see plans for SUDS/water attenuation from the site.

(NB) – Mr Alerton declared an interest when this item was discussed.

B.52 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

March West & White Fen IDB

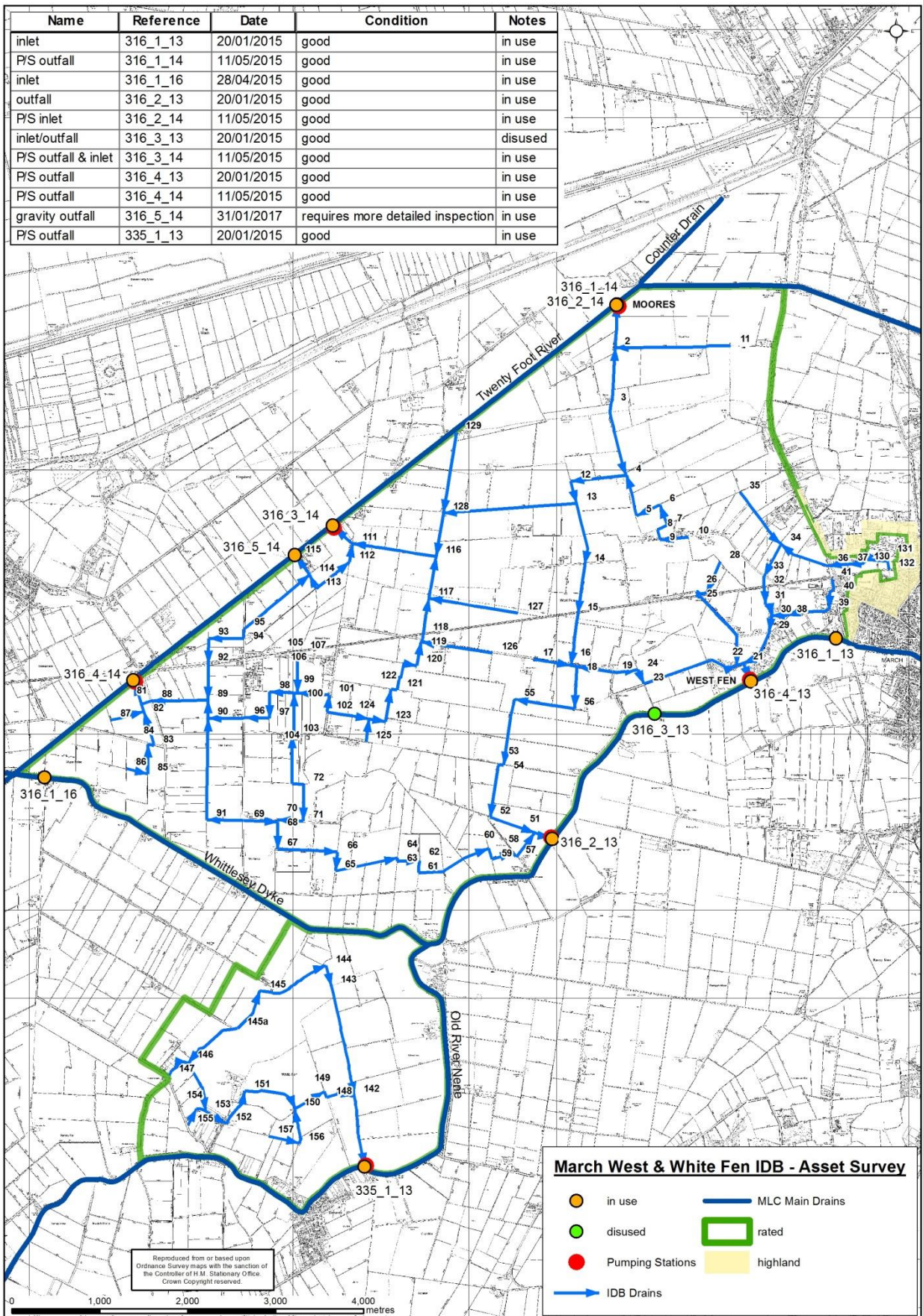
Consulting Engineers Report – April 2017

Health & Safety

A neighbouring IDB has recently had an occurrence in which a dog ended up trapped between a weedscreen and a pump. This happened at an unmanned pumping station. The dog's owner entered the pump intake area to secure the rescue of the dog and it was fortuitous that an automated pump start did not occur. However, this is perhaps an opportune reminder that members of the general public and even the emergency services are not necessarily aware of the risks posed at such installations. It is recommended that all such sites have reasonable protection from entry and also have signage indicating the risks and who should be contacted in an emergency. It is therefore recommended that the Board reviews its sites and the Middle Level Commissioners' engineers will be happy to assist if required, for example by supplying a sample draft signage template or by giving specific advice on what can be done at a particular site.

Asset Survey

As an essential part of our work in seeking to reduce flood risk, the Middle Level Commissioners (MLC) have surveyed all MLC and third party owned penetrations through MLC river banks and embankments and recorded and uploaded these to our GIS (Geographical Information System). The condition and likely continuing use or otherwise of these penetrations (generally pipes or culverts) has been assessed. Overleaf is a table of those recorded as being owned by or the responsibility of the Board. Where an asset's condition is recorded as requiring attention, an increased flood risk is likely to exist and the Board is asked to consider carrying out suitable remedial works. Where an asset is redundant but currently in a reasonable condition it is recommended that the Board consider putting plans into its future programme to remove it or otherwise carry out works that will ensure that there can be no future risk of a leak through the bank. **As part of the Board's system is also embanked, the Board should consider a like assessment of its own embankments to assure itself of their integrity and ascertain the need for any work, whether by the Board or a third party, which may be similarly required.** Should the Board wish for a similar exercise to be carried out on their own district assets this can also be arranged. Such a survey would assist the Board with future budgeting in ensuring that smaller but strategically/locally important assets such as culverts, slackers and adjustable and fixed weirs are not overlooked.



Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

March & Whittlesey Area

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the recommendations approved by the Board at its last annual meeting.



Reach 61-62

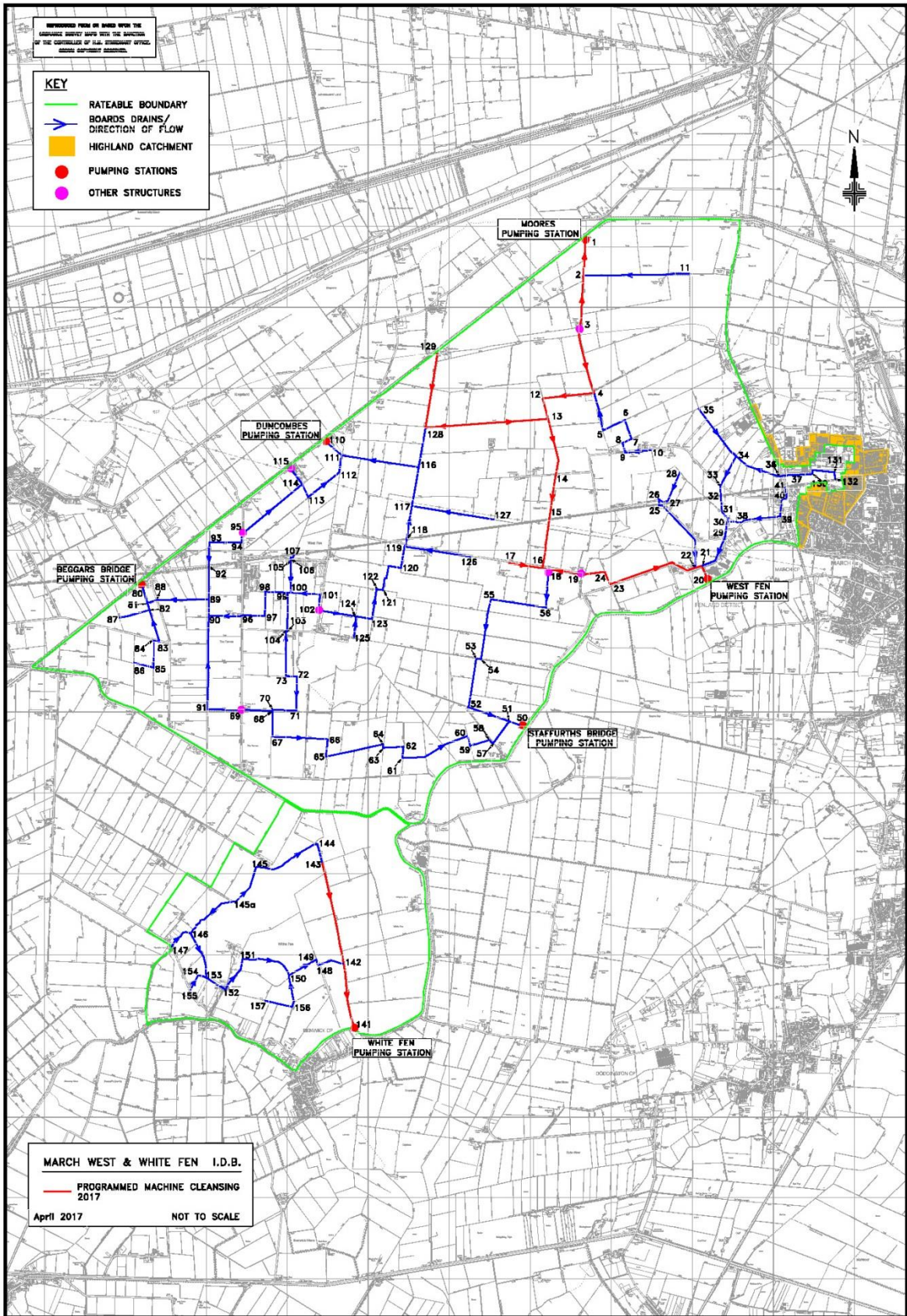
Following the Board's resolution in 2007 to implement a phased programme of bank reinstatement toe board and piling works, totalling approximately 400 metres in length, were undertaken along the southern side of reach 61-62-63 in the Staffurths Bridge pump area last autumn. The reinstatement works included a continuation of the previous trial use of recycled aggregates (brick bats), as used along the adjacent northern bank revetment works carried out in autumn 2014.

With the Chairman's approval the Tesco area drains, reach 36-37-130-131-132, were included in the annual machine cleansing programme whilst a contractor's machine was working upstream of the Board's drain, on a private watercourse, creating a cost saving on transport by utilising the machine whilst in the adjacent field.

Provisional notices for this year's intended machine cleansing works, in accordance with the phased maintenance programme approved by the Board at its 2007 Annual meeting, have been sent out. The extent of this year's phased programme maintenance works is shown on the following site plan.

