

SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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1 February 2019

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Meeting of the Board
12th February 2019

I enclose the Agenda for the Meeting of the Board to be held at the Memorial Hall, High Street, Swavesey at 2.30 pm on Tuesday the 12th February 2019.

Please telephone or e-mail to confirm your attendance as soon as possible.

Yours truly

D C THOMAS

Clerk to the Board

To the Chairman and the Members of the Swavesey Internal Drainage Board

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests relating to the agenda.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the Meetings of the Board held on the 14th February and 29th June 2018.

(Copy pages 11-24)

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

5. Land Drainage Act 1991

Board Membership – South Cambridgeshire District Council

The Clerk will report that South Cambridgeshire District Council have appointed Councillors Bill Handley and Ms Alex Malyon to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

The Clerk will also report that Councillors Brian Burling and Nick Wright were not re-appointed.

6. A14 Improvement Scheme

Further to minute B.874, the Chairman to report.

7. Proposed Northstowe Development and other developments draining to Uttons Drove STW Northstowe

a) Further to minute B.913(a), the Clerk to report.

b) Effluent Discharge to Swavesey Drain

Further to minute B.913(b), the Clerk to report.

8. High Level Stewardship Scheme – Mare Fen

Further to minute B.914, the Chairman to report.

9. Works to the bank of the River Great Ouse

Further to minute B.915, the Chairman to report.

10. Outstanding Drainage Rates

Further to minute B.917, the Clerk to report.

11. Electric fence connection to pumping station energiser

Further to minute B.918, the Clerk to report.

12. Visit to St Germans Pumping Station

Further to minute B.919, the Chairman to report.

13. Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.930, the Clerk will report that as this matter affects all Boards, and to ensure efficiency and to minimise costs, work on revising the Byelaws has been held until all Boards administered by the Middle Level Commissioners have determined their wishes. Now that this objective has been achieved work is commencing and a bulk submission of revised Byelaws will be submitted for consideration by Defra accordingly, probably in the New Year.

14. Policy Statement

To review the Board's updated Policy Statement on Water Level and Flood Risk Management.

(Copy pages 25-34)

15. Requirements for a Biosecurity Policy

Further to minute B.935, to consider the Board's Biosecurity Policy.

(Copy pages 35-39)

16. Clerk's Report

The Clerk advises:-

i) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meetings

That the first meeting of the Chairmen of all of the Middle Level Commissioners' administered Boards was held on the 8th March 2018 to discuss the challenges facing Boards. Innes Thomson, Chief Executive of ADA, spoke on the arrangements adopted by other Boards around the country.

Matters raised included:-

- 1) Advantages, disadvantages and barriers to amalgamation.
- 2) Future meetings and the opportunity for Boards to request items to be added to the agenda.
- 3) Reviewing Board membership numbers.

That a second Chair's meeting was held on the 17th October 2018 and that discussions centred around meeting Health and Safety legislative requirements and the possible options for increased efficiency in delivery of IDB/DDC services. Outline detailed proposals on the latter are to be brought before the next Chair's meeting for consideration.

ii) Association of Drainage Authorities

That the 81st Annual Conference of the Association had been held at the ICE building in Westminster on Wednesday 14th November 2018 and had been well attended with the main speakers being Sue Hayman MP, Shadow Secretary for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Robert Hössen crisis management expert from the Netherlands, John Curtin, Executive Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management at the Environment Agency and David Cooper Deputy, Director for Flood and Coastal Erosion Management at Defra.

Sue Hayman – Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs spoke about her first-hand experience of flooding in Cumbria, the impact of flooding on mental health, building on flood plains and river management without environmental change and funding.

Robert Hössen, an expert for a government organisation in Holland gave a presentation on how incident management is organised and dealt with in the Netherlands.

John Curtin from the EA gave a presentation on the effects of Climate change and referred to the government's discussions regarding the likelihood, impact and severity of climate change.

David Cooper from Defra referred to the 25 year environment plan and to various Government publications made in 2018, which can be reviewed online.

That the Officers had been re-elected, subscriptions would be increasing by 2% for the following year and the Conference marked the launch of the Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Board Members.

The Conference also marked the first presentation of the Chairman's award which were presented to Ian Russell from the Environment Agency for his work on Public Sector Co-

operation Agreements and to Cliff Carson, former Environmental Officer of the Middle Level Commissioners and the Boards, for his work which was instrumental in changing views concerning conservation.

a) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities will be held in London on Wednesday the 13th November 2019.

b) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

That the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association will be held on Tuesday the 12th March 2019.

c) Floodex 2019

That Floodex 2019 will be held at the Peterborough Arena on the 27th and 28th February 2019.

d) Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Board Members

That, at the Annual Conference last November, ADA launched the publication of the Good Governance Guide for IDB Board Members. It provides Members with a comprehensive guide to their role as water managers servicing the local communities. The document has been produced with the financial support of Defra and will provide Members with knowledge to help expand their grasp of the role, and how best to execute their responsibilities on the Board.

That a copy of the Guide for each Member will be provided in due course and will be available at the ADA stand at the Floodex event. It can also be downloaded from the ADA website.

That in March and April 2019, ADA will be running a series of free workshops in relation to Good Governance at which ADA hope to see as many Board Members as possible. The nearest workshops for this area are:-

- Marriott's Warehouse, Kings Lynn (19th March)
- Deafblind UK Conference Centre, Peterborough (28th March)

There is also a workshop in London at the CIWEM Venue Farringdon (3rd April) for those who cannot attend a local workshop.

iii) External Bodies Conservation Initiatives

That there are two projects which may have an impact on the Board:-

i) The New Life on the Old West project being led by Cambs ACRE which aims to improve public understanding of the unique nature of biodiversity in the Fens and to deliver improvements on community green spaces and the ditch network. At the time of report the project has received a £100k grant to develop the project to the point at which a further £3/4 million grant bid will be made to support delivery.

ii) The Cambridgeshire Fens Biosphere, Heritage Lottery have provided £10,000 of funding to research what would be necessary to bring Biosphere Reserve status to the

Fens. This project is being led by the Wildlife Trust with support from Cambs ACRE. If successful, this would lead to a new UNESCO designation. This would be a non-statutory designation which records the unique nature of the area.

iv) Catchment Strategy

That the EA, LLFA, IDBs and other partners are co-operating in a piece of work which is looking at the pressures on the catchment from a development and climate change perspective. The aim will be to develop proposals which will guide and inform discussion makers.

v) Water Resources East Group Meeting

That the Middle Level Commissioners are setting up a Committee to discuss how they can work more closely with Anglian Water and other partners to ensure that the management of water and the quantity taken from the River Nene can be maximized in stressed years.

vi) Anglia Farmers

Further to minute B.945, the Clerk advises that the running of the remainder of the Anglia Farmers electricity contract has been monitored and is pleased to report that the service provided has improved.

In view of the significant increase in prices observed a utility specialist was approached and like for like prices at the time of tender, for a sample of meters, were requested in order that a comparison could be made with the prices obtained by Anglia Farmers. Although some savings may have been made, overall the prices obtained from Anglia Farmers were found to be generally competitive.

A verbal report was presented to the Middle Level Commissioners at their last Board meeting and, based on the results of the pricing comparison exercise and in view of the service provided by Anglia Farmers having improved, the Middle Level Commissioners resolved to remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period post 30th September 2019.

The Clerk had recommended that the Board also remain with Anglia Farmers. However, should the Board wish to choose to end their current contract, notice was required to be given by late January/early February 2019 following which they would then be responsible for negotiating their own separate electricity contract thereafter.

The Clerk will report that the Chairman had subsequently agreed for the Board to remain with Anglia Farmers.

17. Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

To consider the Report of the Consulting Engineers.

(Copy pages 40-63)

18. Capital Improvement Programme

To review and approve the Board's future capital improvement programme.

(Copy page 64)

19. District Superintendent's Report

To consider the Report of the District Superintendent.

20. Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

The Clerk to refer to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter, previously circulated to Members, and to consider the most recent BAP Report, together with the information sheets about floating pennywort.

(Copy pages 65-81)

21. District Superintendent

a) Record of hours worked

The Clerk will report that the District Superintendent had worked 67 hours between February 2018 and January 2019.

b) Fee

To give consideration to the District Superintendent's fee for 2019/2020.

c) Telephone expenses

To give consideration to the appropriate reimbursement of telephone expenses incurred on the Board's behalf.

(Payment agreed for 2018/2019 - £80)

d) Casual Labour

To give consideration to the use of casual labour that may be required during the year.

22. State-aided Schemes

To consider whether to undertake further State-aided Schemes and whether any future proposals should be included in the forward capital forecasts provided to the Environment Agency.

23. Environment Agency Precept

The Clerk will report that the RFCC have set the increase for precept payment for 2019/2020 at 5%.

The precept paid to the Environment Agency for 2018/2019 was £1,669.

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

a) The Clerk will report that following his submission of claims for contributions the gross sum of £3,785.28 (inclusive of supervision) has been received from the Environment Agency (£3,952.89 representing 80% of the Boards estimated expenditure for the financial year 2018/2019 less £167.61 overpaid in respect of the financial year 2017/2018).

b) Further to minute B.928(b), the Clerk will refer to the discussions with the Environment Agency over the monies available to fund highland water claims.

25. Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

The Clerk will report that it is proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 2% for 2019, viz:- from £542 to £553.

26. Health and Safety

a) Further to minute B.933, Miss Parish to report.

b) The Clerk will report that at the autumn Middle Level and Associated Drainage Board's Chairs meeting, a request was made to seek to either take on an additional employee or employ a contractor to specifically support the Drainage Board's to help them meet their legal Health and Safety requirements and also deliver the specified requirements of the Board's insurers who are calling for evidence that appropriate measures are in place to manage Health and Safety. Quotes are being sought but at this time costs are not available and of course the cost per Board is likely to be reflected by take up of any offer made.

