

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the March East Internal Drainage Board
held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Thursday the 1st June 2017

PRESENT

C E Martin Esq (Chairman)	G C Dunham Esq
C W Albutt Esq (Vice Chairman)	A J N Gee Esq
W Aveling Esq	R D Gladwin Esq
J F Clark Esq	J E Heading Esq
M Cornwell Esq	R E Mason Esq
Mrs M Davis	D S Morris Esq
A Dunham Esq	P M Tegerdine Esq

Mr Robert Hill (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr Morgan Lakey (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from A W Coulson Esq, P A Fisher Esq, P D Hayes Esq, D J Henson Esq and A Pugh Esq.

B.1182 Declarations of Interest

Mr Hill 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.1183 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 9th June 2016 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1184 Clerk to the Board

- a) Further to minute B.1143, Mr Hill reported that Mr David Thomas had been appointed as Clerk to the Board and that Miss Lorna McShane had been appointed Solicitor/Assistant Clerk.

Mr Hill reported that the Chairman had authorised a donation of £150 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.1168, Mr Hill 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.1168, 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.1185 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That C E Martin Esq be appointed Chairman of the Board.

B.1186 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That C W Albutt Esq be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

B.1187 Election of Members of the Board

Mr Hill reported that, as the number of candidates for membership of the Board did not exceed the number of persons to be elected (fifteen), the following candidates were elected as Members of the Board for a period of three years from the 1st November 2016, viz:-

ALBUTT, Charles William	GLADWIN, Roger David
AVELING, Will	HAYES, Paul
COULSON, Andrew William	HEADING, John Edwin
DUNHAM, Andrew	HENSON, David John
DUNHAM, Graham Charles	MARTIN, Clive Edward
FISHER, Paul Anthony	MASON, Raymond Edward
GEE, Adrian John Neville	MORRIS, Donald Sowby
TEGERDINE, Peter Michael	

(NB) –Councillors Mrs M Davis, J F Clark, M Cornwell and A Pugh are also Members of the Board as the nominees of Fenland District Council under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.1188 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute B.1147, Mr Hill 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. He also reported that the Clerk was satisfied that there were other partnerships in place and would continue to update Members when required.

B.1189 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.1148, Mr Hill 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.

Mr Hill 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.1190 Amalgamation

Further to minute B.1149, the Chairman reported that the Clerk had written to the Chairman of Euximoor IDB requesting that a meeting be arranged to discuss a possible amalgamation, but that there had been no formal response from the Board. The Vice Chairman confirmed that the matter had been raised at the Euximoor IDB meeting. Mr Heading considered there could be cost savings for both Boards and, long term, an amalgamation would provide benefit to ratepayers.

RESOLVED

That a follow up letter be sent to Euximoor IDB prior to their Board meeting.

B.1191 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

March East I.D.B.