As the Board's annual meeting falls during the early part of the growing season, it is proposed that an inspection of the Board's drains be undertaken during the summer months to identify areas of bank subsidence and to prioritise the worst affected reaches to be dealt with as a continuation of the phased programme of bank revetment works. In this respect, a sum has been allocated in the Board's estimated costs to allow for toe board and piling works to be undertaken to stabilise and return the side sloping banks to their original profile.

An allowance has also been included within this year's estimated costs to allow for a Roundup herbicide application to be made in advance of the programmed machine cleansing work and to control reed and emergent weed growth in any other district drains identified following the summer Board inspection later in the year.



Following an agreement by the Board at the last annual meeting, Messrs G Ashman undertook the flail mowing requirements on a trial basis, due to the previous contractor being unavailable at the time of the meeting. Messrs Ashman have indicated recently that they would not be able to complete the Board's entire flail mowing requirements this year, but would be available to carry out a percentage of the works, as was previously the case, if requested. Messrs Steward have also indicated they are available for a percentage of the flail mowing requirements and Mr Robert Dale has shown an interest in undertaking a percentage or possibly all of the Board's flail mowing. The Board may wish to take the opportunity to discuss its future flail mowing requirements for the coming year.

A provisional sum has been allocated within the Board's estimated costs to allow for emergency machine cleansing, Cott (filamentous algae) removal or culvert clearance works that may become necessary later in the year.

The estimated cost of this year's recommended Weed Control and Drain maintenance works is as follows. Please refer to the previous site plan for locations.

1. Machine cleanse the following reaches:

<u>Moores Catchment Area</u>					
1-2-3-4	2000	m	@	1.10	2200.00
<u>Duncombes Catchment Area</u>					
13-128-129	2500	m	@	1.10	2750.00
<u>West Fen Catchment Area</u>					
4-12-13-14-15-16	2900	m	@	1.10	3190.00
17-18-19	1000	m	@	1.10	1100.00
20-21	200	m	@	4.00	800.00
22-23-24-19	1700	m	@	1.10	1870.00

2. Provisional Item

Allow sum for bank reinstatement works	Item	Sum			15000.00
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3. Roundup herbicide application

	Item	Sum			1000.00
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4. Flail mowing of District Drains

	Item	Sum			8000.00
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5. Provisional Item

Allow sum for emergency machine cleansing, Cott removal or culvert clearance	Item	Sum			2000.00
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6. Fees for inspection, preparation and submission of the report to the Board, arrangement and supervision of herbicide applications and maintenance

	Item	Sum			2500.00
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TOTAL					£ 40,410.00
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White Fen Area

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the recommendations approved by the Board at its last annual meeting.

The approved bank trimming works to the southern bank of reach 9-10 was carried out in conjunction with the programmed machine cleansing works, incorporating the arisings into the adjacent farmland before cultivation commenced.



Bank Trimming Reach 9-10

Provisional notices of this year's intended machine cleansing works, in accordance with the phased maintenance programme approved at the 2009 annual meeting, have been sent out. The extent of this year's phased programme of maintenance works is shown on the previous site location plan.

Roundup Biactive Pro herbicide was applied to reaches in advance of the phased programmed machine cleansing works.

As the Board's annual meeting falls during the early part of the growing season, it is proposed that a detailed District inspection be undertaken during the summer months to identify any additional works or herbicide applications that may be required.

The Board's flail mowing contractors, Messrs G Ashman, have indicated they will be available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements this year. In anticipation of the Board's agreement a £2000 flail mowing budget has been allocated within the estimated costs for this year.

Provision has been included within the Board's estimated expenditure to allow for a Roundup herbicide application to be applied to drains included within this year's phased machine cleansing programme, and to any other district drains where an herbicide treatment is required, to control reed stands or substantial growths of emergent aquatic vegetation.

A provisional sum has been included within the Board's estimate to allow for emergency machine cleansing, cott removal, culvert clearance or bank revetment works that may be required later in the year.

The estimated cost of this year's recommended Weed Control and Drain maintenance works is as follows. Please refer to the previous site plan for locations.

1. Machine cleanse reach 141-142-143	2100	m	@	1.80	3780.00
2. Allow sum for Roundup application	Item	Sum			500.00
3. Allow sum for flail mowing in advance of machine cleansing works	Item	Sum			2000.00
4. <u>Provisional Item</u> Allow sum for emergency machine cleansing Cott removal, culvert clearance or bank revetment works	Item	Sum			1000.00
5. Fees for inspection, preparation and submission of report to the Board, arrangements and supervision of herbicide applications and maintenance works	Item	Sum			700.00
TOTAL					£7,980.00

Orders for the application of herbicides are accepted on condition that they are weather dependant and the MLC will not be held responsible for the efficacy of any treatments.

Pumping Stations

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

West Fen

The drive motor winding insulation resistance dropped significantly over the winter but has now improved to a satisfactory level.

Moors Bridge Pumping Station

As can be seen from the photo the pump suspension tube is badly corroded it is therefore recommended that the pump, which has not been removed since its installation in 1990, is overhauled this summer.



Duncombes

Pump no2 continues to operate with the faulty seal/chamber leakage sensor. Monitoring of the motor for signs of moisture ingress will continue to be carried out until the pump is removed for a full inspection and overhaul. A recent test of the motor windings showed no indication of any moisture ingress into the motor.

In accordance with the Board's instructions the no 1 pumpset was removed for overhaul during July and returned to the manufacturer, Zylem. Once dismantled it was found that the seal chamber oil was contaminated, and water was found in the junction box indicating seal failure which required the followings parts to be replaced.

Overhaul of pump type 7050.680-Serial Number 9272100

Qty Description

1 O-ring kit for drive unit 680

1 MECHANICAL SEAL

1 BALL BEARING

1 ROLLER BEARING NU 315 REPLACES 0000831599

1 MECHANICAL SEAL

Qty Description

30 Flygt SUBCAB control cable 2x1.5 10-11mm diameter

30 Flygt SUBCAB cable 4G16+S(2x0.5) 26-28mm diameter

20 WASHER 17X30

1 LEAKAGE DETECT UNIT

1 FLS leakage detector unit

For C impeller pumps and motor drives

1 G-RING FORSHEDA 1 1788 05

1 SEAL SLEEVE

1 SEAL SLEEVE 10-12MM DIA CABLE

1 CLAMP REPLACES 0003947703

AND 0003947704

2 WASHER 32-34MM DIA CABLE

1 TERMINAL BOARD REPLACES 0003197000

The refurbished pump was returned to service in September.

Pumping Hours

Beggars Bridge

Total Hours Run February 2016 – February 2017 = 110 (11862)

Total Hours Run April 2015 – February 2016 = 133 (11725)

Total Hours Run April 2014 – April 2015 = 94 (11592)

Total Hours Run April 2013 – April 2014 = 112 (11498)

Total Hours Run April 2012 – April 2013 = 519 (11386)

Duncombes

Total Hours Run February 2016 – February 2017 = 213

No 1 Hours Run February 2016 – February 2017 = 72 (7561)

No 2 Hours Run February 2016 – February 2017 = 141 (7613)

No 1 Hours Run April 2015 – February 2016 = 94 (7489)
No 2 Hours Run April 2015 – February 2016 = 74 (7472)
Total Hours Run April 2015 – February 2016 = 168

No 1 Hours Run April 2014 – April 2015 = 183 (7395)
No 2 Hours Run April 2014 – April 2015 = 207 (7398)
Total Hours Run April 2014 – April 2015 = 390

No 1 Hours Run April 2013 – April 2014 = 131 (7212)
No 2 Hours Run April 2013 – April 2014 = 144 (7191)
Total Hours Run April 2013 – April 2014 = 275

No 1 Hours Run April 2012 – April 2013 = 528 (7081)
No 2 Hours Run April 2012 – April 2013 = 737 (7047)
Total Hours Run April 2012 – April 2013 = 1265

Staffurths Bridge

Total Hours Run February 2016 – February 2017 = 578

No 1 Hours Run February 2016 – February 2017 = 466 (9315)
No 2 Hours Run February 2016 – February 2017 = 112 (9387)

No 1 Hours Run April 2015 – February 2016 = 77 (8849)
No 2 Hours Run April 2015 – February 2016 = 154 (9275)
Total Hours Run April 2015 – February 2016 = 231

No 1 Hours Run April 2014 – April 2015 = 666 (8772)
No 2 Hours Run April 2014 – April 2015 = 60 (9121)
Total Hours Run April 2014 – April 2015 = 726

No 1 Hours Run April 2013 – April 2014 = 259 (8106)
No 2 Hours Run April 2013 – April 2014 = 525 (9061)
Total Hours Run April 2013 – April 2014 = 784

No 1 Hours Run April 2012 – April 2013 = 23 (7847)
No 2 Hours Run April 2012 – April 2013 = 996 (8536)
Total Hours Run April 2012 – April 2013 = 1019

Moores

Total Hours Run January 2016 – April 2017 = 99 (3330)

Total Hours Run April 2015 – January 2016 = 7 (3231)
Total Hours Run April 2014 – April 2015 = 132 (3224)
Total Hours Run April 2013 – April 2014 = 152 (3092)
Total Hours Run April 2012 – April 2013 = 48 (2940)

West Fen

Hours Run February 2016 – February 2017 = 200 (12145)

Total Hours Run April 2015 – February 2016 = 121 (11945)
Total Hours Run April 2014 – April 2015 = 371 (11824)
Total Hours Run April 2013 – April 2014 = 225 (11453)
Total Hours Run April 2012 – April 2013 = 504 (11228)

White Fen

Total Hours Run February 2016 – April 2017 = 365

No 1 Hours Run February 2016 – April 2017 = 364 (3071)

No 2 Hours Run February 2016 – April 2017 = 1 (1604)

No 1 Hours Run March 2015 – February 2016 = 140 (2707)

No 2 Hours Run March 2015 – February 2016 = 24 (1603)

Total Hours Run March 2015 - February 2016 = 164

White Fen Pumping Station - Replacement Automatic Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment

At the Board's last meeting members requested that we obtain a quotation for a replacement weedscreen cleaner and apply for Grant-in-Aid (GiA). However we were advised by the Environment Agency that GiA is not available for stand-alone weedscreen cleaners.

At the Chairman's request indicative prices were obtained from other Boards that had recently installed automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment and one quotation for the White Fen Pumping Station from Stainless Metalcraft, who quoted the lowest price for the previous IDB installations, including for a replacement weedscreen which, itself being some 50 years old, is in a poor condition.