The Board is therefore asked to consider if it is interested in this service offer and if the decision to finally commit can be delegated to a member or members of the Board.

27. Proposed Bank Raising works (Sw/14)

The Chairman to report.

28. Charging for Environmental Permits

The Clerk will report on the consultation on charging for Environmental Permits which closed on the 26th January 2018. It is suggested within the consultation that charging should be designed

to recover costs and as such there may be significant increases in the charges for obtaining Environment Agency permits for some IDB activities which require such consents. ADA have responded on behalf of the industry and their response is available on their website, www.ada.org.uk/2018/01/ada-responds-environment-agency-charge-proposals-2018.

29. Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2017/2018

a) The Clerk will report that in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations all members received a copy of the Annual Accounts for the year ended the 31st March 2018 before the 30th June of that year and approved the Accounts for the purposes of the Regulations.

b) To consider the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2018.

(Copy pages 82-87)

c) To consider the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2018.

(Copy pages 88-92)

30. Annual Accounts of the Board - 2018/2019

The Clerk will report that in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations Internal Drainage Boards' accounts are required to be approved by resolution on or before the 30th June of that year.

31. Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

The Clerk to refer 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 2018 which is available on our website at www.middlelevel.gov.uk/SwaveseyInternalDrainageBoard/GovernanceandAccountability.

32. Defra IDB1 Returns

Further to minute B.934, the Clerk will refer to a letter received from Defra dated 24th April 2018, and to the completed IDB1 form for 2017/2018.

(Copy pages 93-102)

33. Review of Internal Controls

To consider the system of Internal Controls.

34. Risk Management Assessment

a) To give consideration to the Board's Risk Management Policy.

- b) To review the insured value of the Board's buildings.

(Copy page 103)

35. Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

The Clerk will report that as resolved at its' last meeting, the Board will continue with a limited assurance review and not take advantage of the audit exemption available for smaller public bodies with income and expenditure less than £25,000.

36. Exercise of Public Rights

The Clerk to refer 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.

37. Payments

The Clerk to report on payments made:-

- a) 2017/2018 (1st February – 31st March 2018)
- b) 2018/2019 (1st April 2018 – 31st January 2019)

(Schedule page 104)

38. Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2019/2020

To consider estimates of revenue expenditure and levy and rate requirements in respect of the financial year 2019/2020.

(Copy pages 105-106)

39. Date of next Meeting

40. Any other business

SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Swavesey Internal Drainage Board
held at the Memorial Hall, High Street, Swavesey on Wednesday the 14th February 2018

PRESENT

K Wilderspin Esq (Chairman)	Mrs S Dodson
J E Dodson Esq (Vice Chairman)	Mrs A C Hemington
B R Burling Esq	Miss H Parish
N K Stroude Esq	

Miss Lorna McShane (representing the Clerk to the Board) was in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed Shirley Dodson to her first meeting of the Board.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs J S Burgess and N I C Wright.

B.907 Declarations of Interest

Miss McShane 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.

The Chairman declared an interest in the Superintendent's Fee and payments.

The Vice Chairman declared an interest in agenda item 13.

B.908 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Board held on the 8th February and 30th June 2017 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.909 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2016/2017

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2017.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2017.

RESOLVED

- (i) That in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations the minutes record that approval of the accounts was given on 30th June 2017.

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

B.910 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That K Wilderspin Esq be appointed Chairman of the Board.

B.911 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That J E Dodson Esq be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

B.912 Election of Members of the Board

Miss McShane reported that, as the number of candidates for membership of the Board did not exceed the number of persons to be elected (seven), the following candidates were elected as Members of the Board for a period of three years from the 1st November 2017, viz:-

BURGESS John Shepherd	HEMINGTON Mrs Andrea Clare
DODSON James	PARISH Miss Hannah
DODSON Mrs Shirley	STROUDE Neil Kingsley
WILDERSPIN Keith	

Miss McShane also reported that Mr Austin Day did not seek re-election and the Chairman had nominated Mrs S Dodson for membership of the Board in his place.

Miss McShane advised that Mr Day had been a Member since 1997 and that a letter of thanks had been sent to him in recognition of his 20 years services to the Board

(NB) – Councillors B R Burling and N I C Wright are also Members of the Board as the nominees of South Cambridgeshire District Council under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.913 Proposed Northstowe Development and other developments draining to Uttons Drove STW Northstowe

a) Further to minute B.871(a), Miss McShane reported on an update received from Paul Quigley at South Cambridgeshire District Council. He advised that the current position was that the revised design for the Mare Fen bank project had been submitted to the Environment Agency and is awaiting approval. The Homes and Communities Agency and South Cambridgeshire District Council are arranging to meet with the Environment Agency in order to progress this. Mr Quigley had also advised that he was in discussion with the combined authority to secure funding for the project but at the present time there were no timescales. The works are required to be completed as a condition of the planning consent prior to the occupation of any dwellings on Phase 2 of the Northstowe new settlement.

b) Effluent Discharge to Swavesey Drain

Further to minute B.871(b), Miss McShane reported that there had been no further progress report from the Environment Agency on the progress of the repairs to Swavesey Drain.

(NB) - The Vice Chairman and Mr Stroude declared interests as landowners potentially affected by the scheme.

B.914 High Level Stewardship Scheme – Mare Fen

Further to minute B.872, the Chairman reported that there was no further update to report to the Board but it was noted that the land was County Council land and the proposed works would need the Board's permission.

B.915 Works to the bank of the River Great Ouse

Further to minute B.873, Miss McShane reported on an update from Paul Burrows who had advised that the Environment Agency's ongoing modelling and associated work was focussing on whether there was a viable affordable scheme for the village and this is also reliant on the determination of an ongoing planning application in the area. Any Public Sector Co-operation Agreement would follow this and would be one option in terms of delivery of any works and/or could cover any future maintenance.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman follow this matter up with the Environment Agency.

B.916 A14 Improvement Scheme

Further to minute B.874, Miss McShane reported that Paul Burrows had advised that all surface water drainage matters for the A14 improvements were being led by Cambridgeshire County Council.

The Chairman reported on a meeting attended by himself, the Vice Chairman and the Parish Council on the balancing ponds for the compounds. Although they had had sight of the plans for the construction compounds, no drainage expert had been present.

RESOLVED

That the arrangements for the balancing ponds for works compounds be pursued by the Chairman and the Parish Council.

B.917 Outstanding drainage rates

Further to minute B.876, the Chairman enquired if an update could be provided on outstanding drainage rates due to the Board and questioned whether, as the land was now equestrian, it would not be subject to agricultural rates.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be advised of the current position.

B.918 Electric fence connection to pumping station energiser

Further to minute B.877, Miss McShane reported that an agreement, in principle, was in place with the Vice Chairman and that a draft agreement would be finalised and sent to him for signature.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk and the Chairman be authorised to complete and finalise this agreement on behalf of the Board.

(NB) – The Vice Chairman declared an interest when this item was discussed.

B.919 Visit to St Germans

Further to minute B.878(v), the Chairman that he was trying to arrange a visit to the pumping station at St Germans and asked that Members liaised with him regarding a convenient date for this visit.

B.920 Association of Drainage Authorities
Further Research on Eels

Further to minute B.888(e) the Board considered making a further contribution towards the research on eels.

Miss McShane reminded the Board that this was a 2 year project being carried out by the University of Hull and that the Board had contributed a sum of £50 last year and had agreed to review a contribution for the current year.

RESOLVED

That the Board contribute an additional £50 towards further research on eels for 2018/2019 and this would be included with the ADA subscription.

B.921 Consulting Engineers' Report

The Board considered the Report of the Consulting Engineers.

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 in the event of another Planning Agents Training Day being arranged, South Cambridgeshire District Council be invited to any future event.

iv) Development to the rear of Cygnus Park (Mill Farm)

That the Consulting Engineers be requested to pursue this matter on behalf of the Board.

v) Installation of telemetry

That the Consulting Engineers be requested to investigate whether the provision of telemetry equipment at the Board's pumping station would be eligible for grant funding.

vi) That the Consulting Engineers advise the Board on how developers' contributions are collected by the Middle Level Commissioners on behalf of the Board.

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest in the planning application (MLC Ref No. 318) for Mr K Wilderspin.

(NB) – Ms H Parish declared an interest in the planning application (MLC Ref No. 322) for Ms H Parish & Ms A Clarkson.

B.922 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.923 District Superintendent's Report

The District Superintendent outlined the schedule of maintenance for the forthcoming year for drain maintenance including the headwalls and piling works which will need some maintenance, for which the Board will continue to be responsible.

He advised that there was some damage to the door frame of the pumping station.

RESOLVED

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

ii) That the District Superintendent be authorised to attend to the necessary works to repair the pumping station door frame.

B.924 Environmental Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss McShane referred to the Environmental Officer's Newsletter, previously circulated to Members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.925 District Superintendent

a) Record of hours worked

Miss McShane reported that Mr K Wilderspin had worked 85 hours as District Superintendent between February 2017 and January 2018.

b) Fee

The Board gave consideration to the District Superintendent's fee for 2018/2019.

RESOLVED

(i) That the Board agree that the sum of £1,683 be allowed for the services of the District Superintendent for 2018/2019.

(ii) That the Board's thanks to the District Superintendent for his work over the last 12 months be recorded in the minutes.

c) Telephone Expenses

The Board gave consideration to the appropriate reimbursement of telephone expenses incurred on the Board's behalf.

RESOLVED

That the Board agree that the sum of up to £80 be allowed for telephone expenses incurred on behalf of the Board by Mr Wilderspin.

d) Casual Labour

The Board gave consideration to the use of casual labour that may be required during the year.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to engage such casual labour as they consider appropriate.

(NB) – Mr Wilderspin declared an interest in all items save f) and left the room when these items were discussed.