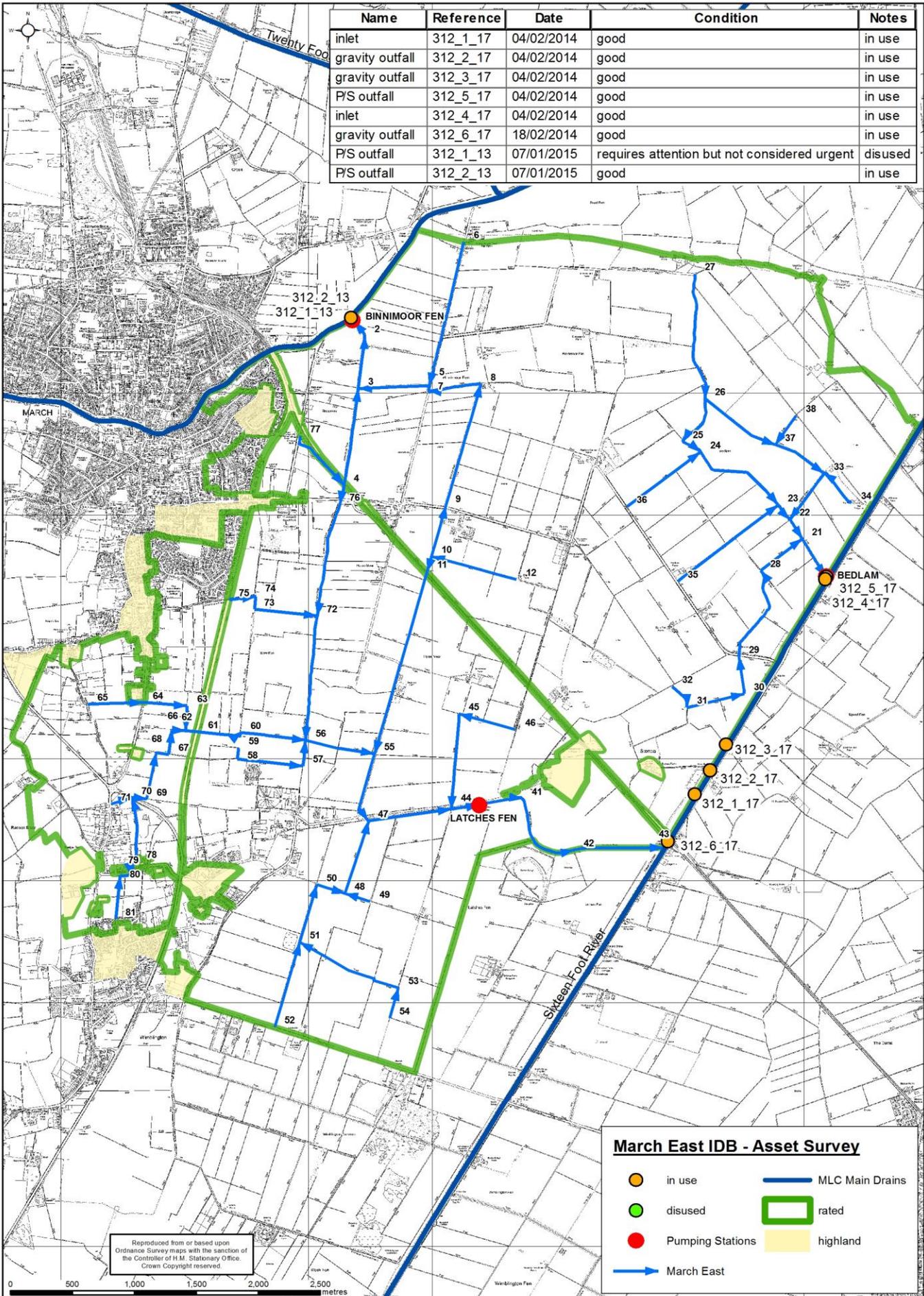
Consulting Engineers Report – May 2017

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 Commissioners. Where an asset's condition is recorded as requiring attention, an increased flood risk is likely to exist and the Commissioners are asked to consider carrying out suitable remedial works. Where an asset is redundant but currently in a reasonable condition it is recommended that the Commissioners consider putting plans into their 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 Commissioners' system is also embanked, the Commissioners should consider a like assessment of their own embankments to assure themselves of their integrity and ascertain the need for any work, whether by the Commissioners or a third party, which may be similarly required.** Should the Commissioners 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 Commissioners 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

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the phased maintenance programme approved by the Board in 2008.



Bank subsidence, reach 4 - 77

With the Chairman's agreement, approximately 25m of bank revetment was carried out along reach 4 - 77 in the Silt Road area, adjacent to the railway line. Subsidence was identified during the annual flail mowing prior to the programmed machine cleansing of the Board's drain.

Water flows along reach 11-12 were greatly reduced during the spring last year due to an early growth of dense submerged aquatic weed and sporadic stands of reed and sedge. Again with the Chairman's prior agreement, the machine cleansing of reach 11-12, that was programmed to commence later in the year, was brought forward to return the drain to a satisfactory condition.



Early aquatic weed growth reach 11-12

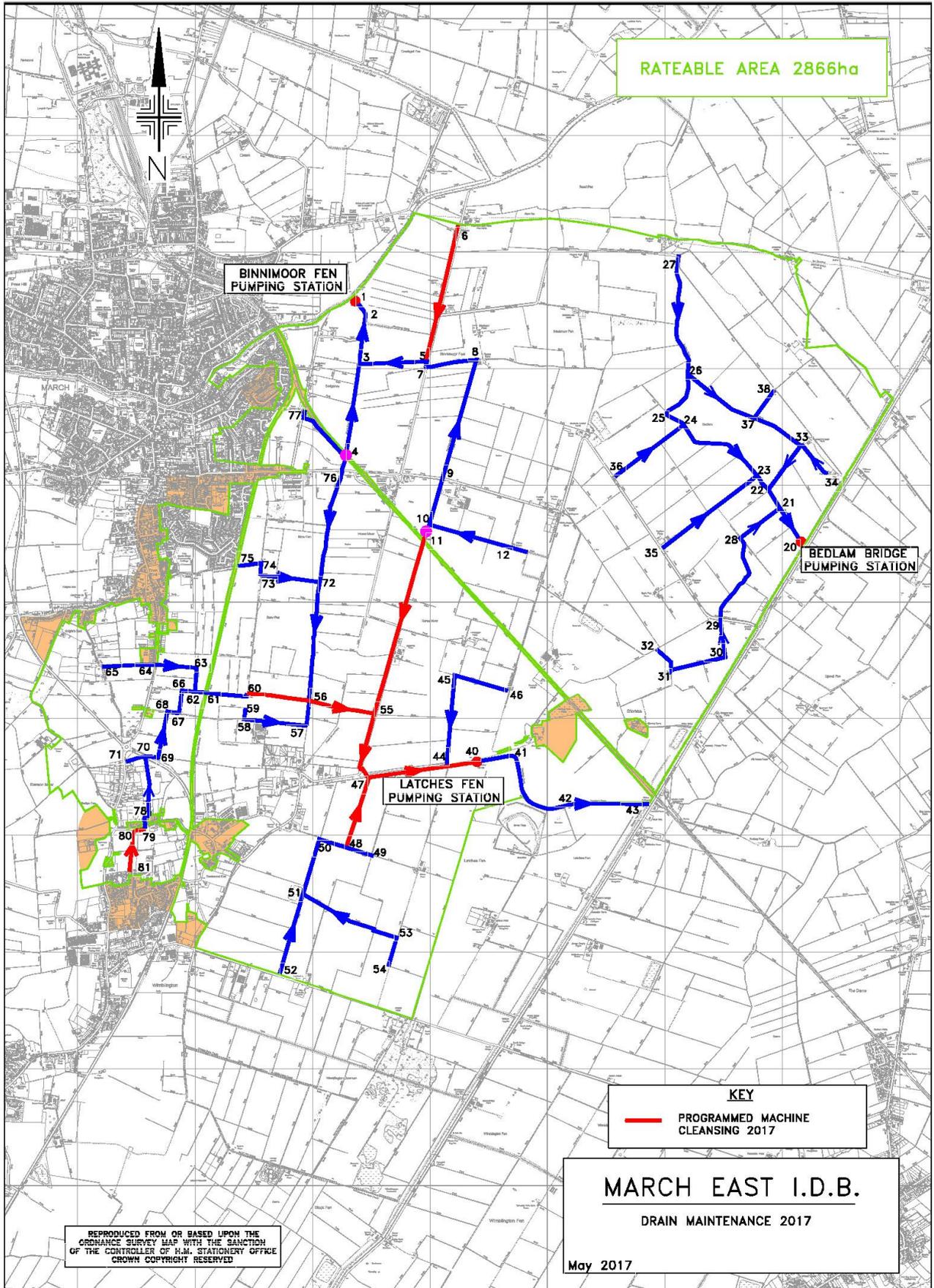
Provisional notices for the 2017 phased programmed machine cleansing works were issued last year. The extent of this year's works is shown on the following site plan.