A meeting of the Sub-Committee was held on 21 March 2017 to review provision of automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment following which an updated quotation for the provision of the equipment from Stainless Metalcraft was to be obtained. Stainless Metalcraft confirmed that although there has been a small increase on material values they were able to hold the price as originally quoted.

All Board members were notified of the Sub-Committee's recommendations to seek their approval to proceed with placing an order with Stainless Metalcraft as soon as possible. At the end of the response period for Board members there was a majority in favour of proceeding, and the Chairman authorised that we proceed to place an order with Stainless Metalcraft for the weedscreen cleaning equipment.

As previously reported the VJ adaptors on the delivery pipes below the intake sump covers will, at some point, require replacement; this however is not urgent.

Quote N°Q10928

Middlelevel Level Commissioners
Middlelevel Offices
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambs
PE15 0AH

4th November 2016

For the attention of Malcolm Downes,

Thank you for your valued enquiry, we take pleasure in submitting our quotation as follows.

Ref: Weedscreen Screen Cleaner for White Fen Pumping Station

Further to our site survey 19th October we have established that the station is suitable for a Heron overhead machine, the main structure being goalpost leg design. For the purpose of this quotation we have assumed that your standard cleaner shall apply to this installation inclusive of differential level monitoring. It was agreed that the existing intake screen would require replacing

Scope of supply:

To supply materials and labour to manufacture, assemble and install 1off Heron Weedscreen Cleaner in accordance with supplied info and existing drawings

Heron 500kg Automatic Weedscreen Cleaner-generally as detailed

On proposal drawing 11021 White Fen

Providing 3 clean and 2 dump stations

Intake screen

Structural installation by Shoebridge Eng

Control & Electrical installation by Lawtronic Ltd

To supply craneage and labour to electrically disconnect, remove flange fixings, rig trash rake, rig bar screens, and lift clear onto customer's own transport.

Total price £72,028.00 +VAT including delivery to site

Material of Construction

Galvanised mild steel structure as standard machines

Finish

Welds as laid

Inspection/Testing

Visual & dimensional and load testing included

Exclusions

- CE marking,
- Surface treatments, unless specified above

PAS001

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Eel Regulations

The latest guidance suggests that spending of FCRM money on schemes just to facilitate eel movements will not be required. However, plans for improvements, modifications or replacement of structures which have been identified as a barrier to movement should be seen as a trigger for considering such works. There is a further test to be included and that is one of proportionately, ie the additional cost of eel passage should not be disproportionate to the overall scheme cost.

The IDBs and ADA have been pushing for further research to better understand eel movement and explore all options in relation to providing methods which would allow the mature (silver) eels to escape closed systems and hence travel to their breeding sites in the most cost effective manner. ADA has asked if IDBs would join with the EA in funding this project and so far the response has been positive. The Board is therefore asked if it would wish to offer some financial support over one or two years. Other Boards have committed between £50 and £1000 for either one or two years.

Development within the Floodplain

The floodplain, its definition, derivation and extents have been an issue not only for the Commissioners and associated Boards but other IDBs since its introduction. This has become of more concern since the elevated importance of the Sequential Test in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The matter of development within the floodplain has been discussed at several sites within our areas of interest, and the Clerk to the Commissioners/Boards has advised that the definition and extents of a "floodplain" are matters for the planning authority to resolve with the relevant authority who prepared the hazard map, be it the Environment Agency (EA) for its various flood maps, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), for its SFRA, and/or the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for its SWMP. It is acknowledged that whilst there may be specific issues relating to future proposed aspects of development within our catchment we will not oppose it simply because it is within the floodplain. The Commissioners/Boards have policy statements, available on the Middle Level website, which set out the Standard of Protection (SoP) that they will seek to provide, floodplain or not.

In short, the Commissioners and associated Boards do not agree with the generic content of the NPPF and argue that "The Fens" is a special case and should be considered as such.

The main purpose of an IDB is to aim to manage flood risk up to an appropriate SoP. Above this SoP there will be a residual flood risk which must be accounted for.

Internal Consultation with the Board

To ensure that our limited resources are maximised and to enable more timely responses to pre-/post-application consultation and applications for byelaw consent, and occasionally discharge consent, we have introduced a defined process of “internal consultation” between the MLC and the Board, usually, but not always, with the Chairman and/or District Officer to seek the Board’s comments and thus aid the decision making process.

Members are reminded that if a response, ideally in writing by post or email, has not been received within fourteen days from the request being issued then it is considered that the Board does not wish to comment and is content to delegate authority to the MLC staff to process and make a recommendation on the respective consent application/discussion procedure based upon the available information.

Changes to Planning Procedures Update

The responses from these procedures have been positive and will continue for the foreseeable future, to be reviewed at a later date.

Pre- and Post-Application Consultation

Despite an increase in the number of planning applications being processed and planning enquiries received it appears that the number of Pre- and Post- Application Consultation discussion requests has reduced over previous years. The reason for this is unknown but as detailed later in this report “developers” are failing to maximise the benefits of this procedure and Boards are failing to encourage its use and thus are incurring unnecessary additional costs which could be paid by the developer.

Notes/Informatives on planning decision notices

Following a concern raised by one of the Boards administered by the Commissioners, a brief review of a random, yet representative, sample of planning application Decision Notices made by the Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) that have primarily been granted in the last two years has been undertaken.

Many of the relevant decisions within HDC’s area made during 2016, and to a lesser degree during 2015, relate to the Prior Approval of agricultural building to dwellings or Prior Notification applications which, on the whole, do not include conditions or refer to notes/informatives possibly because of the nature of the application. In a similar manner most of the other decision notices found did not, with a few exceptions, include notes/informatives either.

As a result a letter was sent during December to all the planning authorities that the Commissioners deal with, both directly and on behalf of its administered Boards, requesting that the use of informatives could be (re-) introduced on future notices "in order to make applicants aware of other consents which may be required in addition to Planning Consent and prevent them being in breach of the Boards' Byelaws"

It is understood that the principle of using notes/informatives on Planning Decision Notices is based on the Court of Appeal which remarked following the case of Slough Borough Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Oury [1995] "The general rule is that, in construing a planning permission, regard may only be had to the permission itself, including the reasons stated for it."

The decision and its reason(s) is the primary document, with the informatives no more than non-binding additional information which lack a statutory basis. Planning Conditions, on the other hand, may impose mandatory requirements for the carrying out of development and have statutory authority.

The purpose of a note in respect of a condition is to provide the applicant with further information and an informative is to provide relevant guidance to the applicant without having to impose relevant conditions. The Planning Circular 11/95: use of conditions in planning permission advises how these can be used to bring the applicants' attention to certain matters, such as, reminding an applicant to obtain further planning approvals and other consents but should not establish mandatory requirements with which an authorised development must comply.

However, it is further understood that there are a limited number of exceptions to this rule which could lead to a challenge to the permission which may result in a decision being "quashed" but this is outside of our interest on this occasion.

Local Land Charges Register (LLCR)

As previously advised requests are made to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), when relevant, to make an entry on the LLCR to highlight that the requirements of the relevant authority have not been met. This process is providing results, particularly within the Fenland District Council (FDC) area, but enquiries from other LPAs are low, however, these areas of interest are smaller than that of FDC and feature smaller urban areas.

Previously enquiries were only received from local Solicitors but more recently enquiries are also being sought from independent search providers who offer specialist conveyancing services, such as Index Property Information, who undertake local authority searches, drainage and water reports, environmental reports etc.

Whilst researching and processing such enquiries have cost and time implications it protects the parties involved and is believed to have been a significant contributing factor in moving forward a long standing issue associated with the Cardea development at Stanground to the west of the Commissioners' catchment.

Treated effluent discharges from Anglian Water Services (AWS) Water Recycling Centres (WRC) or from the Public Sewerage System

Developers are becoming increasingly aware of the Supreme Court's decision that any connection to a public sewer under Section 106 of the Water Industry Act 1991 or agreement to construct a public sewer under Section 104 of that Act also requires our consent where our systems would be affected. Therefore, in addition to any permission from the LPA, the EA and AWS, the consent of the Board/Commissioners is also required for the acceptance of any increased flows or volumes to our system. Such consent will not be given unless we consider that the discharge can be properly dealt with within our system and the costs of accommodating that discharge are met.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 37 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
623	F/YR16/0115/F	Cobb Construction	Residential (7 dwellings)	March Road, Turves
624	Pre-app	Client of MTC	Retail	Hostmoor Avenue, March
625	F/YR16/2002/CCC & F/2002/16/CW	Local Generation	Export Gas Pipeline	Wisbech Road, Westry, March
626	F/YR16/0233/SCOP	St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd	Poultry Farm	Whittlesey Road, March*
627	F/YR16/0264/F	Mr G Wilding	Residential (9 dwellings)	Elliott Road accessed from Peas Hill Road, March
628	F/YR16/0274/F	Mr & Mrs R Hill	Residence (Annexe)	Whitemoor Road, March
629	Byelaw Contravention (Discharge)	Mr G Harding	Residence	Marina Drive, March
630	F/YR16/0536/F	Mr G Harding & Ms D Wilson	Residence (Extension)	Marina Drive, March
631	F/YR16/0519/F	Mr & Mrs R Peachey	Residence (Extension)	Russell Avenue, March
632	F/YR16/0525/F	Harrier Developments Ltd	Retail (4 unit)	Hostmoor/Martin Avenue, March*
633	F/YR16/0550/O	Mr & Mrs J White	Residence	Whittlesey Road, March*
634	F/YR16/0562/PNC04	Mr G Burton	Residential (3 dwellings)	Whittlesey Road, Benwick
635	F/YR16/0572/F	Pilgrims of March	Retail	Melbourne Avenue March*
636	F/YR16/0624/PNC04	Mr J Burgess	Residence	March Rd, Coates
637	F/YR16/0666/F	JC & MA Martin	Agricultural	Granford Drove, March
638	F/YR16/0716/F	Mr G Freshwater	Residence (Garage and porch canopy)	Burnthouse Road, Turves