B.926 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 the Consulting Engineers be requested to investigate whether the provision of telemetry equipment at the Board's pumping station would be eligible for grant funding.

B.927 Environment Agency – Precepts

- a) Miss McShane reported that the precept for the financial year 2018/2019 included an increase of 1.5% on last year's precept of £1,644.
- b) Chain Ditch
Public Sector Co-operation Agreement

Further to minute B.885(c), the Chairman reported on the use of Public Sector Co-operation Agreements and that the Board could have an agreement to do work on behalf of the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve the use of Public Sector Co-operation Agreements for future works.

B.928 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

- (a) Miss McShane reported that the sum of £4,008.71 (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency (£4,213.92 representing 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2017/2018 less £205.21 overpaid in respect of the financial year 2016/2017).
- b) Further to minute B.886(b), Miss McShane referred to the discussions with the Environment Agency over the monies likely to be available to fund highland water claims.

RESOLVED

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

B.929 Contribution from Developers

With reference to minute B.303, Miss McShane reported that the following contribution towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume had been received, viz:-

<u>Contributor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs S Jennings	£300.00

B.930 Association of Drainage Authorities

Miss McShane reported:-

- a) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities would be held in London on Wednesday the 14th November 2018.

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

That the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association would be held in Prickwillow, Ely on Tuesday the 6th March 2018 and the fact that the administration of this branch has now passed to the Middle Level Commissioners and David Thomas was to be the Branch Secretary.

c) Subscriptions

That it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 1% in 2018, viz:- from £536 to £542.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the deduction of the eel contribution as agreed between the Middle Level Commissioners' Treasurer and Ian Moodie of ADA, the increased ADA subscription be paid for 2018.

d) Liability of Board Members

Miss McShane referred to, and the Board noted, a Guidance Note received from ADA dated the 28th September 2017 which summarised the issue of when Members of an Internal Drainage Board may be held personally liable for actions which they take in that capacity.

Miss McShane advised that the Board had management liability insurance in place, which was in respect of claims made as a result of a wrongful act against members of the Board arising from the management and operations of the Board and that the cover attached was £5,000,000.

e) Updating IDB Byelaws

Miss McShane referred to a letter received from ADA dated the 20th October 2017.

Miss McShane reported that most of the IDBs in the area have a set of Byelaws which were made under Section 34 of the Land Drainage Act 1976 for the secure and efficient working of the drainage system in their area.

Defra have now suggested that the Byelaws which have been adopted by IDBs should be updated to include within their purpose powers in relation to environment matters. To do this it will be necessary to update the current Byelaws in line with the standard model byelaw published in October 2012.

f) Floodex 2019

That Floodex 2019 will be held at The Peterborough Arena on the 27th and 28th February 2019 and was now to be an event which was held every other year.

B.931 Governance of Water Level Management in England

Miss McShane 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.932 Capital Programme Strengthening and Delivery

Miss McShane referred to, and the Board noted, the slides presented by the Environment Agency at the Great Ouse IDB and EA Strategic Group meeting on the 19th April 2017.

B.933 Member training and the appointment of a Health and Safety Officer

Miss McShane reported that ADA has been encouraging member training for a number of years and Defra will, from 2018, require Boards to report upon any training that has been provided to members. This was to be reported by way of an entry on the IDB1 forms and the listed topics on this form are; Governance, Finance, Environment, Health, safety and welfare, Communications and engagement, amongst others. The Board may wish to pick an area where they consider specific tailored training is pertinent for it in a given year or alternatively might ask that the Middle Level Commissioners arrange some joint training with other Boards which they are happy to do.

On Health and Safety, after reviewing arrangements for a number of Boards, it has become clear that it would be helpful if Boards could appoint a member to be in charge of Health and Safety matters. This person would take overall responsibility for Health and Safety supported by Croner through the Middle Level Commissioners. This will help provide clarity going forward as ultimately it is the Boards' role to ensure that sites, equipment and working practices are as safe as can be reasonably expected. Whilst IDBs have an enviable record on safety and much that is needed is likely to already be in place, the HSE would probe the organisational structure should a reportable accident occur and would take a dim view if clarity on the lines of responsibility were unclear.

RESOLVED

- i) That Ms Hannah Parish be appointed Health and Safety Officer.
- ii) That Ms Parish be provided with the health and safety templates for completion.
- iii) That the Board participate in any training organised through the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.934 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss McShane reported on the proposed changes to the Annual Defra IDB1 Returns.

She advised that the IDB1 form is completed each year in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and is submitted to Defra, the Environment Agency and to each Council which pays an IDB Special Levy. The form provides information on such items as income, expenditure, a policy delivery statement, the bio-diversity action plan, asset management and governance matters.

Miss McShane reported that for the year ended 31st March 2017 the IDB1 return was amended and additional information requested, such as details of board membership, attendance at meetings, whether elections are held and confirmation that the complaints procedure is accessible from the home page on an IDB's website. This information will enable Defra to gather more data in relation to IDBs.

For 2018 the IDB1 form will be further expanded. The additions were developed in co-operation with the Environment Agency, ADA and invited IDB representatives including David Thomas on behalf of the Middle Level Commissioners. The inclusion of items within the form which would either be difficult to report on or provide information which collectively would be of little value have been resisted and the new IDB1 form should, as a result, allow Defra to gain a much clearer insight into what IDBs deliver annually. It is hoped that this in turn will assist with raising further the profile of IDBs.

B.935 Requirements for a Biosecurity Policy

Miss McShane reported that, from 2018, Board's will be required to advise (through the IDB1 returns) whether they have in place a Biosecurity Policy. This is considered necessary following increased concern over the spread of alien invasive weeds from one waterbody to another, possibly through the use of contracted or shared plant which can carry elements of such plants if not properly cleaned after being moved from contaminated locations. ADA have stated that they support the principle of having a policy in place and, conscious that for most boards the policy requirements will be identical, they are producing a model document. The Board were asked to confirm that they were content to adopt a policy as long as it is suitable and will not include overly onerous steps which might restrict their activities.

RESOLVED

That the draft policy be reviewed by the Board at their next meeting.

B.936 The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Miss McShane referred to the Guidance Note on the implementation of the GDPR and that all organisations must become fully compliant by the 25th May 2018.

RESOLVED

That Miss Lorna McShane, Solicitor and Assistant Clerk be appointed the Board's Data Protection Officer.

B.937 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2017/2018

Miss McShane reported that in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, Internal Drainage Boards' accounts were required to be approved by resolution on or before 30th June.

B.938 Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

Miss McShane 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.939 Review of Internal Controls

- a) The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of Internal Controls.
- b) The Board considered and approved the appointment of Whiting & Partners as Internal Auditor for the three period 2018/2019 to 2020/2021.
- c) The Board approved the Audit Strategy and Audit Plan.

B.940 Appointment of External Auditor

Further to minute B.855(b), Miss McShane referred to the decision by the Board to join the Sector Led Auditor Appointment Body for the appointment of the External Auditor and that the Smaller Authorities' Auditor Appointments (SAAA Ltd) had formed for this purpose. She reported that they had now confirmed the appointment of PKF Littlejohn to carry out the external audit of the Board for a five year period commencing with the financial year 2017/2018.

B.941 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.942 Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

Miss McShane reported that from 2017/2018 smaller public bodies (Boards with income or expenditure less than £25,000) would not be required to undertake a formal audit but would need to have greater publication requirements in place. She advised that it would also be necessary to question the effect of "one off" payments such as development contributions taking the Board above the £25,000 limit, in a particular year.

Miss McShane reported that the Board was borderline as regards the £25,000 limit. However, the Board's accounts were still to be audited by the External Auditor.

RESOLVED

To continue with a limited assurance review as has been carried out in previous years.

B.943 Exercise of Public Rights

Miss McShane 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.944 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £6,076.99 which had been made during the financial year 2016/2017 (1st February – 31st March 2017) and £22,207.31 made during the financial year 2017/2018 (1st April 2017 – 31st January 2018).

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest in the payments made to K & P J Wilderspin.

B.945 Anglia Farmers

The Board considered their contractual arrangements with Anglia Farmers for the supply of electricity.

Miss McShane reported that the contract with Anglia Farmers ceases on the 30th September 2018 and advised that, in view of the problems encountered over the past 15 months with the operation of the contract, a report had been sent to all Chairmen.

Miss McShane further advised that, although the Clerk was able to recommend to the Board that they remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period, usually 18 months to 2 years, during which time the service provided by them will be monitored, it was the Board's decision and should they wish to be removed from the buying group then it would be the Board's responsibility to negotiate its own separate electricity contract with a supplier.

Miss McShane reported that the Chairman had agreed for the Board to remain with Anglia Farmers.

RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman be approved and the current arrangements be continued for a further contract period, during which time the service provided by them, in relation to the running of the contract, be monitored.

B.946 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2018/2019

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2018/2019 and were informed by Miss McShane 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>Drainage rates</u>	<u>Special levy</u>
AREA 1	62.42%	37.58%
AREA 2	70.25%	29.75%
AREA 3	100%	-

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £19,389 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 £13,091 and £6,298 respectively.
- ii) That drainage rates in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District as follows:-

AREA 1	-	70.0p
AREA 2	-	30.0p
AREA 3	-	10.0p

- v) That a Special levy of £6,298 be made and issued to South Cambridgeshire 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.947 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.948 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday the 12th February 2019.

B.949 Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

The Chairman reported that he was due to attend the Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting at the Commissioners' office on the 8th March 2018.

SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

**At a Meeting of the Members of the Swavesey Internal Drainage Board
held at Swavesey on Friday the 29th June 2018**

B.950 Annual Governance Statement – 2017/2018

Members considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2018.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2018.

B.951 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2017/2018

Members considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2018 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 2018.

B.952 Date of next Meeting

The Chairman reminded Members that the next Meeting of the Board would be held on Tuesday the 12th February 2019 at the Memorial Hall, High Street, Swavesey at 2.30pm.

SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

POLICY STATEMENT ON WATER LEVEL AND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

FEBRUARY 2019

SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

POLICY STATEMENT ON WATER LEVEL AND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

1. Introduction

Purpose

- 1.1 This policy statement has been prepared by the Swavesey Internal Drainage Board (the Board) to provide a public statement of the Board's approach to its management of water levels and flood risk within the Swavesey Internal Drainage District (the District). The Board is constituted by order of Parliament operating under the terms of the Land Drainage Act 1991 and is designated as a flood risk and coastal erosion 'Risk Management Authority' (RMA) under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010.
- 1.2 The Board serves the local community by managing water levels in ordinary watercourses and other water infrastructures within the District to mitigate against the risks from flooding and drought. In delivering its functions the Board will meet its environmental obligations and commitments and seek opportunities to enhance the environment. The Board recognises its responsibility for good governance, local accountability and financial security, achieving value for money from all its activities. As an independent public body the Board is committed to the pursuit of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 1.3 It should be noted that although this document refers to 'flood and coastal erosion risk management' (FCERM) the District is not affected by coastal erosion or tidal flooding.

Background

- 1.4 The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has policy responsibility for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England. The Environment Agency is responsible for taking a strategic overview of the management of all sources of flooding and coastal erosion. Lead Local Flood Authorities (unitary authorities or county councils) are responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a strategy for local flood risk management in their areas. Delivery is the responsibility of a number of flood risk and coastal erosion "Risk Management Authorities (RMA), which included the Swavesey Internal Drainage Board.

1.5 This Policy Statement sets out the Board's approach to meeting the national policy aims and objectives in this area, as stated in the *National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England 2011* (the National Strategy); the statement will be revised to reflect future revisions of the National Strategy. It summaries what plans the Board has in place to manage water levels and reduce flood risk, whilst protecting and enhancing the environment, and ensuring good governance and local accountability. Copies of this Policy Statement are available from the Board's office at Middle Level Offices, March Cambridgeshire, PE15 0AH. Digital copies can be downloaded from the Board's website.

2. Governance and local accountability

2.1 The Board will ensure that its policies and procedures enable effective representation of and accountability to drainage rate payers and the occupiers of non-agricultural land within the District, including triennial elections in line with the requirements of the Land Drainage Act 1991, and timely engagement with charging authorities to fill vacancies in seats allocated to appointed members.

2.2 Board members must take decisions objectively in their best interests and uphold the ethical standards expected of public officeholders. Board members must adhere to the Board's Code of Conduct, including the seven principles of public life (Nolan Principles). The Board will make sure that there is suitable training in place for board members and staff, including on financial and environmental matters as appropriate.

2.3 Board members must declare financial and other interests relevant to their function with the Board. Board members will recuse themselves as appropriate where conflicts of interest may occur in relation to procurement, contract management and decision making.

3. Delivery the National Strategy's policy aim and objectives

Aim

3.1 The overall aim of the National Strategy is to ensure the risk of flooding and coastal erosion is properly managed by using the full range of options in a co-ordinated way. The Strategy states that communities, individuals, voluntary groups and private and public sector organisations will work

together to manage the risk to people and their property; facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level; and achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

Objectives

3.2 The Strategy sets out five objectives in pursuance of the overall aim as follows:

- understand the risks of flooding and coastal erosion, working together to put in place long term sustainable plans to manage these risks and making sure that other plans take account of them;
- avoid inappropriate development in areas of flood and coastal erosion risk and being careful to manage land elsewhere to avoid increasing risks;
- build, maintain and improve flood and coastal erosion management infrastructure and systems to reduce the likelihood of harm to people and damage to the economy, environment and society as well as achieving wider environmental benefits;
- increase public awareness of the risk that remains and engaging with people at risk to encourage them to take action to manage the risks that they face and to make their property more resilient; and
- improving the detection, forecasting and issue of warnings of flooding, co-ordinating a rapid response to flood emergencies and promoting faster recovery from flooding.

3.3 The Board supports the national aim and objectives for the management of flood risk and water levels and the Board's policy and approach will be consistent with them.

4. **Flood risk and water level management in the Board's District**

4.1 The District has been determined to derive benefit, or avoid danger, as a result of drainage operations. As such the whole of the District is at some risk from flooding, but that risk is managed wherever it is practically, environmentally and financially viable¹.

¹ It should be noted that the Land Drainage Act 1991 provides the Board with statutory powers to carry out works of maintenance and improvement for land drainage and flood defence purposes, rather than imposing a duty on the Board to carry out such works.

4.2 The Board makes decisions regarding flood risk within the District taking into account the following:

- assets in place considering design standard and life;
- Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority flood risk strategies, plans and maps; and
- other information such as the history of flooding and land use impacts.

4.3 The following outlines the key details of the District:

- Total area of the drainage district: 462 ha
- Catchment area draining to and including the District: 560 ha
- Area of Agricultural Land: 452 ha
- Area of other (non-agricultural) land: 10 ha

[List above can include summary of other land: e.g. residential and commercial property, amenity land, major road and rail infrastructure, other highways, area of designated environmental sites etc]

4.4 Assets for which the Board have operational responsibility:

- Water Level Control Structures: 3 No
- Watercourses (maintained): 7 km
- Raised embankments: 0 km
- Reservoirs 0 ha
- Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) 0 No
- Pumping Stations: 1 No

4.5 Assets within or adjacent to the District that are maintained by the Environment Agency:

- Main Rivers: 10.5 km
- Raised embankments/flood walls 10.8 km
- Pumping Stations: 0 No

5. **Building, maintaining and improving flood and coastal erosion risk management systems**

- 5.1 Through the operation, maintenance and improvement of watercourses and other water control assets within the District, the Board seeks to achieve a general standard of water level management that enables the drainage and irrigation of agricultural land, reduces flood risk to developed areas, and sustains environmental features throughout the District.
- 5.2 The Board monitors and review the condition of its watercourses and other assets, particularly those designated as critical, over-spilling from which could affect people and property. Consistent with the resultant needs established, a routine maintenance programme is in place to ensure that the condition of the assets is commensurate with the standards required. The programme is reviewed periodically by the Board to ensure it is delivering the appropriate condition.
- 5.3 Where standards are not at the desired level, improvement works will be sought where they are considered to be practical and financially viable by the Board. Where improvement works meet the criteria set by Defra, financial support will be sought from the Government's Flood and Coastal Resilience Partnership Funding. Where appropriate works will be undertaken in partnership with other Risk Management Authorities and take opportunities to work with natural processes.
- 5.4 Work for and by the Board will be carried out in accordance with best practice and to deliver best value for money taking due regard of local flood risk management requirements and strategies, opportunities for partnership working, environmental obligations and guidance available from Defra, the Environment Agency and other organisations.
- 5.5 The Board's powers to carry out water level and flood risk management works are permissive (i.e. the Board are not obliged to carry out works) and their resources are limited. The Board's policy is therefore to designate what they consider to be the most important watercourses in the District as "District Drains" and prioritise their resources to the appropriate maintenance and, where necessary, improvement of such channels and associated structures. The watercourses and structures so designated will change over time as necessary but the current designated watercourses and structures are shown on the plan attached to this Statement.

- 5.6 Other watercourses usually are the responsibility of other bodies or the adjoining owners. The Board will only take action in respect of these latter watercourses where resources are available and where it is in all the circumstances appropriate for the Board to become involved, bearing in mind the powers available to other persons or bodies.
- 5.7 The Board has a supervisory duty, under section 1(2)(d) of the Land Drainage Act 1991 over all matters relating to the drainage of land in their District and will, under this duty where appropriate advise others regarding the undertaking of works when it is not appropriate for the Board to exercise its own powers.
- 5.8 The Board will also seek to ensure, where possible, that assets managed by other risk Management Authorities, which also reduce flood risk to the District, are maintained at a satisfactory standard and may enter into a Public Sector Co-operation Agreement with another Risk Management Authority to achieve better value for money when carrying out work to reduce flood risk.

6. Regulation of activities – Avoiding inappropriate development and land management

- 6.1 The Board will take appropriate steps to help riparian owners understand their responsibilities for maintenance, byelaw compliance and environmental regulations.
- 6.2 The Board will regulate as necessary, using available legislative powers and byelaws, the activity of others to ensure their actions within, alongside, and otherwise impacting its drainage system do not increase flood risk, prevent the efficient working of drainage systems, or adversely impact the environment.
- 6.3 The potential impact on flood risk from future development both within the District and the wider catchment draining into the District, is fully recognised by the Board. The Board will take an active role in the assessment of local plans, major development and, individual (planning) applications, to prevent inappropriate development and land use to ensure that flood risk is not increased. This will include, where appropriate, providing pre-application advice and checking of flood risk assessments.
- 6.4 Where appropriate the Board will seek contributions from developers to cover the cost of both immediate and longer term works necessary to mitigate against any resultant increase

in flood risk. Such contributions will be recorded in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and associated technical guidance.

6.5 The Board will where appropriate designate structures or features affecting flood risk using section 30 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

7 Communication and transparency

7.1 The Board will publicise the local risks from flooding, the reasons for managing water levels within the District and articulate the efforts being undertaken by the Board to manage water levels and flood risk as well as the steps the local community and land managers can take to assist in its management.

7.2 The Board will be open and transparent in its actions and decisions. The Board will comply with the requirements set out in the relevant Local Government transparency code.

7.3 The Board will provide an overview of the objectives and costs of its water level management operations by publishing on its website:-

- A record of the watercourses it periodically maintains;
- A statement of the types of general maintenance activities it routinely undertakes and why;
- Its Annual Report to Defra (IDB1 Form); and
- Approved Board minutes and papers.

7.4 The Board will seek views and respond to enquiries from the local general public in this regard and work with local partners to build a culture within which watercourses are seen as vital to managing flood risk, and enhancing habitat and amenity. Every effort will be made to dissuade abuse of watercourses.