A recent inspection of the Board's district drains has revealed that the majority of the drains are in a satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard. The inspection also indicates there are several drains in the district where stands of reed and emergent weed are now showing signs of active regrowth. It will be pertinent to apply treatments of Roundup bi-active herbicide to these drains when conditions and field access allow.

Dense stands of reeds and bull rush were also identified in the Bridge Lane area drains, reach 79-80-81. It is recommended that the affected drains are treated with an application of Roundup herbicide, followed by machine cleansing to remove the emergent vegetation from the water channel.



Bridge Lane, reach 80-81



Drains in the Barkers Lane area have historically required an early season application of Roundup to control dense stands of watercress that grow strongly in the drain bed. A sum has been included within the Board's estimated costs to cover the herbicide applications this season



Barkers Lane, reach 74-75

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. A sum has been allocated within the estimated costs to allow for flail mowing of the district drains.

A provisional sum has been included within the Board's estimates for any bank slip repair, emergency cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance that may be required later in the year.

The estimated costs of this year's Weed Control and Drain maintenance works are as follows. Please refer to the site plan on the previous page for locations.

1.	Machine cleanse the following drains:			£	£
	<u>Binnimoor Fen Pumping Area</u>				
	(i) Reach 5-6	1250	m @	1.00	1250.00
	<u>Latches Fen Pumping Area</u>				
	(i) Reach 40-44-47-48	1600	m @	1.30	2080.00
	(ii) Reach 47-55-11	2300	m @	1.10	2530.00
	(iii) Reach 55-56-60	1100	m @	1.10	1210.00
	(iv) Reach 79-80-81	480	m @	1.00	480.00
2.	Roundup application to control reed water cress and other emergent weed growth in district drains	Item	Sum		1100.00
3.	Allow sum for flail mowing.	Item	Sum		7500.00
4.	<u>Provisional Item</u> Allow sum for bank revetment, emergency Cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance works	Item	Sum		2000.00
5.	Fees for inspection, preparation, and submission of report to the Board, arrangement, and supervision of chemical applications and maintenance works.	Item	Sum		2000.00
					<hr/>
		TOTAL			£20,150.00
					<hr/> <hr/>

Orders for the application of herbicides by the Middle Level Commissioners are accepted on condition that the application is weather dependant, and they will not be held responsible for the failure or efficacy of any treatment.

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 is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

Binnimoor

The business case for grant to replace the pump was developed and by working with the EA local team it was possible to increase the grant claim to 100% from FDGiA rather than source money from local levy or the Board. This was approved in March 2017 and a claim for the majority of the money was made shortly after this time.

An FCERM4 Variation form has subsequently been submitted to ask for release of the contingency sum and a small amount of extra grant to cover an increase in pump cost and the addition of telemetry at the station.

Pumping Hours

<i>Bedlam Pumping Station</i>	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run
No 1	May12 (11114) – May 13 (11322) = 208	May 13 (11322) - May 14 (11536) = 214	May 14 (11536) – May 15 (11731) = 195	May 15 (11731) – May 16 (12082) = 351	May 16 (12082) - May 17 (12303) =221
No 2	May12 (9052) – May 13 (9778) = 726	May 13 (9778) – May 14 (10136) = 358	May 14 (10136) – May 15 (10877) = 741	May 15 (10877) - May 16 (10936) = 59	May 16 (10936) - May 17 (10949) =13
Total Hours Run	934	572	936	410	234

<i>Binnimoor Pumping Station</i>	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run
No 1	May12 (99) – May 13 (421) = 322	May 13 (421) – May 14 (646) =225	May 14 (421) – May 15 (1020) = 599	May 15 (1020) – May 16 (1194) = 174	May 16 (1194) to May 17 (1300) =106
Total Hours Run	322	225	599	174	106