639	F/YR16/3079/COND	Mr & Mrs Edgoose	Residential (4 dwellings)	Silver Street, March*
640	F/YR16/0696/RM	Mr & Mrs Edgoose	Residential (4 dwellings)	Silver Street, March*
641	F/YR16/0772/F	Mr G Rushbrook	Residence	Nene Parade, Benwick*
642	F/YR16/0829/F	Ms J Mooney	Residential (Extension & detached double garage/store)	Whittlesey Road, March
643	F/YR16/0834/F	Ms C Dean	Residence	Wisbech Rd, Westry*
644	F/YR16/0902/PNC04	Royston Farms Ltd	Residence	Whittlesey Rd, March
645	F/YR16/0937/F	Mr & Mrs Holder	Residence (Garage/workshop)	Whittlesey Road, March
646	F/YR16/0914/F	Mulberry Commercial Holding Ltd	Retail (3 units)	Wisbech Road, March
647	F/YR16/1005/F	Mr & Mrs R Hill	Residence (Outbuilding)	Whitemoor Road, March
648	F/YR16/3111/COND	Mr R Barnes	Residential (2 dwellings)	Chapel Lane, Turves*
649	F/YR16/1071/PNC03	Elite Engineering	Leisure	Quakers Drove, Turves
650	Enquiry	Client of RAB Consultants	Residential (TBC)	Whittlesey Road, March
651	F/YR16/1111/PNC04	Mr G Burton	Residential (3 dwellings)	Whittlesey Road, Benwick
652	F/YR16/1100/F	Mr D Magill	Agricultural	March Road, Coates
653	F/YR16/1141/PNC04	Mr J Wiles	Residence	Whitemoor Road, March
654	F/YR16/1152/PNC04	Mrs L Harding	Residence	Whittlesey Rd, March
655	F/YR16/1153/F	Mrs L Harding	Agricultural	Whittlesey Road, March
656	F/YR17/0033/F	Cobbs Construction	Residential (4 dwellings)	March Road, Turves*
657	F/YR17/0032/F	Cobbs Construction	Residential (2 dwellings)	March Road, Turves*
658	F/YR17/0061/O	Mr & Mrs J White	Residence	Whittlesey Road, March*
659	F/YR17/0114/F	Mrs F Shrubs	Residence (Extension)	March Road, Turves

Entries ending 'PNC0' relate to prior notification change of use issues

Developments that propose direct discharge to the Board's system are indicated with an asterisk. The remainder propose, where applicable and where known, surface water disposal to soakaways/infiltration systems or sustainable drainage systems. All the applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

The following applications are for development where the discharge is attenuated before it reaches the Board's system:

- (i) Client of MTC/Harrier Developments Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 624 & 632)
- (ii) Pilgrims of March (MLC Ref No 635)
- (iii) Mr & Mrs Edgoose (MLC Ref Nos 639 & 640)

The following applicants have chosen to use the soakaway self-certifying process, and, in doing so, agreed that if the soakaway was to fail in the future they would be liable for discharge consent.

- (i) *Annexe at Whitemoor Road, March – Mr & Mrs R Hill (MLC Ref No 628)*
- (ii) *Garage and porch canopy at Burnthouse Road, Turves – Mr G Freshwater (MLC Ref No 638)*
- (iii) *Garage/workshop incorporating existing air raid shelter at Whittlesey Road, March – Mr & Mrs Holder (MLC Ref No 645)*

Erection of a dwelling with detached garage and workshop at Whittlesey Road, March - Mr & Mrs D Betts (MLC Ref No 212)

Further to item B.1150 Works affecting the District system – Mr D Betts of the last March & Whittlesey IDB meeting, applications for both Byelaw and Discharge consent have been received and are currently being processed.

Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with attached double garage involving demolition of existing bungalow and shed at Australia Farm Bungalow, Whittlesey Road, March - Mr R C & J L Brown (EC Brown & Sons) (MLC Ref Nos 230, 346, 514 & 546)

Further to the last Board meeting a discharge consent application has now been received from Mr Baxter. The application was reviewed and, in light of all the previous conversations and discussions, the application was processed on the basis that a clause to be added that the consent would only be valid if the tank was moved.

A recommendation was made to the Clerk to the Board and consent was granted on 15 July 2016 with the following clause included:

“This consent shall terminate on the 15th September 2016 and the discharge shall cease and any outfall shall be removed and the banks of the receiving watercourse shall be restored to their former condition no later than such date unless the package treatment plant from which the discharge is made shall have been moved by the Applicant to a position satisfactory to the Board and the Board have so confirmed in writing to the Applicant.”

Unfortunately, to date, the septic tank does not appear to have been moved and the consent has become invalid.

The Board may like to take the opportunity to discuss the issues and advise how they would like to proceed. The Board's instruction is therefore requested in respect of this site.

Erection of 5 bungalows and 2 semi-detached houses on land north of Red Barn, Turves (MLC Ref Nos 232, 268 & 453) and Erection of 24 dwellings at land north of Red Barn, Turves (MLC Ref No 497) – Mrs A Blewett and Mr W Aldridge

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 Board's interests.

Further involvement will be required if development of the proposal is progressed and the Board's consent may be required.

It is understood that work on this development has not yet progressed.

Residential development and associated parking at Baxter's Dairy and land south of Peas Hill Road, March – D J & N R Baxter; D J & G W Tuffs & J Helmer (MLC Ref No 238) & CGT Developments (MLC Ref Nos 328 & 443); Mr G Wilding (MLC Ref Nos 599, 601 & 627)

Since the last report, the issues surrounding the foul water disposal still remain outstanding for the properties at the rear of Peas Hill Road. 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 Board's interests.

We has also received a Local Land Charge Register (LLCR) enquiry for 32 Peas Hill Road, one of the original dwellings built a decade ago, where the surface water issues were never resolved. Number 32 is up for the sale and the LLCR entry was noted and queried by the purchaser's solicitor. The solicitor was advised that the developer of the site never obtained consent to discharge at the time of construction.

The seller then contacted MLC to resolve the issues. He was advised to submit a discharge consent application; this has now been received and passed to the Clerk to the Board, due to the unique circumstances of the application. The Clerk spoke to the Chairman regarding this site and it has been agreed that consent will be issued.

Further to the last meeting a revised planning application was submitted to the District Council in March 2016 (MLC Ref No 627) for the erection of 9 x 2-storey 2-bed dwellings on the same site that was refused planning permission in July 2015 (MLC Ref No 601).

It is understood that Council Members resolved to grant the application subject to the completion of a Town & Country Planning Act (T&CPA) s106 agreement with the caveat that should the applicant be unwilling or unable to complete the s106 agreement within 4 months from the date of Committee approval (12 October) then delegated powers would to be given to Officers to refuse the application.

It is further understood that a s106 agreement was not progressed due to queries about landownership. As a result this application was withdrawn in January.

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

Erection of 5 no wind turbines on land north of Burnthouse Farm, Burnthouse Sidings, Turves - Abbey Group (Cambridgeshire) Ltd (MLC Ref No 420) and Fivestone Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 462 & 547) & Construction of 5 Megawatt solar energy farm, to include the installation of solar panels with on-site equipment rooms and plant, access tracks, security fencing and cameras at land west of 15 Burnthouse Sidings, Turves - Client of Amazi (MLC Ref Nos 489 & 581) & Abbey Renewables Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 491, 494 & 503) & Burnthouse Solar (MLC Ref No 582)

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

Erection of 3 detached dwellings and garages and formation of vehicular accesses on land south of 710 Whittlesey Road, March - R Green (MLC Ref Nos 430, 502 & 504) & - Ideal Prestige Properties (MLC Ref Nos 570 & 572)

Further to the 2016 meeting correspondence has recently been received from Ideal Prestige Properties concerning this development, which has not yet progressed.

Various developments at Potash Farm, Whittlesey Road, March – Mr M Mottram (MLC Ref Nos 496, 530, 534, 537, 549, 550, 552, 553, 554 & 558)

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

Residential development on land north of 35 Whittlesey Road, March - Greene King PLC (MLC Ref Nos 526, 544 & 561) & Client of Caldecote Group (MLC Ref No 566)

With the exception of providing guidance to an engineering consultant on which method of pre-app consultation to follow, to which a response was not received, 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 Board's interests.

However, Board members may be aware that this site is currently up for sale.

Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling and detached garage involving demolition of existing dwelling at 190-194 Whittlesey Road, March – Mr & Mrs P Foreman (MLC Ref Nos 578 & 598)

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 Board's interests.

Works associated with the extension of Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility at Local Generation Ltd, Wisbech Road, Westry - Local Generation Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 508, 585, 589, 619 & 625)

Further to the last meeting the Commissioners, on the Board's behalf, have been in discussion with the applicant's consulting engineers, Wardell Armstrong, and Air Liquide, concerning the submission of the associated byelaw consent issues associated with this project. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, other members of the Board, together with the Commissioners' Works Department, have also been involved in the discussion.

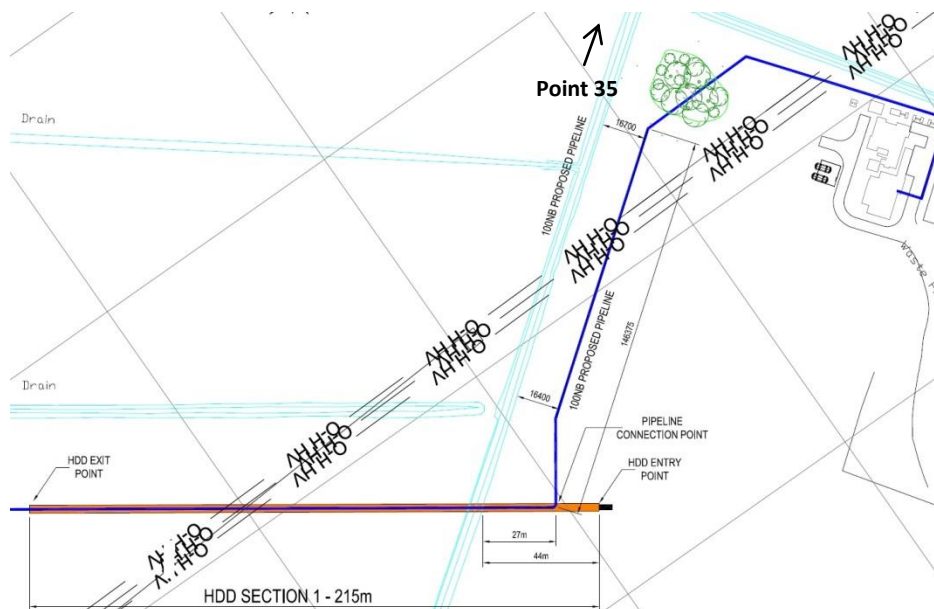
Members will recall that it was originally proposed to install a high pressure export gas pipeline using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) techniques from Local Generation Ltd's AD plant to the south west of Wisbech Road, Westry, and connect into the National Grid network at Red House Farm, Whitemoor Road, March. However,

following further development of the scheme the connection point has changed and the other application, for works at Whitemoor Road, was not required.