7.5 The Board invites any comments regarding the condition of its system, which could assist with the management of water levels.

8. Working together

- 8.1 The Board will co-operate and share information with other relevant authorities in the exercise of their flood and coastal erosion flood risk management functions. The Board will contribute to strategies, plans and consultations relevant to its catchment and functions.
- 8.2 The Board will assist the Environment Agency wherever possible in its provision of adequate and cost effective flood warning systems, and assist Risk Management Authorities where necessary during flood emergencies. The Board will participate as necessary in exercises to develop and test emergency response procedures.
- 8.3 The Board has provided the Environment Agency and other local Risk Management Authorities with information on the major flood defence assets for which the Board is responsible. The information is available from the Environment Agency.
- 8.4 The Board will seek to work with all relevant local organisations, in carrying out its flood and coastal erosion risk management functions and environmental obligations.

9. Environmental Measures

- 9.1 The Board has nature conservation duties under the Land Drainage Act 1991, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003, the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, and as a competent authority under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The Board will fulfil these in a positive way.
- 9.2 Much of the Board's watercourse maintenance work constitutes vegetation control and de-silting and is often a vital and routine requirement. Whilst inevitably some short or long term impacts may arise, this management is often essential to maintain the distinct assemblage of aquatic habitat and species present in the District. Such work will be carried out in a way that manages the potential risks to the environment. The Board has access to environmental expertise from their Conservation Officer and have a Biodiversity Action

Plan, developed according to ADA and Natural England guidelines, which indicates the way in which their functions can be carried out in a way appropriate to the environment and how the environment can be enhanced. The Board maintain only a small proportion of the total watercourse length in the District, the significant majority being the responsibility of the adjoining land owners or of other bodies.

9.3 When carrying out work, be it maintenance or improvement, and consistent with the need to maintain satisfactory flood protection standards, the Board will aim to:-

- Avoid any unnecessary or long term damage to agricultural interests and to natural habitats and species;
- Carry out the monitoring of any gains and losses of biodiversity and report annually to the Environment Agency; and
- Take appropriate opportunities to achieve multiple environmental outcomes and work with natural processes, wherever possible, including the enhancement of habitats and water bodies within the District.

9.4 The District encompasses no recorded sites of national and international biological or geological interest including:

9.5 The Board has no Water Level Management Plan.

9.6 The Board will play its full role in sustaining the Water Level Management Plans prepared for SSSIs to maintain, or bring sites into, favourable condition, in conjunction with Natural England and other interested parties and review the plans in accordance with guidance.

10. Approval and Review of this Policy Statement

10.1 This protocol was adopted by the Swavesey Internal Drainage Board.

10.2 The Swavesey IDB will review and update this Policy Statement as and when changes to policies are made and notwithstanding within a period not extending beyond five years.

SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

BIOSECURITY POLICY/PROCEDURES

FEBRUARY 2019

SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

BIOSECURITY POLICY

PURPOSE

This document sets out the Biosecurity Policy of the Swavesey Internal Drainage Board (the "Board"). It covers activities undertaken by the IDB on a daily basis to reduce the spread and damage from invasive non-native species.

It is intended that the Board's staff and contractors will follow procedures commensurate with this Policy.

POLICY STATEMENT

Invasive non-native species are widespread nationally and if left uncontrolled present a threat to our aquatic and riparian systems. It is imperative that our field operations to manage flood risk and water levels do not exacerbate the risks to the environment and economy that are posed by these species. Failure to minimise the spread of invasive non-native species, when visiting a site where an invasive non-native species is known to be present, can risk prosecution under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

Vigilance is required if we are to stop the spread of invasive non-native species, and it is imperative that we integrate basic biosecurity in our operations to prevent this spread. Much to do with biosecurity involves awareness, common sense and agreed procedures.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board is responsible for reviewing and approving the content and implementation of this Policy.

The Board will ensure any new contracts let will include reference to the Policy where a risk is considered to exist arising from the works involved.

All Board Members, staff and contractors are required to comply with the Policy's requirements and share responsibility for performance in implementing the Policy in regard to the health, safety and welfare of the environment.

IMPLEMENTATION

This Policy is implemented through supporting guidance documentation covering biosecurity procedures.

Where biosecurity risks have been identified operational Staff will be provided with training and information on identification of invasive non-native species likely to be found within the Drainage District.

All operational machinery, tools and personal protection equipment (PPE) identified as at risk of cross-contamination will be subject to 'check, clean, dry' decontamination procedures before moving between operations on watercourses and sites.

All Operational Staff will report sightings of invasive non-native species to Jonathon Fenn the Middle Level Commissioners Operations Engineer, or the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat directly.

BIOSECURITY PROCEDURES

PURPOSE

These procedures aim to help Board members, staff, and operators working for the IDB to identify key biosecurity risks pertinent to the internal drainage district and the Board's activities, and identify measures to address these risks.

Accidentally spread invasive non-native species may be harmful to the environment and potentially damaging the reputation of the Board, compromising its ability to operate, or work with partners. Operators visiting a site where an invasive non-native species is known to be present, should take measures to ensure they do not spread it. Failure to do so can risk prosecution under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

OBJECTIVES

- Increase awareness around invasive non-native species via training.
- Identify, and keep a record of, known areas where invasive non-native species are an issue.
- Ensure effective cleaning of equipment, machinery, and clothes.
- Ensure operators take care to avoid transporting water and material between water bodies where a risk has been identified.
- Ensure ongoing monitoring of invasive non-native species when undertaking operations.
- Remain vigilant when undertaking operations to identify any further areas where invasive non-native species exist.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Awareness

Jonathon Fenn, Operations Engineer for the Middle Level Commissioners will have an oversight role for biosecurity for the Boards administered by them, and the Middle Level Commissioners will disseminate information and report on these matters.

The Board's staff will be encouraged by the Board to seek information on invasive non-native species and biosecurity practices. The Environment Agency and Non-native Species Secretariat have relevant useful information.

If a risk is identified then the operator concerned or contractor should be made aware of the priority invasive non-native species, with specific attention to aquatic and riparian species of concern and those known to be present in the surrounding area. Training for staff and operatives shall be provided as appropriate, and information will be disseminated through toolbox talks, workshops, leaflets, emails etc. Contractors should be asked to confirm that they have similar arrangements in place.

Signage, species, alerts/information sheets, or guidance should be in place, making operators aware of the risks, and providing advice on how to prevent spread.

Monitoring

Operators should be vigilant in the field for invasive non-native species and have an appropriate mechanism for recording and reporting sightings of suspected species, location, and relevant details.

New sightings should be reported to Jonathon Fenn, Operations Engineer for the Middle Level Commissioners and other authorities and/or land managers as appropriate. The PlantTracker app (www.planttracker.org.uk/), available free for Apple and Android devices, shows you how to identify invasive non-native plant species and enables you to easily submit geo-located photos whenever you find one.

Planning works

Biosecurity should be taken into consideration alongside other factors, such as health and safety, when planning operations and standard working procedures.

The risk of spreading invasive non-native species can be reduced by reducing the contact time in which equipment is exposed to the water. This is particularly important for items such as trailers, which have cavities that may retain water and be hard to inspect.

Propagules are small bits of plant that become detached and give rise to a new plant. Working practices that either reduce, or contain and remove, propagules should be encouraged where practicable, especially in regards to mechanical vegetation control.

Cleaning

Remember: Check, Clean, Dry – www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/

Decontamination is an essential process to be carried out prior to leaving a site where invasive species are present. This ensures that any foreign matter remains on the land/watercourse of origin, rather than taking it to another location.

Where it is not possible to conduct the decontamination prior to leaving the land/watercourse where the work was conducted (e.g. steam cleaning larger equipment), the operation should be carried out immediately afterwards at the depot or another secure site before the next operation.

Where a cross contamination risk has been identified any field team moving from a contaminated site should carry a 'disinfection box'. This should contain an appropriate commercial disinfectant, a spray bottle, cloths or sponges, a scrubbing brush and protective gloves.

On completion of a field operation, for situations where cross contamination is identified as a risk, the following principles apply:

1. Visually inspect all tools, equipment and machinery that has come into contact with the water for evidence of attached plant or animal material, or adherent mud or debris.
2. Remove any attached or adherent material before leaving the site of operation.
3. Washing/hosing with water will be sufficient to remove debris from most tools, equipment and machinery. Use hot water where possible.

4. Ensure that all water is drained from any water retaining compartments, outboard motors, tanks and other equipment before transportation elsewhere.
5. A high pressure washer or steam cleaner may be essential for more difficult stains or soil, paying particular attention to the tyres, tracks and undercarriage of vehicles and buckets, hulls, outboard motors and submerged parts of machinery. High-pressure steam cleaning, with water >40°C, is recommended for larger equipment, excavators, boats, trailers, and outboard motors that are being moved from one watercourse to another.
6. Clothing and PPE should be visually inspected and any attached vegetation or debris removed. Soiled clothing and PPE should be removed for laundering and boots scrubbed clean; hands and other body parts may also need cleaning.
7. Finally, decontamination by spraying on a commercial disinfectant at the recommended strength to the cleaned boots, tools, equipment or machinery will ensure that any remaining disease agents or pests are destroyed.

Every effort should be made to ensure that the decontamination process is a public exercise and where appropriate tactfully brought to the attention of the land owner or manager at the appropriate time. It is not just a question of doing the right thing but also being seen to be doing it. In this way, public confidence will be maintained in flood and water level management operations.

APPROVAL

This Policy/Procedures were approved by the Swavesey Internal Drainage Board and will be reviewed, at a minimum, every five years.