<i>Latches Fen Pumping Station</i>	hours run				
No 1	May12 (18380) – May 13 (19915) = 1535	May 13 (19915) - May 14 (20744) = 829	May 14 (20744) – May 15 (21621) = 877	May 15 (21621) – May 16 (22134) = 513	May 16 (22134) to May 17 (22528) =394
No 2	May12 (466) – May 13 (524) = 58	May 13 (524) – May 14 (552) = 28	May 14 (552) – May 15 (589) = 37	May 15 (589) – May 16 (640) = 49	May 16 (640) to May 17 (643) =3
Total Hours Run	1593	857	914	562	397

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 Commissioners are therefore asked if it would wish to offer some financial support over one or two years. Other Boards/Commissioners 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 MLC 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 former 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 MLC 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 MLC, 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 MLC 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 MLC 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 45 new applications have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

<i>MLC Ref.</i>	<i>Council Ref.</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Type of Development</i>	<i>Location</i>
734	F/YR16/0017/F	Mr J Harradine	Residence (Extension)	Upwell Road, March
735	F/YR16/0023/F	Mr & Mrs A Carty	Residence	Addison Road, fronting March Road, Wimblington
736	F/YR16/0141/F	Mr T Philpott	Residence (Extension)	Upwell Road, March
737	F/YR16/0217/F	Mr & Mrs N Pooley	Residence (Extension)	Binnimoor Road, March
738	F/YR16/0295/F	Mr & Mrs P Burke	Residence (Extension)	March Road, Wimblington
739	F/YR16/0330/F	Law Fertilisers Ltd	Industrial (Extension)	Eastwood Industrial Estate, Eastwood End, Wimblington
740	F/YR16/0351/F	Mr R Yardy	Residence (Extension)	March Road, Wimblington
741	F/YR16/0352/F	CDT Engineering Ltd	Industrial	Eastwood industrial Estate, Eastwood End, Wimblington
742	F/YR16/0345/SC	Cannon Kirk (UK) Ltd	Residential (600 dwellings)	Barkers Lane, March
743	Pre-app Enquiry	Matthew Homes Ltd	Residential (67 dwellings)	March Road, Wimblington
744	F/YR16/0425/PNC04	Mr D Pashler	Residence	Hook Road, Wimblington
745	F/YR16/0433/F	Mr & Mrs A Triggs	Residential (2 dwellings)	Mill Hill Lane, March
746	F/YR16/0419/F	Mr & Mrs A Triggs	Residence (Extension)	Mill Hill Lane, March
747	F/YR16/0459/F	Mr & Mrs J Rowney	Residence (Extension)	Orchard Road, March
748	F/YR16/0468/F	Mrs L Fountain	Residential (3 dwellings)	The Avenue, March
749	F/YR16/0497/F	Mr T Mace	Residence (Extension)	Grounds Avenue, March
750	Enquiry	Client of ESP	Residential (Not known)	King Street, Wimblington
751	F/YR16/3093/COND	Mr L Fountain	Residential (3 dwellings)	The Avenue, March
752	F/YR16/0794/O	Mr & Mrs Kinnimonth	Residence	Eastwood End, Wimblington

753	F/YR16/0828/F	Mr T Humphries	Residence (Extension)	Morton Avenue, March
754	F/YR16/0863/F	Phil Purse Groundworks	Industrial	Silt Rd, March
755	F/YR16/0881/F	Mr C Furcilla	Residence (Extension)	Eastwood Avenue, March
756	F/YR16/0880/F	Mr C Morton	Residence	Eastwood Avenue, March
757	F/YR16/0904/F	St Ives Ltd	Residence	The Shires, March
758	F/YR16/0959/F	MJS Development	Residential (4 dwellings)	Upwell Road, March
759	F/YR16/0961/F	Mr N Harradine	Residence	Upwell Road, March
760	F/YR16/1001/F	Mrs L Bower	Agricultural/Equestrian	Coleseed Rd, March
761	F/YR16/1043/F	Mrs L Hills	Residence (Extension)	Mallard Way, March
762	F/YR16/1011/F	Mrs R Veitch	Residence (Conversion and extension)	The Causeway, March
763	F/YR16/1040/F	Mr J Clark	Residence (Extension)	Wimblington Rd, March
764	F/YR16/1151/PNH	Mr T Humphris	Residence (Extension)	Morton Avenue, March
765	F/YR16/1183/PNH	Mrs L Hills	Residence (Extension)	Mallard Way, March
766	F/YR16/1192/F	Mr J Wilson	Residential (4 dwellings)	King Street, Wimblington
767	F/YR17/3009/COND	James Developments Ltd	Residential (20 dwellings)	Jobs Lane, March
768	F/YR17/0077/PNH	Mr & Mrs S Warwick	Residence (Extension)	Breton Avenue, March
769	F/YR17/0060/F	Phil Purse Groundworks	Industrial	Silt Road, March
770	F/YR17/0095/F	Mr & Mrs J Jupp	Residence	Upwell Road, March
771	F/YR17/0127/F	Mr Read & Mrs Hennen	Residence (Extension)	Knights End Road, March
772	F/YR17/0140/PNC04	Mrs B Humphrey	Residence	Coleseed Road, March
773	F/YR17/0220/AG1	D S Morris & Son Ltd	Agricultural	Sixteen Foot Bank, Stonea
774	F/YR17/0285/F	MJS Developments	Residential (2 dwellings)	Upwell Road, March
775	F/YR17/0043/F	Matthew Homes Ltd	Residential (13 dwellings)	March Road, Wimblington
776	F/YR17/0039/RM	Matthew Homes Ltd	Residential (67 dwellings)	March Road, Wimblington
777	F/YR17/0262/F	Mr J Clark	Residence (Extension)	Woodlands Avenue, March
778	F/YR17/0344/O	Mr & Mrs Barry James	Residence (2 dwellings)	Wimblington Road March