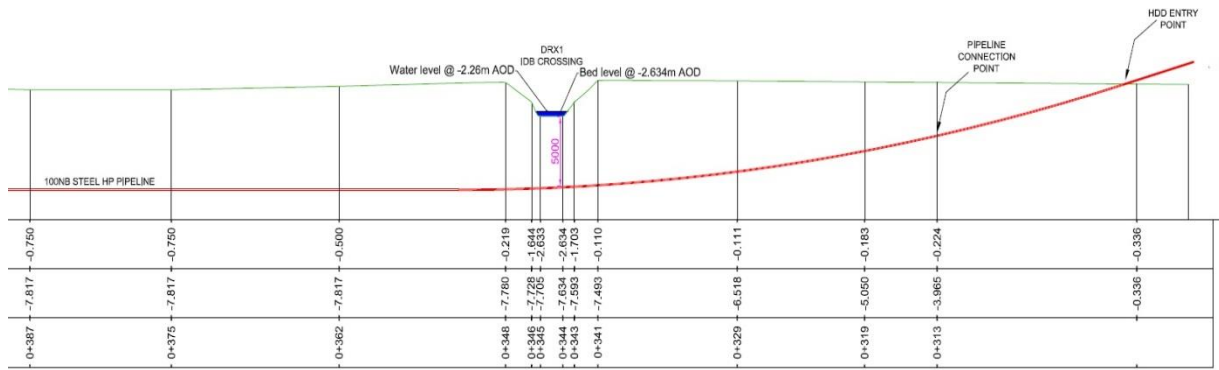
Following concerns expressed about problems encountered elsewhere with gas pipelines, a proposal to “future proof” the section of Westry Drain by deepening and widening the channel was formulated to ensure that the channel is not unduly constrained by the proposal and can continue to undertake its function in perpetuity. Whilst the pipeline will be positioned to enable the future widening works to be undertaken the Board is reminded that its maintenance access strip is measured from the brink of the current channel. Therefore, it would be in the Board’s interests to widen this section of channel as soon as possible to prevent further encroachment within the access strip at a later date.

National Grid has confirmed that the point of connection will be at the Local Generation site, and that the pipeline, and associated infrastructure (the ‘National Grid Facilities’) will be adopted and maintained by National Grid who will be responsible for maintaining the facilities in accordance with its routine monitoring and maintenance once the works have been completed.

The works will be constructed in accordance with the “Specification for safe working in the vicinity of National Grid high pressure gas pipelines and associated installations - Requirements for third parties”.



Extract from Capita Pipelines Drawing Nos AV/000413 AL2-CAP-12-XX-DR-R-8630 Rev P2 showing the proximity of the pipeline to the Board’s Drain



Extract from Capita Pipelines Drawing Nos AV/000413 AL2-CAP-12-XX-DR-R-8631 Rev P1 showing a section of the pipeline at the crossing to the Board's Drain

Works associated with this project have been in progress for some time and it has recently been necessary to issue an "Advisory" notice concerning the encroachment of a temporary fence and a poor re-construction of an outfall. In response Wardell Armstrong advised that the fence would be re-positioned outside of the access strip and the pipe cut back as appropriate.



A view of the illegal fence and outfall pipe

Proposed Retail Park to the west of Hostmoor Avenue, March - Brossman Mills Ltd
(MLC Ref Nos 591 & 611)

Further to the last meeting, planning permission was granted by the District Council in late August subject to the imposition of conditions including those related to surface water disposal and flood risk.

A meeting was held in October with the applicant's representatives, relevant Board members and the Commissioners' Planning Engineer at which several key items were discussed "in principle" and guidance given to what the Board requires and would accept. These can be summarised as follows:

1. The current route of the Board's Drain will remain. No re-alignment will be considered.
2. Any design should allow for future proofing of the Board's Drain.
3. The minor encroachment within the Board's maintenance access strip downstream of Point 36 and the formation of a reasonable number of suitable access culverts within the Board's Drain will be considered and consented if deemed appropriate.
4. No other encroachment within, above or below the Board's Drain and/or its associated 9.0m wide maintenance access strip will be consented.

Formation of the roundabout on the A141 and its effect on Hostmoor Balancing ponds.

Members may recall an entry in March & Whittlesey IDBs 2008 report concerning a Commercial Development off Hostmoor Avenue, March for a Client of Bright Edge Ltd (MLC Ref No 405)

This involved an enquiry from a prospective developer concerning the development of part of the Hostmoor Balancing Pond. The applicant advising that "..... Anglian Water is disposing with the site since it is surplus to requirements and state that this part has never flooded."

Not surprisingly this caused considerable concern but, fortunately, no subsequent development occurred.

Following the meeting in October, the applicant advised that in order to facilitate the proposed roundabout at the junction of the A141/Hostmoor Avenue, required to gain access to the Westry Retail Park on a more central alignment, rather than off-set as at Fenland Way, Chatteris, the developer needs to purchase part or all of this plot of land. If the whole site is purchased the applicant has advised that it is likely to be developed for 'drive thru' use.

Despite current Government policy to encourage the use of SuDS facilities they are not protected or considered to be a 'functional' floodplain and thus may be prone to removal as a constraint to (re-) development etc. The matter was discussed with the Clerk to the Board and the applicant advised in early November that:

“As you are aware, the entire balancing pond forms an important flood risk alleviation asset that protects the area and local environment, therefore, in respect of any development that affects the function and operation of the pond, the Board would need to receive detailed appropriate proposals for removing any subsequent risk and be content that there would be no detrimental effect on its system and the water borne environment.

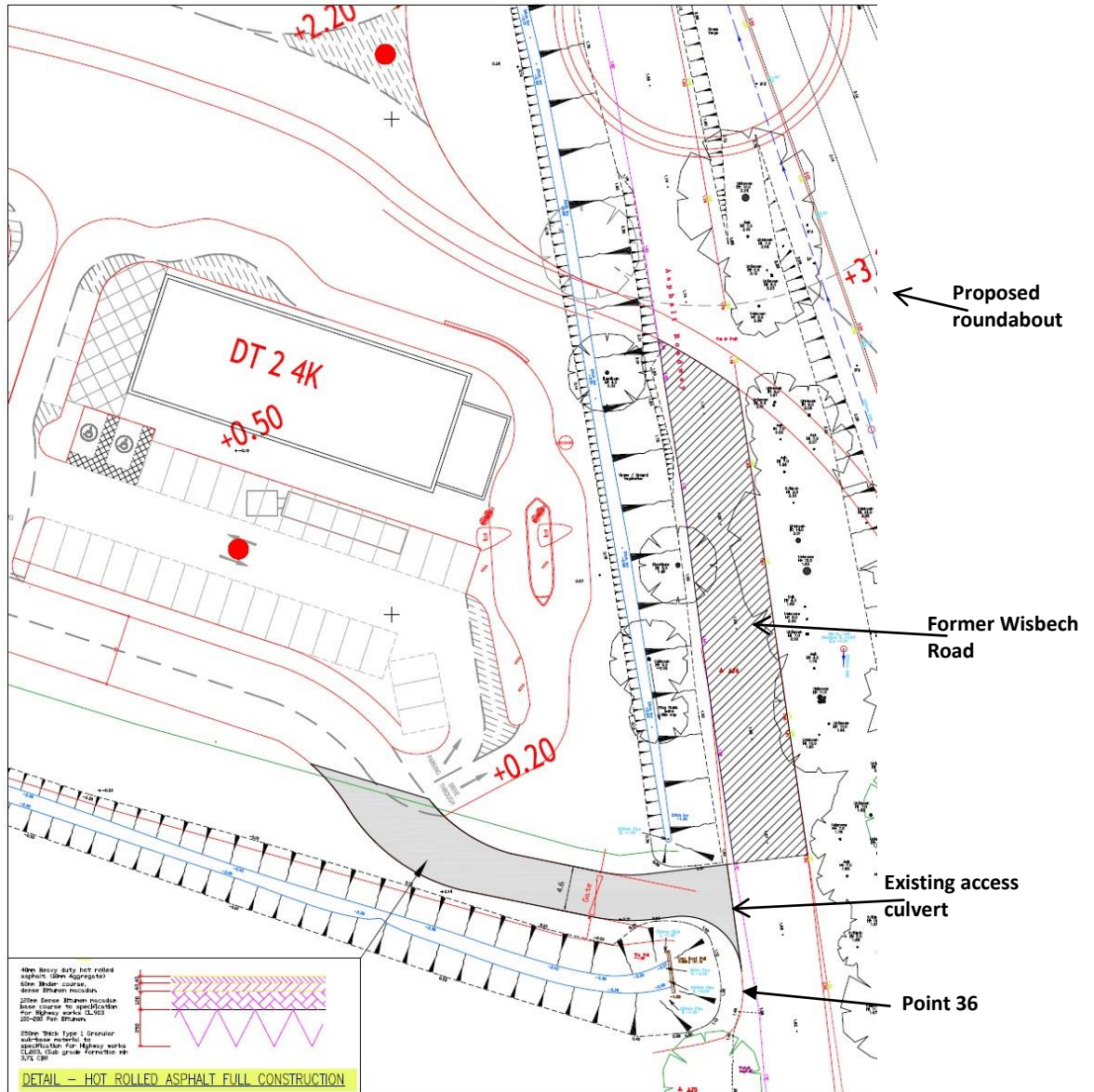
Failing this, the Board may have no alternative but to designate the pond under Schedule 1 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.”

Some subsequent discussion has occurred with the applicant concerning this issue but no detailed proposals have been received.

Minor encroachment within the maintenance access strip downstream of Point 36

The formation of the roundabout will also require the closing of part of the former Wisbech Road beside the existing flyover which is used to gain access to the fields between the Board’s drain and the railway. During the October meeting the use of an existing access culvert within the Board’s maintenance access strip, which would have to be surfaced with asphalt, was discussed and approved “in principle” as it was perceived that there would be no material change to its existing use.