Swavesey I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – January 2019

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

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

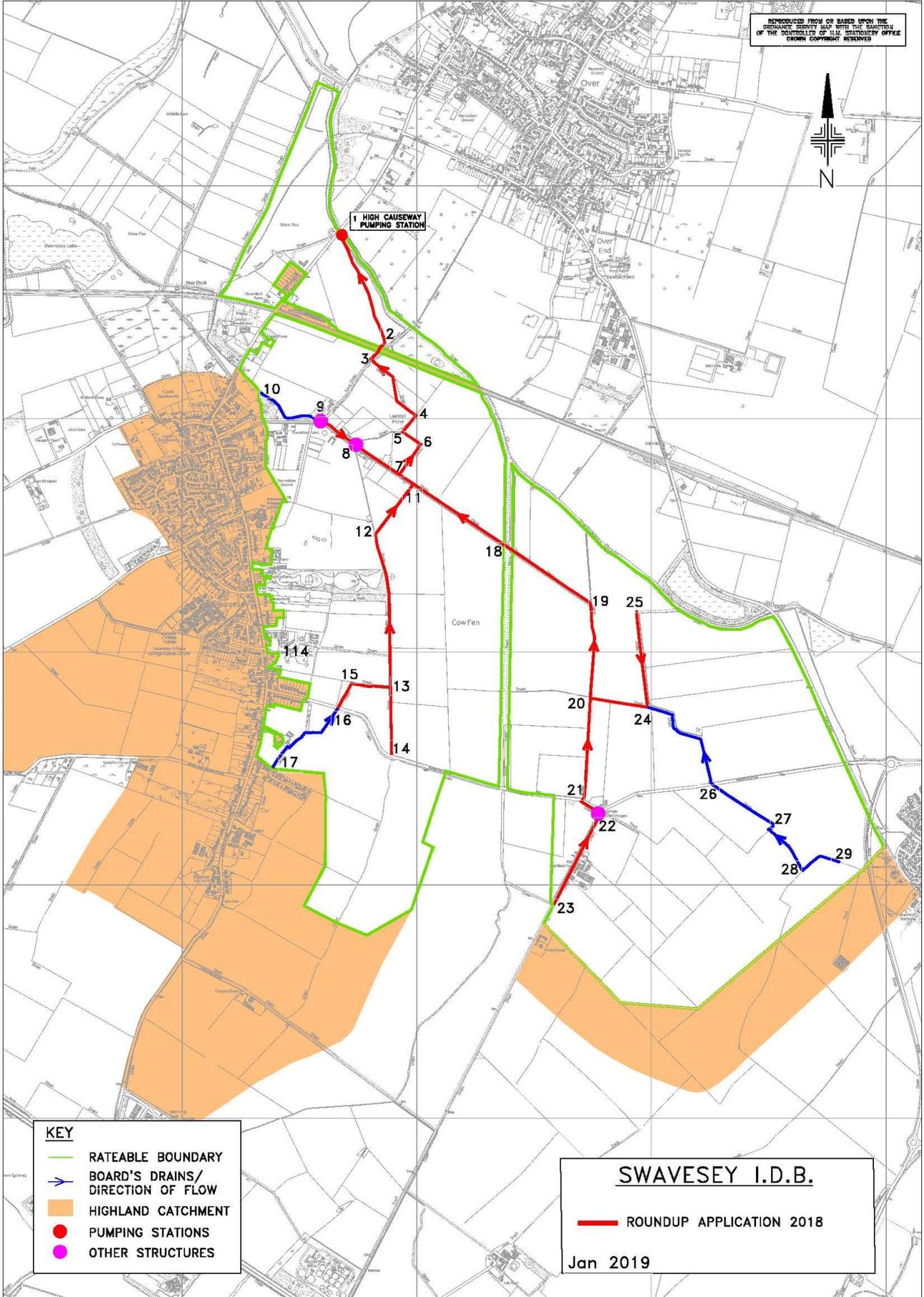
Roundup herbicide treatments were applied (during the early summer, with a follow up application during the autumn months) where required within the Board's district drains to control stands of emergent aquatic weed and vegetation growing within the dry and semi-dry drain beds. Please refer to the site plan on the following page for treatment locations. A sum has been included within the estimated costs to undertake herbicide applications throughout the district again this year.

The Board's flail mowing requirements were undertaken by Lattenbury Services Ltd. At the Chairman/Superintendent's request, Lattenbury will be approached to undertake the flail mowing of Board's drains again this year. A sum has been included within the estimated costs to cover this work.

Following an exceptionally warm dry summer last season, many of the Board's drain beds dried out. This reduced pumping requirements and water conveyance for the majority of the season. As emergent weed within the channel beds has already been treated with a Roundup application, the watercourses are deemed to have retained their general good condition and no apparent machine cleansing is required at this time. To this end, and with the Chairman's/Superintendent's approval, a late spring/early summer joint inspection of the Board's drains will be undertaken again this year. The inspection should highlight herbicide application requirements, and give an opportunity to forward plan any other works required to maintain the Board's drains to a satisfactory standard.

Provisional sums based on previous year's machine cleansing expenditure and culvert cleansing/piling works, have been allocated within this report.

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KEY

-  RATEABLE BOUNDARY
-  BOARD'S DRAINS / DIRECTION OF FLOW
-  HIGHLAND CATCHMENT
-  PUMPING STATIONS
-  OTHER STRUCTURES

SWAVESEY I.D.B.

 ROUNDUP APPLICATION 2018

Jan 2019

The estimated cost of this year's anticipated drain maintenance and weed control programme is as follows.

			£
1)	Roundup applications to control emergent aquatic vegetation in District drains	Item	Sum 1500.00
2)	Provisional Item Allow sum for machine cleansing work to Board's drains as required	Item	Sum 2500.00
3)	Provisional Item Allow sum for emergency works including bank piling or culvert headwall repair works	Item	Sum 1000.00
4)	Allow sum for flail mowing of District drains and hedge cutting	Item	Sum 3400.00
5)	Fees for preparation and submission of report to the Board, arrangement and supervision of herbicide applications and maintenance works.	Item	Sum 650.00
			1500.00
			2500.00
			1000.00
			3400.00
			650.00
TOTAL			£9,050.00

Orders for the application of herbicides by the Middle Level Commissioners are accepted on condition that they will not be held responsible for the efficacy of any treatment.

Pumping Station

Only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition. The only exception being the level probe brackets which are badly corroded and ready to break away from the wall and hence require urgent attention.

Pumping Hours

Hours Run	9/1/18 - 16.1.19	12/1/17 - 9/1/18	11/1/16 - 12/1/17	21/1/15 - 11/1/16	6/1/14 - 21/1/15	28/1/13 - 6/1/14
Pump 1	173	92	101	2	227	3
Pump 2	191	80	71	173	801	295

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 13 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
336	S/4267/17/FL	Mrs S Ballard	Residence (Extensions and garage conversion)	Moat Way, Swavesey
337	S/4312/17/FL	JW Burgess & Son Ltd	Agricultural (Grain store)	Boxworth End, Swavesey
338	S/4419/17/FL	Mr R Harrison	Residence (Extensions)	Black Horse Lane, Swavesey
339	S/0015/18/DC	Mr & Mrs Smart	Residence	Over Road, Swavesey
340	S/0341/18/FL	Mr & Mrs Thompson	Residence (Extension)	Boxworth End, Swavesey
341	S/1565/18/OL	Mr P Thwaites & Dr S Denley	Residential (2 plots)	Taylor's Lane, Swavesey
342	S/1594/18/PN	J W Burgess & Sons Ltd	Agricultural (Grain store)	Boxworth End, Swavesey
343	S/2265/18/FL	J W Burgess & Sons Ltd	Agricultural (Grain store)	Boxworth End, Swavesey
344	S/2315/18/RM	Bloor Homes (Eastern) & Mr A Johnson	Residential (99 plots)	Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey*
345	S/2463/18/FL	B J Baker & Son	Commercial (Butcher)	Rose & Crown Road, Swavesey
346	S/2900/18/RM	Matthew Homes Ltd	Residential (30 plots)	Boxworth End, Swavesey*
347	S/3525/18/FL	Mr K Lee	Residence	Ramper Road, Swavesey
348	S/4273/18/OL	B J Baker & Son	Residence	Rose & Crown Road, Swavesey

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.

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

- Mrs S Ballard - Extensions and garage conversion at Moat Way, Swavesey (MLC Ref No 336)
- Mr R Harrison - Extensions at Black Horse Lane, Swavesey (MLC Ref No 338)
- Mr & Mrs Smart - Residence at Over Road, Swavesey (MLC Ref No 339)
- Mr K Lee - Residence at Ramper Road, Swavesey (MLC Ref No 347)

The following application is outside the Board's area but discharges may increase flows in the Turn Bridge, Church End Drain, Swavesey Drain system:

- Bloor Homes (Eastern) & Mr A Johnson (MLC Ref No 344)

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

Demolition of farm outbuildings and the erection of up to 90 dwellings with public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point from Boxworth End with all other matters reserved except for means of access on land off Boxworth End, Swavesey - Client of L K Group /Gladman Developments Ltd & Burgess (MLC Ref No 293) & Gladman Developments Ltd & Burgess (MLC Ref No 313)

In view of the absence of recent correspondence and any subsequent instruction from the Board it will be presumed, unless otherwise recorded, that the Board is content with any development that has occurred and that no further action is required at this time.

Proposed development to the rear of Cygnus Business Park (Mill Farm), Middlewatch, Swavesey - Nationwide Ltd (MLC Ref No 123) and Starburst Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 182 & 243) and Starburst Property Ltd (MLC Ref No 305)

Following a delay in responding, correspondence has been sent to the applicants' consultant, KingdomTP Consulting, requesting further details on water disposal and points of discharge when the site was in agricultural use. A response is currently awaited.

Residential development comprising 18 market and 12 affordable units plus open space, children's play area and landscaping at 18 Boxworth End, Swavesey – Mr & Mrs R Hallidine (MLC Ref No 271) and Matthew Homes (MLC Ref No 346)

Further to previous Board Meeting Reports a Reserved Matters Planning Application was submitted to the District Council in July.