***Planning applications ending 'SC' relate to screening/scoping opinions
Planning applications ending 'PNCO' relate to prior notification change of use issues
Planning applications ending 'COND' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions
Planning applications ending 'PNH' relate to household permitted regulations notification
Planning applications ending 'RM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters***

From the information provided it is understood that all the developments propose to discharge surface water disposal to soakaways, or similar infiltration systems. The applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

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

- a. *Residence (extension) at Binnimoor Road, March – Mr & Mrs N Pooley (MLC Ref No 737)*

- b. *Residential (3 dwellings) at The Avenue, March – Mrs L Fountain (MLC Ref No 748)*
- c. *Residence (extension) at Brenton Avenue, March – Mr & Mrs S Warwick (MLC Ref No 768)*

Proposed development to the southeast of Barkers Lane – Cannon Kirk Developments (MLC Ref 385) & Cannon Kirk Homes (MLC Ref No 509), Mr & Mrs Hopkins & Mrs Mitcham (MLC Ref No 585) & Cannon Kirk (UK) Ltd (MLC Ref No 742)

Further to the 2015 Meeting Report, a Screening Opinion was submitted to the District Council in May 2016. The District Council decided “Further Details Not Required”.

NB. A Screening Opinion application is a planning process where the applicant asks the relevant Local Planning Authority for its formal opinion as to whether there are likely to be significant effects on the environment and require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The intention of this process is to enable developers to obtain a clear view from the LPA on its requirements before they reach the stage of lodging a formal planning application, thus minimising the possibility of delay or uncertainty.

Redevelopment of and extension to poultry farm at Hooks Drove, Wimblington – Client of the Derek Salisbury Practice (MLC Ref No 545) & St Lawrence Hall Farms (MLC Ref Nos 563, 594, 595, 600, 603, 606 & 720)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agents since the last Board meeting and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Erection of 22 dwellings involving demolition of 2 no existing dwellings on land south east of 93-113 Grounds Avenue, March - Fenland District Council (MLC Ref No 552), Client of URS Scott Wilson (MLC Ref No 576) & Lovell Partnership (MLC Ref Nos 579 & 629)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents since the last Board meeting and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Erection of 3 x 2-storey 3-bed dwellings with detached single garages, 6 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings with detached double garages and 1 x 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with attached double garage at land south east of Orchard Lodge, Jobs Lane, March – Mr H Fisher (MLC Ref Nos 558 & 587) & James Development Co Ltd (MLC Ref No 703)

Further to the last meeting an application to discharge conditions, including surface water disposal, was submitted to the District Council, in January. According to the District Council's Public Access web page, at the time of writing, a decision on this application is pending.

With the exception of providing a response to the planning application no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents since the last Board meeting and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Erection of three properties on land to the south and west of 4-5 Mill Hill Lane, March – Mrs S Duncan (MLC Ref Nos 574, 592 & 640), Mr & Mrs Topping (MLC Ref No 704) & Mr S Simon (MLC Ref No 704)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents since the last Board meeting and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Development at land east of 20 Eastwood Industrial Estate, Eastwood End, Wimblington – Law Fertilisers (MLC Ref Nos 588, 608 & 739)

A planning application was submitted to the District Council in late March for front and side extensions to the existing storage building. Planning permission was subsequently granted subject to the imposition of conditions, none of which were relevant to the Board.

With the exception of providing a response to the planning application no further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agents since the last Board meeting 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.

Erection of 10 no single storey affordable dwellings comprising of 5 x 1-bed and 5 x 2-bed and 2.1 metre high fencing with associated parking involving demolition of 27 no garages – Roddons Housing Association (MLC Ref No 618) & Details reserved by conditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, of planning permission F/YR13/0010/F (Erection of 5 x single-storey 1-bed dwellings with associated parking involving demolition of 30

garages) at land south-east of 13 Smiths Drive, March – Foster Property Maintenance Ltd (MLC Ref No 651)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents since the last Board meeting and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Erection of 7 dwellings involving demolition of existing stables and outbuildings on land east of 54-62 March Road, Wimblington – Mr & Mrs P Salter (MLC Ref Nos 655 & 677)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents since the last Board meeting and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Proposed extension to Cavalry Primary School, Cavalry Drive, March - Client of Pick Everard (MLC Ref No 659) & Cambridgeshire County Council (MLC Ref No 673)

Further investigation undertaken by both Fenland District and Cambridgeshire County Councils, as part of the investigation into flooding in the local area, has identified that surface water from the School and part of the northern section of Cavalry Drive discharges into an Anglian Water Services Ltd sewer to the west, and not to the east as previously thought, (via the private watercourse forming the northern boundary of Eastwood Cemetery and private pipelines).