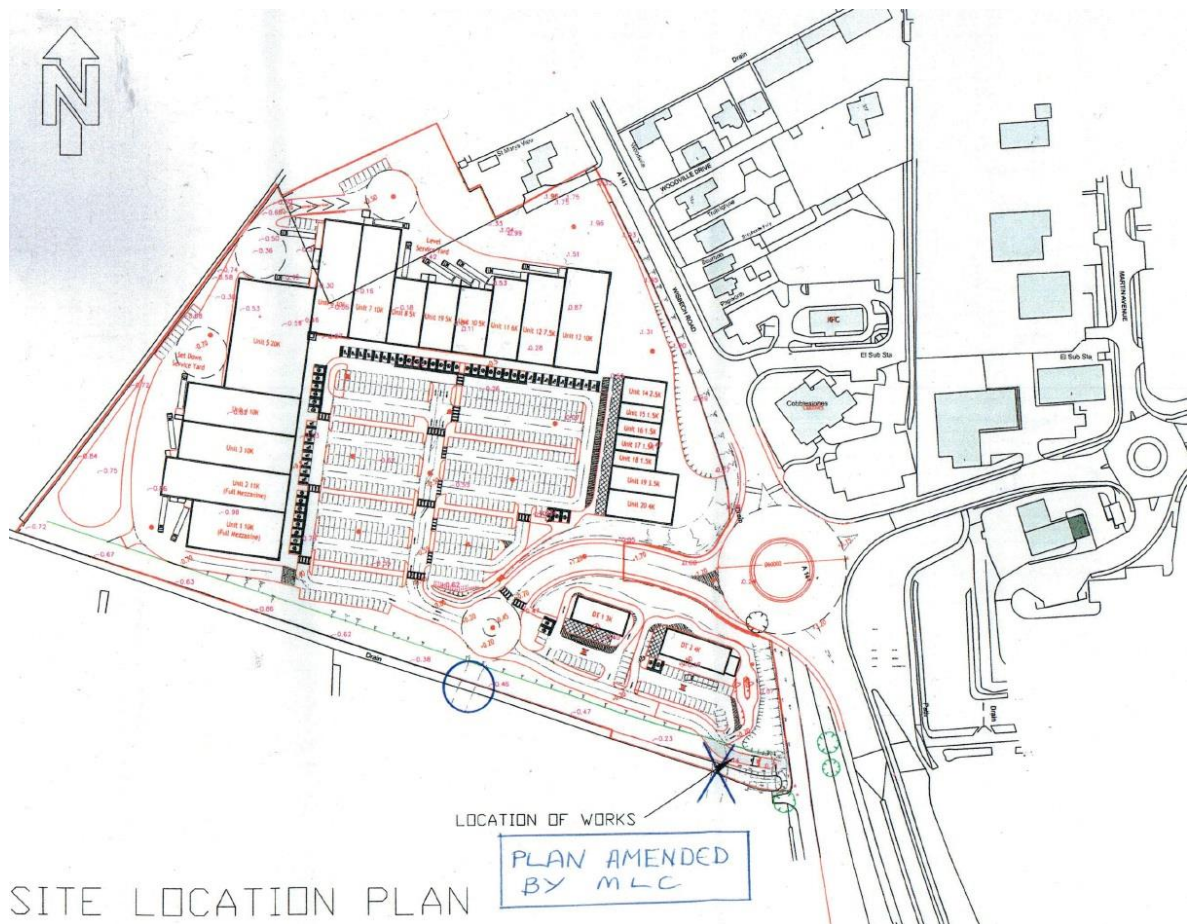
However, although the subsequent Byelaw application refers to the “surfacing of the existing access culvert for the re-routed farm traffic” it was considered that the extent of the work on the proposed access suggested, as shown on the extract above, was significantly more than anticipated. The Commissioners’ Planning Engineer had envisaged that the asphalt surfacing would only be for approximately 10 lin m. However, the plan shows a road, seemingly constructed to adoptable standards, that encroaches for approximately 45 lin m into the Board’s maintenance access strip.



Extract from MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltds Drawing No. 1455-14

Following further internal consultation, the Commissioners' Planning Engineer was instructed to advise the applicant's engineering consultant, MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd [MTC], that the Board will not consent this proposal or the access crossing indicated by a cross on the following amended A4 1:2500 Location Plan adding that whilst the Board acknowledge and sympathise with the position it is not for the Board to consent the proposal at the detriment of its system simply to resolve your clients problems.

Following on from this the applicant was reminded that, as discussed previously, and subject to meeting its requirements, the Board would consider the formation of an access culvert within the Board's drain layout indicated by the circle on the amended plan, see below.



Extract from the latest Location Plan showing the revised site layout and the proposed encroachment and access culverts.

A revised proposal with a lower specification has been received and is currently being considered.

Future proofing of this section of Board's Drain

Due to the current concerns about its capacity it is considered that any further surface water discharging into it from the upstream development within its catchment will be attenuated to the current greenfield rate of run off and thus significant improvements are unlikely. However, an inspection of the channel has identified that the northern profile is showing signs of movement and may be prone to slippage.

To reduce the risk of the Drain profile slipping and being blocked by debris, to ensure that this profile is in the best possible condition and avoid potential conflict during the construction phase of the development, the Board has advised the applicant that it would be prepared to cleanse the channel and undertake minor trimming of the Board's Drain at the earliest possible opportunity before the commencement of the development. Alternatively, it will be entered into the Board's maintenance programme.

Floor Levels and flood mitigation

Guidance has been given on floor levels in respect of flood mitigation measures. In this respect this is ultimately a matter for the planning authority to resolve with the relevant authority who prepared the hazard map concerned, be it the Environment Agency (EA) for its various flood maps, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), for its SFRA, and/or the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for its SWMP. Any specific questions concerning flood depths, velocities, levels etc should be provided by the authority responsible for the hazard mapping. Neither the Commissioners nor our associated Boards are responsible for hazard mapping.

However, when considering the amendment of land levels by either re-contouring land and/or raising floor levels, extreme care needs to be taken as, if undertaken incorrectly, these measures can increase flood risk by blocking overland flow routes.

With the exception of actually processing the Byelaw application all other costs have been re-charged to the applicant as part of an on-going pre-application discussion.

Further involvement will be required as development of the proposal progresses and the Board's consent is likely to be required.

Erection of Grain Store Building with associated Gas Tanks and Hardstanding at Agricultural Building at Wades Farm, Grandford Drove, March – J C & M A Martin (MLC Ref No 621 & 637)

A soakaway check under the certification procedure was received. Unfortunately the application did not meet the minimum validation standard so the check was unable to be completed. We requested the missing information on 20 September 2016 and chased for a response recently.

Residential development on land west of 450 March Road, Turves – Cobb Construction (MLC Ref Nos 622, 623, 656 & 657)

A proposal for seven dwellings was submitted in 2015 under planning application reference F/YR15/1114/F (MLC Ref No 622) and was subsequently withdrawn in early February 2016 to enable the applicant to undertake a pre-community consultation exercise.

The subsequent planning application was submitted in mid-February 2016 but was refused planning permission by the District Council in July for the following reasons:

- The form and character of the proposal was considered to be at odds with the prevailing development,
- The proposed layout would result in adverse impacts on the amenities of the future occupants of the development and adversely impact, either in design or scale terms, on the street scene.
- As Turves is located wholly in Flood Zone 3, the Sequential Test was considered to have been met but no community benefits were identified resulting from the development to meet the Exceptions Test.

Revised planning applications have been submitted for four detached plots alongside March Road with a pair of detached dwellings behind.



Extract from Swann Edwards Architecture Ltds Drawing No SE-489 23 Rev B showing the currently proposed layout

It is understood that the District Council is content that the street scene is now in keeping with the adjoining dwellings and the reduction in the number of dwellings to the rear, reduced from three to two, has resulted in the development being, on balance, more acceptable and reduces the impact on the open countryside and it is therefore considered that the proposal is acceptable “in principle”.

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants’ agents concerning this site and, with the exception of responding to the planning applications, no further action has been taken in respect of the Board’s interests.

Further involvement will be required if development of the proposal is progressed and the Board's consent may be required.

Re-development of 1-3 Hostmoor & 1 Martin Avenue, March – Client of MTC (MLC Ref No 624) & Harrier Developments Ltd (MLC Ref No 632)

Following a pre-application discussion consultation with the applicant's engineering consultant, MTC, in April/May 2016, a planning application was submitted to the District Council in May 2016.

The application sought to re-develop this under-utilised site, which was formerly operated by Brimur Packaging Ltd and Agrihold, as a Builder's Merchants with trade counters and additional warehousing.

Planning permission was granted by the District Council subject to the imposition of conditions including surface water disposal in September.

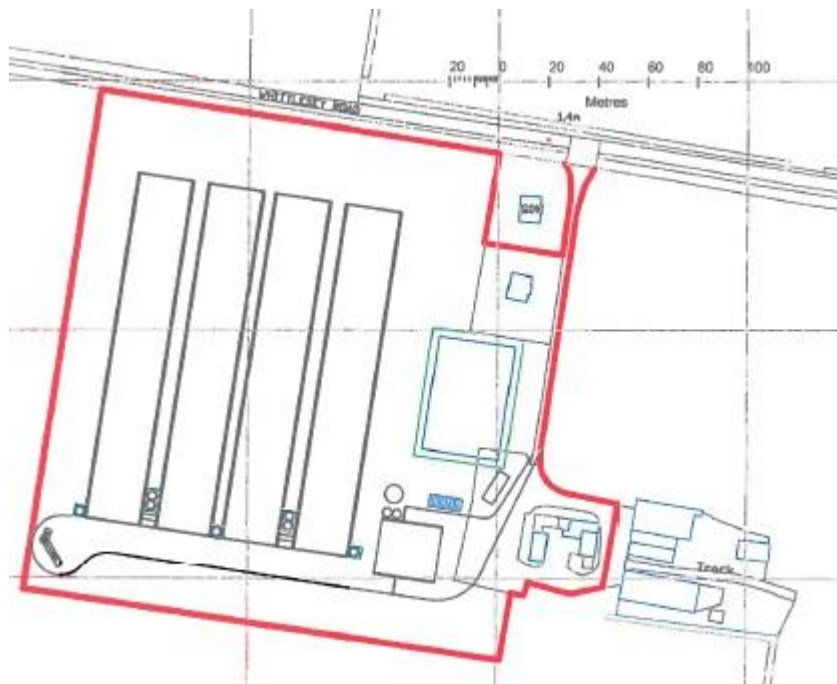
No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agents concerning this site and, with the exception of responding to the planning application, no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Further involvement will be required if development of the proposal is progressed and the Board's consent may be required.

Erection of 4 poultry barns with associated structures and biomass boiler(s), formation of a lagoon and erection of an agricultural dwelling and site office at land west of 405 Whittlesey Road, March – St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd (MLC Ref No 626)

A Scoping Opinion application was processed on the Board's behalf for the above development.

The District Council considered that further details are required.