In an effort to overcome the topography of the site the proposal features an unorthodox surface water drainage solution where the majority of the site flows towards the road at Boxworth End before being pumped in the other direction, discharging into a balancing pond beside the open watercourse. Whilst it is accepted that on occasion the use of pumps is necessary and appropriate, members of the Board may be aware of flooding caused by pump failure due to power outages which often occur during rainfall events. The use of pumps in this way is considered unsustainable by most RMAs.

In addition, little consideration appears to have been given to the balancing pond location, its long-term ownership, funding and future maintenance requirements.

Planning permission was issued, subject to the imposition of conditions just before Christmas.

Residential development with associated access, infrastructure and open spaces at land south of Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey – Bloor Homes (Eastern) & Mr A Johnson (MLC Ref Nos 284, 291, 315 & 344) and Pegasus Group (MLC Ref No 285)

A letter was received from the District Council in April advising that planning application S/0862/17/OL (MLC Ref No 315) had been withdrawn.

Planning application S/2315/18/RM (MLC Ref No 344), a Reserved Matters planning application, referring to the layout, scale, appearance and landscaping of the development following the approval of the outline planning permission S/1027/16/OL (MLC Ref 291), was submitted to the District Council in June. Following an instruction from the Board's Chairman the application was considered and a letter sent objecting to the proposal on the Board's behalf in October.

Subsequent discussions with the applicants' engineering consultant, **Wormald Burrows Partnership** Limited (WBP), ensued including a meeting with representatives from WBP and Bloor Homes together with the Board's Chairman, as part of a paid post-application consultation procedure.

As with the Matthew Homes site above, the timing of any discharge entering the downstream systems together with the design and the long-term ownership, funding and future maintenance requirements of the proposed balancing pond are the main concerns.

Planning permission was granted subject to the imposition of conditions, including requesting details of both the maintenance and management of the surface water drainage scheme and the automatic sluice valve and telemetry, in December.

Residential development on land to the rear of 130 Middlewatch, Swavesey - Swavesey Ventures Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 294 & 310)

Further to previous Board Meeting Reports, discussions were held with the applicant's engineering consultant, Conisbee Consulting Engineers, during April concerning the use of a pumped discharge into the adjacent Award Drain.

Due to the complexity of the site it was requested that any further discussion be undertaken as part of our detailed post-application consultation process but no further instruction or correspondence have been received.

Erection of 56 dwellings including new access at field north of Home Close and west of Moat Way, on land north of Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey - Laragh Homes Ltd (MLC Ref No 314)

This planning application was refused by the District Council in February 2018 for the following reasons:

“1. The Local Plan examination is at an advanced stage. The development proposed, of itself and when considered cumulatively with other development is such that its effect would be so significant that to grant permission would undermine the plan-making process by predetermining decisions about the scale, location or phasing of new development that are central to the emerging Local Plan. As such, to grant planning permission would be premature in the context of the current stage of the local plan process. This adverse impact individually as well as when taken together with the flood risk identified in reason for refusal below, significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of the proposed development, including in terms of delivery of housing (including affordable housing).

2. Part of the site lies within an area of high flood risk (Flood Zone 3). The application has failed to demonstrate by means of a suitable Sequential Test that the development could not be located elsewhere with a lower probability of flooding. The development is therefore contrary to policy NE/11 of the adopted Local Development Framework which requires applications for planning permission to be judged against national policy, in this case paragraphs 100, 102 and 103 of the National Planning Policy Framework.”

The applicant lodged an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate in May but this was subsequently withdrawn in September following the issuing of the Planning Inspector’s Report on the Local Plan on 3rd September 2018, which formally demonstrated that the District Council had a five year housing land supply.

Northstowe

The Commissioners’ Planning Engineer and the Board’s Chairman, together with representatives from the LLFA and the EA, attended an Interactive Workshop on Phase Three of Northstowe in November.



Amended extract from the Northstowe Framework Masterplan August 2012 showing the extents of Phase 3

Discussions with these RMAs and the developer's engineering consultant, Arcadis Consulting (UK) Ltd, were initiated and it is planned that this will continue in the forthcoming months to ensure that the Board's requirements are met.

Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP)

The Commissioners' Planning Engineer has represented both the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated Boards since the last Board meeting. The main matters that may be of interest to the Board are as follows:

Riparian Responsibilities

There has been discussion about issues concerning land owner's responsibilities on riparian "private" watercourses and the amount of time and resources that are taken up by various RMAs, including the Board, in dealing with riparian issues.

It was suggested that a recommendation be made to the RFCC. The options being considered are to do nothing; seek Government Support; or undertake an awareness campaign in the Public Domain with The Law Society, Local Government members etc. It is accepted by the partner members that some initial investment in time and resources may be required to progress these items further.

Discussions included the “Owning a watercourse” webpage, which replaced the Living on the Edge booklet, this is considered to be a backward step as the information that can be presented on the .gov.uk website is very limited.

The webpage can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>.

Flood risk activities: environmental permits (formerly flood defence consents)

The Environment Agency’s (EA) new Environmental Permitting Charging Scheme can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-charging-scheme>. Early engagement with the EA is recommended as a slight redesign of the proposal may reduce the fees required.

Hedge and Ditch Rule

Following a problem in the area covered by the Ely Group of IDBs this “common law” ruling that is mainly used to determine boundaries disputes and the requirements of the Land Drainage Act, notably Section 25, is currently being discussed with various parties including the former Commissioners’ and Boards’ Clerk, Iain Smith.

The latest ruling which dates to 2015 can be downloaded from the Mills and Reeve website, which can be found at <https://www.mills-reeve.com/boundaries-and-the-hedge-and-ditch-rule-12-07-2015/>

Bank Instability - Environment Agency (EA)/IDB approach

The EA and IDBs advised on their respective position in respect of reinstating channels that have failed. These are largely the same but due to cost constraints the EA now only stabilises channels where there are raised embankments.

For Award Drains the wording of the Award needs to be considered. Some refer to the landowner and not the Authority concerned.

Emerging Planning & Response

A draft flooding newspaper article and a flood call questions template, for completion by reception staff when receiving a flooding related call, is currently being prepared by a member of the Flood & Water team.

Skills & Apprenticeships

The Government is promoting the use of Apprenticeships and it is noted that many authorities are using these in preference to other forms of training.

It is understood that the EA, together with other partners, is developing a new Apprenticeship Standard for Water Environment Workers in England. This aims to support the training and development of workers who carry out operational activities in organisations where there is a responsibility to manage the impact of water environments, natural or manmade, on the land and surrounding businesses and homes. The water environment includes rivers, coasts (the sea), lakes, wetlands, canals and reservoirs.

IDB Good Governance Guide/East Ridings of Yorkshire Council Guide

Matters raised by the East Ridings of Yorkshire Council, who had governance concerns over IDBs within its area of jurisdiction, were briefly discussed.

It is understood that correspondence was copied to all LLFAs and that Cllr Steve Count (Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council) provided a response which advised that the County Council had good partnerships with IDBs in the County.

ADA has subsequently launched its Good Governance for IDB Members guide at the ADDA Conference which is primarily aimed at new Board members. Five workshops have been organised including:

- Mariott's Warehouse, King's Lynn (19 March)
- Deafblind UK Conference Centre, Peterborough (28 March), and the
- CIWEM Venue, Farringdon, London (3 April).

Further details on the guide and the workshops can be found at the following link:

<https://www.ada.org.uk/2018/11/ada-publishes-guide-to-good-governance-for-internal-drainage-board-members/>

County Council Public Sector Services

In addition to undertaking its role the group was advised that the Flood & Water Team may be extending its service to another County Council.

RMA support & the Delivery of projects

Following concerns raised by IDBs and other RMAs the EA has engaged RMA support to assist in the delivery of projects. Funded by the Local Levy and based at Ely it is understood that they will be the Commissioners'/Boards' point of contact.

The EA's 2018 Flood Action Campaign

Research undertaken by the EA in conjunction with the Red Cross reveals that most 18-34 year olds do not know what to do in a flood. Further information can be found at:

Highways England (HE) Environmental Designated Funds (Legacy funding)

This is one of five funds provided by HE associated with the Strategic Road Network – A1, A14, A47 etc., the others being Cycling; Safety and integration; Air Quality; Innovation and Growth; and Housing.

The potential environmental funding is available for the following areas noise, water, carbon, landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage and, therefore, could include flooding, pollution, water framework directive and biodiversity projects associated with the Strategic Road Network. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/highways-england-designated-funds>

This method of funding is being utilised by the following RMAs on the following projects:

(a) Environment Agency

Beck Brook at Girton - Legacy Fund and Local Levy match funding is being used to assist a flood alleviation scheme that was unable to achieve GiA.

Borrow Pits at Fenstanton – A potential flood alleviation scheme may be able to use Legacy funding.

(b) Cambridgeshire County Council

Bar Hill – Legacy funding for a potential £64k scheme.

Histon/Impington culvert replacement – The Legacy funding contribution is possible due to the site's close location to the A14.

IDB & LLFA Planning Process

An update was given on the LLFA's discussions with North Level and District IDB, the Ely Group and the Middle Level Commissioners in order to attain a collective approach where possible.

However, it was explained that all three authorities have different approaches to some items and that any discussions with the planning authorities and agents may be iterative.