Therefore, surface water in this area is discharged into the Commissioners' Old River Nene and not into the Board's system.

Residential development at 2A Bridge Lane, Wimblington - Ms K Grange (MLC Ref No 663)

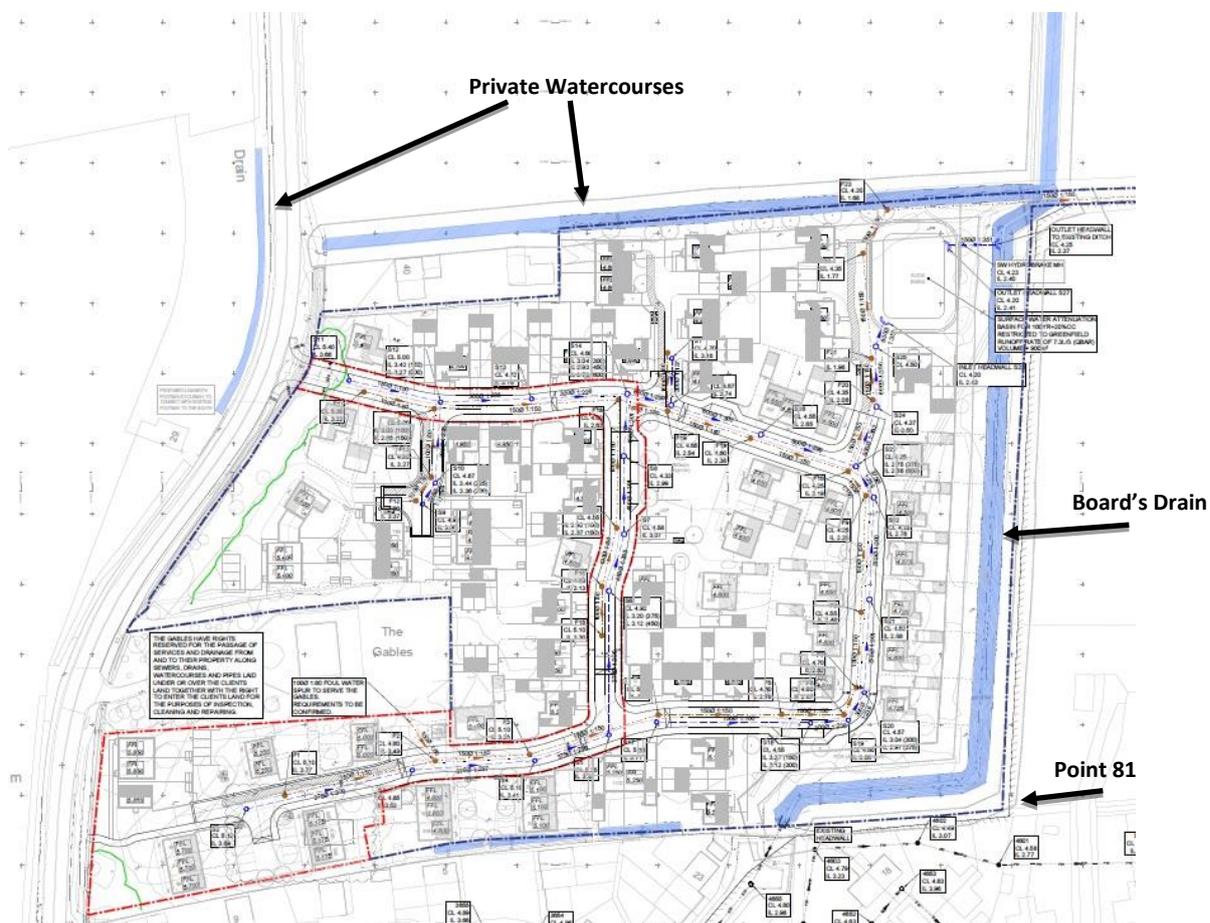
No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agents since the last Board meeting and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Erection of 80 dwellings (max) at land east of 38 March Road, Wimblington – G Scarborough Ltd (MLC Ref No 665) & Matthew Homes Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 743, 775 & 776)

Pre-application discussion (MLC Ref No 743) was undertaken with the applicant's consultant, Conisbee, concerning the location of the foul water sewer during June to October. The costs incurred were charged to the applicant.

Subsequent to this two planning applications for the erection of 13 2-storey dwellings (MLC Ref No 775) and 67 dwellings with associated garages, parking and landscaping (MLC Ref No 776) were submitted to the District Council in December 2016.

With the exception of providing a response to the planning application no further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agents and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.



Extract from Conisbees Drawing No 150464-X-00-SK-C-1000 Rev. P6

Please note that neither the Middle Level Commissioners nor the Board have been consulted or otherwise involved in the proposed layout shown above.

According to the District Council's Public Access web page a decision on this site remains pending. However, it is noted that further discussions are being undertaken and the LLFA has recently withdrawn its objection to the proposed SuDS scheme which utilises a balancing pond.