Extract from Martin Finch & Co Ltds Drawing No MFC099 A 01 06 showing the currently proposed layout

Note. A Scoping Opinion is a planning process where the applicant asks the relevant Local Planning Authority for its formal opinion as to what information should be included within an Environmental Statement to accompany an application for planning permission for the related proposal.

Proposed extension at Marina Drive - Mr G Harding & Ms D Wilson (MLC Ref Nos 629 & 630)

It was reported to us, by a member of the public, that an illegal discharge had been made into the Board's system adjacent to Point 39 and that this discharge was a potential pollution incident.

The owner of the property was sent an enforcement notice and the EA was informed regarding the potential pollution. The owner of the property visited the office to explain that this was a one off and was unaware of the effects that the discharge could have on the ecosystem. The owner said that they were considering replacing their septic tank with a modern package treatment plant and a discharge to the drain. We advised them they would need consent and how to get it.

Further to this no further correspondence has been received from the owner regarding the illegal discharge and no further action has been take in respect to the Board's interests.

Change of use of an agricultural building to 3 x 2-storey 3-bed dwellings at White Fen Farm, Whittlesey Road, Benwick – Mr G Burton (MLC Ref No 634 & 651 previously White Fen MLC Ref No 039)

Further to the last White Fen meeting report this site has been the subject of two further prior notification submissions. The first was refused because it required significant works which were outside of the prior notification permitted development rights criteria.

A revised planning application was granted permission by the District Council at the end of March 2017.

As Benwick is entirely within Flood Zone 3 it is presumed that the requirements of the NPPF in respect of a Sequential Test are not required.

Erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling with attached garage on land south west of Phoenix House, 341 Wisbech Road, Westry – Ms C Dean (MLC Ref No 643)

Members may be aware that development of the former St Marys Church Rectory site has been on-going for several years. To date this has been within the adjacent March Sixth DDC catchment.

At the applicant's request an on-site meeting to discuss the development of the property and the possible route for the drainage was conducted under the post application procedure.

It is likely that a connection will be made to the piped watercourse on the frontage of the property on the eastern side of Wisbech Road.

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

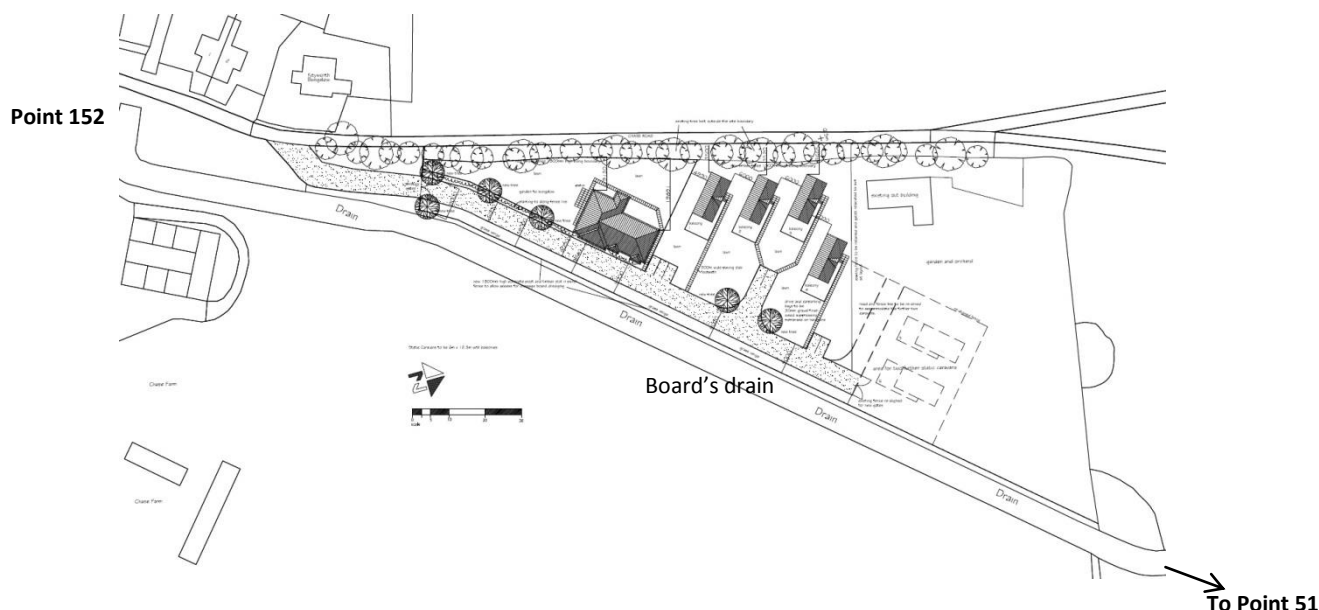
Further involvement will be required if development of the proposal is progressed and the Board's consent may be required.

Proposed residential development at Crazy Acres, off Chase Road, Benwick - Client of Stirling Maynard and Partners Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 316/PL/661) (previously White Fen MLC Ref No 025 & 026 - Mr A Smith)

A pre-application has recently been received in respect of further development at this site downstream of Point 152.

The proposal consists of the erection of a bungalow and bases for four other residential properties, an access road, hard and soft landscaping and an area for two further static caravans.

An internal consultation with relevant Board members is, at the time of writing, being undertaken.



Extract from CPK Architects Drawing No ASMI LP02 showing the proposed layout

Development Contributions

Contributions received in respect of discharge consent will be reported under the Agenda Item – ‘Contributions from Developers.’

Fenland District Council (FDC) Neighbourhood Strategy

No further correspondence has been received from FDC concerning the Neighbourhood Strategy and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board’s interests.

Fenland District Council (FDC) District Wide Level 2 SFRA

In the absence of funding no further progress has occurred with this project.

March Flood Investigation and Town Council Report

The MLC Planning Engineer has continued to represent the Commissioners and respective March Boards at meetings and provided responses and updates to the Stakeholders involved, the County and District Councils, the latter preparing reports for the Town Councils.

Please note that it has been concluded by the stakeholders involved that with significant work having been carried out and completed in the town since August 2014 and due to the private nature of delivering projects on private homes, collated flood updates will now only be provided when there are significant updates, rather than the current monthly basis.

The County Council's investigations on the event are now complete and the subsequent Flood Investigation report can be found online at:

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20099/planning_and_development/49/water_minerals_and_waste

The meetings associated with this investigation have proved beneficial to all the stakeholders involved and may lead to the resolution of many historical issues and, as a result, the LLFA proposed future meetings to discuss any local flooding issues in the District Council's area. The first of these was held on 20 April.

March Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2030

***Note.** A neighbourhood plan enables communities to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood setting a vision for the future. They are able to say, for example, where new homes, shops and offices should be built, what they should look like, what infrastructure should be provided etc. It can be detailed, or general, depending on what local people require.*

Further details on neighbourhood planning can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/229749/Neighbourhood_planning.pdf

During January and February, the March Neighbourhood Plan was the subject of a public consultation. A response was prepared on behalf of MLC and the other Boards/Commissioners within the March Town Council area for whom the MLC provide a planning service.

The Town Council was advised that designation of a Neighbourhood Area should not unduly affect these drainage districts but compliance with the provisions of the Land Drainage Act and the relevant Boards'/Commissioners' byelaws would still be required.

None of the sites identified in the report are within the Board's area but generic responses were made on large development sites, windfall development and regeneration sites.

It is disappointing to note that despite being a significant asset to the town and the potential benefits and opportunities in respect of leisure, recreation, tourism and amenity purposes, no reference was made to the Old River Nene.

However, the opportunity was taken to advise the Town Council of relevant items in respect of development and that both the MLC and associated Boards/Commissioners encourage pre-application discussion.

Further details on the March Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2030 can be found at:

<http://www.fenland.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning/submissions> and

<http://www.marchtowncouncil.gov.uk/what-we-do/neighbourhood-planning/>

Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

***Note.** A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is a document that provides further details and/or guidance with reference to policies and proposals contained in a Development Plan Document (DPD) or Local Plan.*

The SPD was endorsed by the County Council and the completed document was circulated to the relevant planning authorities and risk management authorities (RMAs) for adoption where appropriate. The SPD was adopted by FDC's Full Council on 15 December 2016.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Deal

All councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as well as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), have now signed up to the devolution deal with government. The deal will secure an additional £770 million of investment for the area, including a £600 million transport fund and money for affordable housing.

General Advice

Assistance has been given, on the Board's behalf, in respect of the following:

- (a) Alfred Bagnell and Sons (East Midlands) Ltd – An application for byelaw consent to undertake maintenance works to a gas pipeline that crosses the Board's district drain immediately upstream of Point 19 and the erection of anti-climb guards to each end of the pipe was recommended for approval.

Consulting Engineer

24 April 2017

March West & White Fen (316)\Reports\April 2017

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Mr Lakey referred to the Consulting Engineer's report and to their recommendation that the Board should have appropriate signage in place for Health and Safety purposes. Members discussed the type and form of signage required and Mr Lakey reported that some Boards were using external lockable cabinets to display Health & Safety notices and others were choosing to use laminated notice boards indicating the risks; providing contact details in an emergency, together with the grid reference to identify each location.

Mr Lakey reported that Mr Ashman had confirmed that he was available to carry out the entire flail mowing for the White Fen area but could only complete part of the works for the March and Whittlesey District. He advised that Mr Steward was available to carry out works in parts of the district and that Mr Dale was available to carry out all the necessary work but would also be prepared to work on only a part of it, should the Board wish.

The Chairman enquired of the rates charged by each contractor and Mr Lakey gave an indication of the costs involved.

Members discussed the Board's requirement and the Chairman suggested that he review the District, with the Vice Chairman and Mr Lakey, with a view to dividing the work amongst the contractors.

The Chairman reported that Defra had recorded a positive reading for the bacteria responsible for potato brown rot in the Sixteen Foot River and that they would be testing all Middle Level Commissioners' and Internal Drainage Boards watercourses this summer.

The Chairman enquired whether the Board should also carry out an inspection, to which Mr Potts agreed, however Mr Court enquired whether any costs would be incurred. The Chairman advised that the pump attendants who look after the pumps and watercourses, together with assistance from Board members, could carry out an inspection to see if Woody Nightshade was present. The Vice Chairman stated that if potatoes could not be grown in the area, this may result in the value of land decreasing, which would affect all landowners, so it was important that members inspected the drains.

Mr Lakey advised that the contractors and other operatives would also be able to identify Woody Nightshade and could contact the Middle Level Commissioners should any be located. The Chairman enquired when would be the best time to inspect to which Mr Lakey advised late June, when the plant would be flowering.