The Board is reminded that whilst the District Council and the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Board, who as a non-statutory consultee has yet to consider the proposals and is the authority which receives and processes any resultant flows, will be in agreement.

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

Erection of an Anaerobic Digestion Facility on land east of Fengrain, Hook Lane, Wimblington – G P Planning Ltd (MLC Ref No 676) & Fengrain Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 681, 684, 686 & 711)

Further to the last meeting the applicant appealed against the District Council's decision to refuse this planning application. In October the Planning Inspectorate allowed the appeal and planning permission was granted with the imposition of conditions including both foul and surface water disposal.

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents since the last Board meeting 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.

Residential development involving the demolition of 5 Bridge Lane and existing commercial buildings at land north of 3A-9 Bridge Lane, Wimblington – Messrs K & D Clark (MLC Ref Nos 705 & 723)

The planning appeal referred to in the last report was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate in July.

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agents since the last Board meeting and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Proposed residential development of 52 dwellings at Kings Street, Wimblington – Construct Reason Ltd (MLC Ref No 716)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agents since the last Board meeting and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Two storey office building and associated parking including packaged sewage treatment plant at land north of Mill Hill Garage, Wimblington Road, March – Whiting & Partners (MLC Re No 717, 721 & 726)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agents since the last Board meeting 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.

Re-Opening of The March – Wisbech Railway

The re-opening of the Railway remains a key part of the Wisbech Garden Town proposal to establish a regular direct rail link between Wisbech and Cambridge via March.

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.

Detailed March Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP)

With the exception of being mentioned "in passing" at the CFRMP meetings, no further action has been requested or taken.

March Flood Investigation and Town Council Reports

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 that future meetings take place to discuss any local flooding issues in the District Council's area.

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 and 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 given the potential benefits and opportunities in respect of leisure, recreation, tourism and amenity, 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/>

March Community Flood Group



Become a member of a Community Flood Group

Are you interested in flood risk? Would you like to help raise awareness about flood risk in your community? Does helping to write a flood plan and getting relevant training sound intriguing?

If so, then you may be interested in becoming a member of a Community Flood Group in March. A Community Flood Group is a group of local volunteers who focus on improving flood resilience and minimising the effects of flooding within their communities by planning ahead and sharing information. They represent the community and work in partnership with other authorities (e.g. Councils, Environment Agency, water companies) to highlight issues and work together to resolve them. Volunteers will be formally recognised for their work through a **time credits scheme**. There are many examples of these groups across the country. The National Flood Forum website (nationalfloodforum.org.uk) has many examples of these groups.

The Cambridgeshire County Council Flood and Water Team are working with the Environment Agency to help form Community Flood Groups in March and across the County. If you would like to get involved or learn more about this opportunity then please contact us at floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Cambridgeshire County Councils Flood and Water Team are working with the Environment Agency in March and across the County and are looking for volunteers to become members of a Community Flood Group. Further details can be found at: <https://middlelevel.gov.uk/news/> or <http://www.marchtowncouncil.gov.uk/news-events/links/>

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

Members will be aware that all councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as well as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), have signed up to the devolution deal with government.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (the Combined Authority), is a corporate legal body that is intended to facilitate collective decision-making on a Cambridgeshire & Peterborough basis, particularly in relation to large-scale strategic projects. This means a greater number of important decisions can be made by local communities rather than by central government.

Each of the seven Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Councils has one seat on the Combined Authority, which is held by the respective Council Leader. The Mayor will join as its chair and eighth member.

The district councils will not lose any of their existing functions and will continue to be directly responsible for day-to-day services, like housing, rubbish collection and street cleaning. The Mayor and the Combined Authority do not replace nor can they overrule Cambridgeshire & Peterborough councils when they are exercising their own functions although the Combined Authority will be able to exercise certain functions concurrently with the district councils.

The devolution deal includes significant benefits for the communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, such as:

- A new £600million fund (£20 million annually for the next 30 years) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs.
- Potential transport infrastructure improvements such as the A14/A142 junction and upgrades to the A10 and the A47 as well as the Ely North Railway Junction.
- A new £100million housing fund to build more homes including affordable, rent and shared ownership
- Deciding how a budget is spent to maintain roads

Central government will continue to lead on welfare, most forms of taxation and many other areas.

General Advice

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

- (a) B G Short – An application for byelaw consent to install 12 No. field underdrain outfalls in the district drain in Binnimoor Fen between Points 8 and 9 was recommended for approval.

Consulting Engineer

17 May 2017

March East (312)\Reports\May 2017

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Mr Hill 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 Hill 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.

In response to Mr Cornwell, Mr Hill outlined the process for dealing with developments which gave an increase in flows direct to the Board's system.

RESOLVED

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

ii) Weed control and drain maintenance

That the maintenance works contained in the Report be undertaken.

iii) That the Middle Level Commissioners be requested to supply and install external display cabinets at each of the Board's pumping stations to include notices indicating the risks; providing contact details in an emergency, together with the grid reference to identify each location.

(NB) – Mr Morris declared an interest in the planning application (MLC Ref No 773) for D S Morris & Son Ltd.

B.1192 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.1193 National Flood Resilience Review

Mr Hill 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.1194 District Officer's Report

The Board considered the report of the District Officer.