Members discussed the pump at Moores Bridge Pumping Station, which, due to its poor condition, the Consulting Engineers had recommended should be overhauled.

The Chairman advised that the Board did have a pump overhaul plan in the Capital Improvement Programme and as the cost had been included in the estimates for 2017/2018 he suggested the pump be overhauled.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

That the recommendations contained in the Report be adopted.

- iii) That the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Mr Lakey review the district with a view to dividing the work amongst the contractors and the Chairman be authorised to make a decision.
- iv) That G Ashman undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements in the White Fen area for the ensuing year.
- v) That the pump attendants assess whether sufficient health and safety signs were at the pumping stations and report back to the Consulting Engineers.
- v) That a letter be sent out to ratepayers advising of the problems caused by potato brown rot; what it is and how to identify it; the importance of identification and that if any were located it should be reported to the Middle Level Commissioners.
- vi) That the Middle Level Commissioners make the necessary arrangements for the pump at Moores Bridge pumping station to be overhauled.

B.53 Provision of automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment at White Fen Pumping Station

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the Sub-Committee Meeting held on the 21st March 2017 and reported that there were health & safety implications as the weedscreen cleaner could only be operated manually. The Chairman advised that quotes had been obtained; the lowest being submitted by Stainless Metalcraft giving an overall installation cost of approximately £80,000 and the Sub-Committee recommended to the Board that the automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment be replaced.

Miss Ablett advised of the various ways in which the installation could be funded.

RESOLVED

- i) That automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment be installed at White Fen Pumping Station and the Middle Level Commissioners be authorised to make the necessary arrangements.
- ii) That an amount not exceeding £25,000 be borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board over a period of 5 years, for the replacement of the automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment at White Fen pumping station.

B.54 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme be approved in principle and kept under review.

B.55 National Flood Resilience Review

Miss Ablett referred to the publication of the above review by the Government in September 2016 and to the response from ADA and drew attention to the lack of reference to the SUDS issue, which still remained unsatisfactory.

B.56 Environmental Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss Ablett referred to the Environmental Officer's Newsletter dated December 2016, previously circulated to Members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.57 Pumping Station duties

The Board gave consideration to the payments in respect of pumping station duties for 2017/2018.

RESOLVED

That the Board agree that there be no change in the sum allowed for the provision of pumping station duties for 2017/2018.

(NB) – The Vice Chairman and Messrs Bates, Dring, and Potts declared interests when this item was discussed.

B.58 Applications for byelaw consent

Miss Ablett reported that the following applications for consent to undertake works in and around watercourses had been approved and granted since the last general meeting of the Board, viz:-

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date consent granted</u>
Alfred Bagnall and Sons	Undertake maintenance works to National Grid's gas pipeline that crosses the Watercourse, affecting the District Drain adjacent to Trumans Farm off Whittlesey Road, March at Point 19	22 nd September 2016
Air Liquide	Installation of a gas pipeline using directional drilling techniques	22 nd December 2016

RESOLVED

That the action taken be approved.

B.59 Environment Agency – Precept

- a) Miss Ablett reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2017/2018 in the sum of £14,700 (the precept for 2016/2017 being £14,482).
- b) Local Choices Precept

Miss Ablett referred to the Environment Agency's newsletter dated October 2016.

B.60 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

- a) Miss Ablett reported that the sum of £257.17 (£851.70 less £594.53 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2015/2016 together with the sum of £577.54 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2016/2017.
- (b) Miss Ablett 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.

B.61 Contributions from Developers

Miss Ablett reported that the following contributions towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off had been received, viz:-

<u>Contributor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mr C Baxter	£300.00 (g) £270.00 (n)
R J B (East) Ltd	£300.00 (g) £270.00 (n)

B.62 Association of Drainage Authorities

Miss Ablett reported:-

- a) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities would be held in London on Thursday the 16th November 2017.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to obtain a ticket for the Annual Conference of the Association if a Member 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 7th March 2017.

c) Subscriptions

Miss Ablett referred to an e-mail received from ADA dated the 16th December 2016 and reported that the Clerk had been advised that subscriptions for 2017 will remain unchanged at £823.

RESOLVED

That the requested ADA subscription for 2017 be paid.

d) Floodex 2017

Miss Ablett reported that Floodex 2017 will be held at The Peterborough Arena on the 17th and 18th May 2017 and referred to the free Health and Safety Seminars that will also be taking place.

e) Further Research on Eels

Miss Ablett referred to an e-mail received from ADA dated the 15th November 2016 and the research specification from the Environment Agency regarding the eel research proposed over the next 2 years.

Members discussed the ongoing eel research and the request from ADA seeking contributions.

RESOLVED

That the Board contribute £100 for the first year towards further research on eels and review in 2018.

B.63 Governance of Water Level Management in England

Miss Ablett referred to the publication of the National Audit Office's (NAO) Report on Internal Drainage Boards, available on their website, www.nao.org.uk/report/internal-drainage-boards; to the Report Summary and to the response from ADA.

B.64 Fish harvesting at Pumping Stations

The Chairman reported that there were large quantities of carp in the Boards drain, some of which were of a significant size and could be of some value to the Board, should they be able to sell them.

Mr Lakey reported that last year a warning had been received concerning the dewatering the drains leading to a fish kill. He had spoken with the Environment Agency and a Fisheries consultant who had advised that it would cost in the region of £500 per day to remove the fish and

advised that the Environment Agency would allow the Board to have fish removed if the watercourse was registered with them.

The Chairman enquired whether the fish could be released into rivers and Mr Lakey advised that it would not be possible to release them into a pond or lake connected to a river but they could be released into a privately owned reservoir. Mr Lakey further advised that if the fish were diseased there would be no market for them and the fisheries would not be interested.

The Chairman reported that in several areas the fish were quite large and would require more oxygen and that they would therefore be affected if there was an oxygen crash. If this occurred the Board could be in trouble as they had received a warning before and in this respect the large carp should be removed first.

Mr West enquired what the consequences to the Board were if there was another incident to which the Chairman confirmed they could be fined.

The Chairman stated that if an outlet for the carp was identified he felt that the Board should not carry the cost of having them removed.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Chairman and Mr Lakey investigate the situation further to find an outlet and arrange for the fish to be removed, at no cost to the Board, if able to do so.
- ii) That Mr Lakey applies and registers the watercourses on the Board's behalf.

B.65 Network Rail - Level Crossing Reduction Scheme

The Chairman reported that British Rail were looking to close unmanned railway crossings, and that one of these was annexed to the Board's drain. He added that the Middle Level Commissioners' Senior Engineer, Mr Convine, was dealing with the matter but no response had yet been received.

B.66 Health and Safety Audits

Miss Ablett drew attention to the continuing need to ensure that the Board complied with Health and Safety Requirements and reminded Members of the arrangements with Croner and that if the Board had any issues they could seek advice from Croner via the Middle Level Commissioners.

Miss Ablett reported that the Middle Level Commissioners had put together a pack consisting of a practical guide, templates and examples relating to health and safety requirements, which they hoped would assist Boards with their health and safety responsibilities.

B.67 Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Further to minute B.29, Miss Ablett reported that the main issues considered by the Partnership were:-

1. The proposal to extend the provision of rain gauges in catchment.

2. Discussions over the maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS).
3. The provision of Community flood kits. The LLFA are sourcing funds to provide kits to certain groups, i.e. March town council, but certain criteria are having to be met.
4. Work on the A14 project has now commenced.
5. The Supplementary Planning Document on flood risk has now been endorsed by Cambridgeshire County Council.
6. An update on the surface water management plan. Requesting quotes for surveys to be undertaken for property level protection (PLP).
7. Partner projects were discussed including Embankment raising in the Middle Level (MLC) and in the Ouse Washes (EA).

B.68 Potential Changes in Rating Valuation

Miss Ablett reported the consideration presently being given by ADA and Defra to possible changes in the way in which drainage rates and special levies may be calculated in future. She advised that the present system, under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the Internal Drainage Board (Finance) Regulations, provides for agricultural property to be valued at a notional rental value for that property as at 1st April 1988 with non-agricultural hereditaments being valued at the "average acre" rate, calculated by reference to pre-1988 development within the District of the individual Board. The current legislation does however require that properties that existed before 1st April 1988 are valued according to their old rateable values, records for which may no longer exist and this causes problems for IDBs which are looking to extend their boundaries and particularly where there are proposals to create new IDBs. Miss Ablett understood however, that, at present, Defra are unlikely to progress the issue urgently and that some further consideration will have to take place before any change is proposed. In addition, as a change to primary legislation would be required, Parliamentary time would have to be found for this. At this stage Miss Ablett wished therefore to simply alert the Board to these discussions and further reports will no doubt be made to the Board in the future should legislative amendment be proposed.

B.69 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the former March and Whittlesey IDB and White Fen DDC – 2015/2016

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2016.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2016.

B.70 Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

Miss Ablett 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 2017.

B.71 Budgeting

Miss Ablett referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2017.

B.72 Review of Internal Controls

Members considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of Internal Controls.

B.73 Risk Management Assessment

- a) The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with their current Risk Management Policy.
- b) The Board considered and approved the insured value of their buildings.

B.74 Exercise of Public Rights

Miss Ablett 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.

B.75 Annual Governance Statement – 2016/2017

The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2017.

B.76 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £165,504.10 which had been made during the financial year 2016/2017.

(NB) - Messrs Bates, Dring and Potts declared interests in the payments made to them.

(NB) – The Chairman and Mr Fountain declared an interest (as Members of the Middle Level Board) and Mr Potts (as a Middle Level Commissioner) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.77 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2016/2017

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliations for the year ended on the 31st March 2017 as required in the Audit Regulations.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Return, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2017.

B.78 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2017/2018

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2017/2018 and were informed by Miss Ablett that under the

Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be:-

	<u>Area 1</u>	<u>Area 2</u>
Drainage rates	92.47%	66.71%
Special levy	7.53%	33.29%

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £138,789 be raised by drainage rates and special levy (Area 1 - £37,842; Area 2 - £ 100,947).
- iii) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in ii) above to be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy are:-

	<u>Area 1</u>	<u>Area 2</u>
Drainage rates	£34,991	£67,342
Special levy	£2,851	£33,605

- iv) That drainage rates be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District as follows:-

<u>Area 1</u>	<u>Area 2</u>
25.0p in the £	12.25p in the £

- v) That a Special levy of £36,456 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.79 Display of rate notice

RESOLVED

That notice of the rate be affixed within the District in accordance with Section 48(3)(a) of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.80 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday the 1st May 2018.