The District Officer reported that it had been a quiet year concerning pumping, with no major issues, and that the proposed maintenance works were covered by the Consulting Engineer's report.

RESOLVED

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

B.1195 Environmental Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

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

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.1196 Change of attendant at Binnimoor Pumping Station

The Chairman reported that during the year Mr Brooks relinquished his role as pump attendant and was replaced by Neil Clark, who had received training from the Middle Level Commissioners' Engineer, and was getting on well with his new duties.

B.1197 District Officer's Fee and Pumping Station duties

- a) The Board gave consideration to the District Officer's fee for 2017/2018.
- b) The Board gave consideration to the payment in respect of pumping station duties for 2017/2018.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Board agree that the sum of £870 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2017/2018.
- ii) That the Board agree that the sum of £1,908 be allowed for the provision of pumping station duties for 2017/2018.

(NB) – The Chairman declared a financial interest and the Vice Chairman took the Chair when this item was discussed.

The Chairman resumed the Chair

B.1198 State-aided Schemes

Consideration was given to the desirability of undertaking further State-aided Schemes in the District and whether any future proposals should be included in the capital forecasts provided to the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED

That no proposals be formulated at the present time.

B.1199 Application for byelaw consent

Mr Hill reported that the following application 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>
B G Short	Installation of 12 No field underdrain outfalls into the watercourse at Double Dole Field, Upwell Road, March	8 th July 2016

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consents be approved.

B.1200 Environment Agency – Precepts

a) Mr Hill reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2017/2018 in the sum of £11,029 (the precept for 2016/2017 being £10,866).

b) Local Choices Precept

Further to minute B.1159(b), Mr Hill referred to the Environment Agency's newsletter dated October 2016.

B.1201 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

a) Mr Hill reported that the sum of £160.71 (£944.01 less £783.30 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 £808.36 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2016/2017.

(b) Further to minute B.1160(b), Mr Hill referred to the discussions with the Environment Agency over the monies available to fund highland water claims.

Mr Heading considered that if, in the future, the Environment Agency highland water contribution may not be paid in full, the Board should give consideration to extending its boundary, to take in the relevant areas.

Mr Hill explained the problems being encountered by Boards who were currently looking into extending their boundaries, due to the current legislation concerning the raising of rates and Special Levies.

RESOLVED

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

B.1202 Property

The Chairman reported that having had a problem with the boiler, the tenant of Latches Fen Pumping Station bungalow had called out a local plumber to attend to it. However, after fixing the problem, the plumber had issued a warning and advice notice concerning the tank and boiler flue.

Mr Hill outlined the Board's responsibilities concerning smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and legionella testing.

RESOLVED

- i) That N J Fox Plumbing & Heating Services be requested to provide a quotation to remedy the items listed on the warning and advice notice and that, upon receipt, the Chairman be authorised to take any action he considers necessary.
- ii) That the Consulting Engineers be requested to attend to the legionella assessment and look into the matter of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms at the Board's property.

B.1203 Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

Mr Hill reported 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 for any Member who wishes to attend.

b) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

Mr Hill reported 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

Mr Hill 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 £679.

RESOLVED

That the requested ADA subscription for 2017 be paid.

d) Further Research on Eels

Mr Hill 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 per year for two years towards further research on eels.

e) General Election

Mr Hill referred to a copy letter sent by ADA to the Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in regard to policy on flood and water level management and the General Election.

(NB) – Mr Heading declared an interest (as a member of the ADA Board) when this item was discussed.

B.1204 Governance of Water Level Management in England

Mr Hill 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.1205 Health and Safety Audits

Mr Hill 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.

Mr Hill 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.1206 Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Further to minute B.1166, Mr Hill 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.1207 Authorisation to appear in court to obtain distress warrants

RESOLVED

That under the provisions of section 54 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, in addition to Mr R Hill and Miss S Ablett, Miss Lorna McShane be authorised generally to institute or defend on behalf of the Board proceedings in relation to a drainage rate or to appear on their behalf in any

proceedings before a Magistrates' Court for the issue of a warrant of distress for failure to pay a drainage rate.

B.1208 Potential Changes in Rating Valuation

Mr Hill 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. He 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. Mr Hill 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 Mr Hill 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.1209 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 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.1210 Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

Mr Hill referred to the recently issued Practitioners' guide to proper practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory Annual Accounts and Governance Statements which will apply to Annual Returns commencing on or after 1st April 2017.

B.1211 Budgeting

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

B.1212 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.1213 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.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be requested to arrange a valuation of Latches Fen Pumping Station bungalow for insurance purposes.

B.1214 Exercise of Public Rights

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

B.1215 Annual Governance Statement

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

RESOLVED

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

B.1216 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £93,876.21 which had been made during the financial year 2016/2017.

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest in the payments made to him and to M F Martin Ltd.

(NB) – Mr Heading declared an interest (as a Member of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.1217 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2016/2017

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

RESOLVED

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

B.1218 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 Mr Hill 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 respectively 52.66% and 47.34%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £80,073 be raised by drainage rates and special levy.
- 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 £42,168 and £37,905 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 9.50p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £37,905 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.1219 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.1220 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday the 7th June 2018.