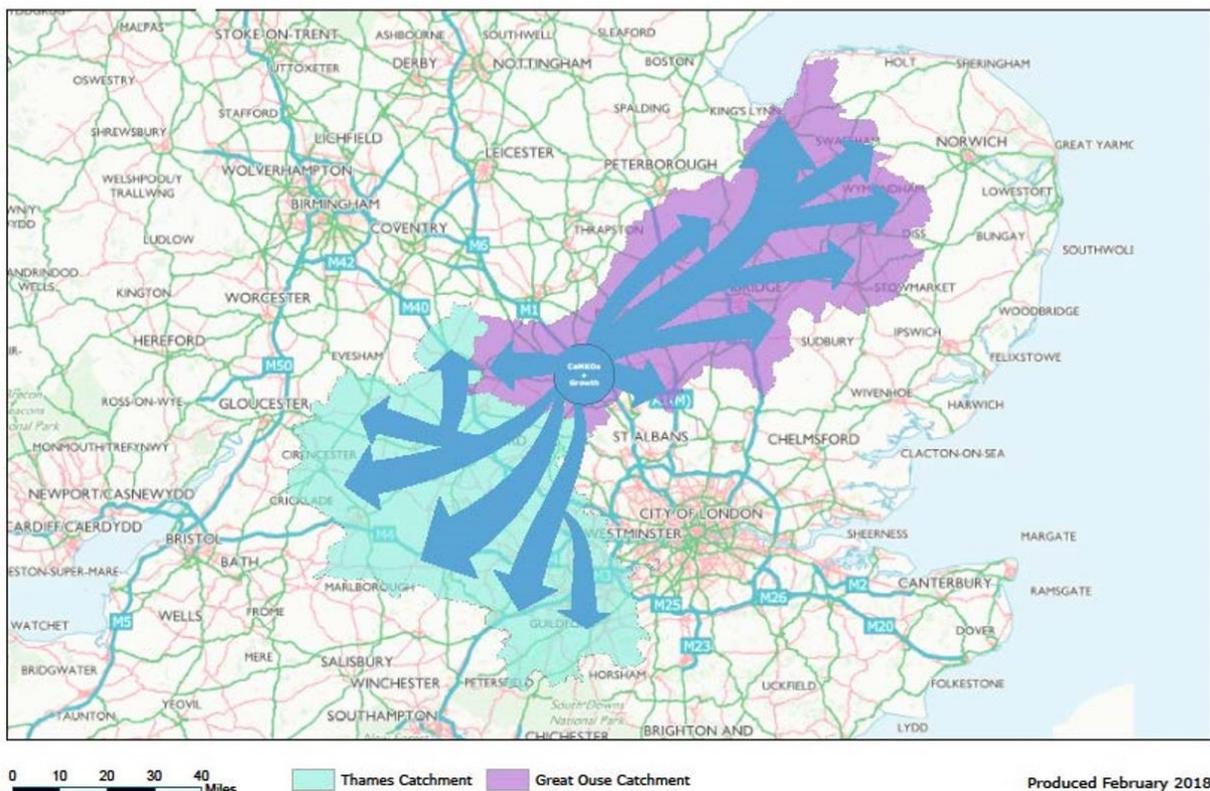
The recent inaugural LLFA/AWSL/MLC Liaison meeting was briefly discussed. The EA expressed an interest in joining this group.

Update on RFCC's Growth Work

In order to accommodate the projected “growth”, 500,000 new homes within the Cambridge – Milton Keynes - Oxford (CaMKOx) arc, within the Great Ouse Catchment five Local Choices papers are currently being prepared on The Upstream Great Ouse Catchment, these will investigate the following:

- (i) Potential storage;
- (ii) Conveyance Study of the Main rivers to Denver Sluice, (this will investigate pinch points, silt deposition etc);
- (iii) A Modelling Workshop, (to use existing models as work needs to be completed now);
- (iv) An Economic Assessment, (this will include an assessment of Cost/Benefits and what it does to prevent flooding); and
- (v) The Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway Link, (which will investigate potential benefits, water transfer/resources of the proposed new waterway between Kempston and the Grand Union Canal).

Cambridge - Milton Keynes - Oxford (CaMKOx) : Growth Corridor
Catchment of River Thames and River Great Ouse



The EA is looking for RMA involvement in the production of these papers.

RMA's Medium Term Programmes (MTP)

The RFCC has expressed a keen interest in knowing more about the different projects that partners in Cambridgeshire have put forward to the MTP for FDGiA. This is in part because the FRCC wants us to all understand each other's projects better. They would particularly like it if the

FRCC Member Councillors for each County were familiar with all of the projects in their area and were able to champion them, not just the ones from their own organisation.

Therefore, the various relevant RMAs will be making presentations at Partnerships meetings. As a result, as the largest promoter of such projects within Cambridgeshire, a presentation on the MTP prepared by the Middle Level Commissioners and its associated Boards has been made to the Partnership.

Flood Risk Management Trainees

As part of closer partnership working, training has been given to junior members of Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council staff and an undergraduate studying for a FRM degree under the EA foundation scheme. The main purpose of the training was to give the candidates a better and broader understanding of water level and flood risk management and also how the Commissioners and IDBs operate.

Feedback from both the candidates and internally has been positive and it is hoped that this opportunity can be offered again when the opportunity arises.

Flood Risk Management (FRM) for the Fens Technical Group

The EA has recently commenced the FRM for the Fens Project to determine the best way of managing future flood risk. As a result a technical group has been formed, including representation from the Middle Level Commissioners.

The project was discussed at the EAs Large Projects Review Group (LPRG) meeting in November. The LPRG stated that all partners who seek future Flood Risk Management Grant-in-Aid (GiA) funding but do not share its data for the Baseline Report are likely to be denied, or capped to 45%, as they will not be able to demonstrate a strategic approach.

The project is currently at the data collection stage and details of the Board's system and any hydraulic models are being collated to inform the successful consultant, who will be appointed in February, to progress Phase 1 of the project.

A letter from the EA has been issued to the Chairman and a copy follows for your information. This included a copy of the "elevator pitch", used by the EA to provide some background to the project. Please note that the extent of the geographical area shown has recently been amended.

Letter to Chairman
Internal Drainage Boards
Middle Level Offices
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambs
PE15 0AH

Our ref: ENV0000678C
Your ref
Date: 15 January 2019

Dear Chairman

Flood Risk Management for the Fens

Between Local Internal Drainage Boards and the Environment Agency, we are modern day custodians of arguably the richest legacies of flood risk and drainage management in the country. I am sure you and your Board are really proud, like I am, to have a responsibility for critical infrastructure within a landscape that is hugely important for the economy, communities, food, farming and the natural environment.

The future of the Great Ouse Fens is something I am passionate about and with IDB clerks and engineers we are starting a partnership and collaborative approach to their future flood management. This letter summarises where we are and some of the important steps ahead. We really need your ideas, enthusiasm, advocacy, support and knowledge about this fantastic part of the country.

In recent years flood and drainage management in the Fens has been undertaken in somewhat of a piecemeal approach and reactive manner. With climate change projections and many of our assets coming to the end of their design life, we now collectively need to take a more strategic and long term approach. This will enable us all to maximise financial leverage and present a stronger more considered investment case to funding bodies.

Flood risk management for the Fens is a project set up to consider what the future flood risk management choices for the Great Ouse Fens could look like. This will help us develop a strategic approach together that will underpin and frame all flood and coastal risk management investment in the Fens moving forward. This is a key requirement of Defra's partnership funding policy (see attached note).

The attached document provides further details about the project, including the details of those flood risk management organisations involved in the Technical Group. David will hopefully have already briefed you on this work and will be your primary engagement link as the project moves forward.

Supported by the Anglian (Central) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee and with the help of the Technical Group, we have recently secured a funding package and obtained financial approval for Phase 1 of the project. The main products of this phase includes:

- A baseline report to gain a shared understanding of all land drainage and flood risk management assets, the economics, government grant eligibility level and partnership funding challenge for all sources of flooding. *This will be presented in a similar way to the Great Ouse Tidal River Baseline Report (we can provide a copy if you don't already have one) Anticipated delivery date Feb 2020.*
- Visualisation tools to showcase the findings of the baseline report in a way that informs and excites a wide variety of audiences. *Anticipated delivery date late 2020 after the baseline report to share key messages from the report.*

For Phase 1 we have not sought financial contributions from individual IDBs within the Great Ouse Fens, however the success of the work and effective use of the funding we have secured is hugely dependent upon the timely provision of asset and financial data from all Risk Management Authorities. Since July 2018, we have been working as part of the Technical Group on the specification and provision of this data.

We are aiming to appoint consultants for Phase 1 by early February 2019 and we are keen to have this data before then. Therefore it is vital that we have your support in helping your clerks and engineers to provide this information in a timely manner and by the 21 January 2019.

This will enable the project to move forward efficiently avoiding abortive costs, and help us to continue to support your IDB in seeking FCRM Grant in Aid (GiA) for individual investments. If we have gaps or deficiencies in the data then we will not be developing a strategic approach and are unlikely to be successful in maximising FCRM GiA funding for future projects.

Alongside Phase 1 we also collectively need to start to plan for Phase 2 of this work. Phase 2 is likely to start in approximately 5 years' time and most likely be a strategic options appraisal, to identify the choices for medium and long term flood risk management in the Fens.

Amongst the many benefits of this work, it will help us all better inform, influence and justify the source, nature and levels of funding required to

creating a better place
for people and wildlife



evolve and manage flood and drainage infrastructure over the medium and long term. The scope and governance arrangements for Phase 2 will all need to be developed and agreed collaboratively and there is no presumption that the Environment Agency will lead.

Initial estimates from similar projects are that Phase 2 may cost in the region of £10 million to £15 million, and significant levels of partnership funding will be needed to be sourced to unlock and complement FCRM GiA. Therefore an investment strategy will be developed in parallel to Phase 1. Your Board may want to consider sooner rather than later how they choose to plan for this.

In the short term, whilst the strategic work is progressing, we all still need to continue to invest in the flood and drainage infrastructure within the Fens, without prejudicing any medium and long term choices. To frame this and support investment decision making in being as effective and efficient as possible, through the Technical Group we are also developing tactical plans for the Fens. These are looking at how we apportion benefits across respective infrastructure and apply these to upcoming investments. Once these are ready it may be useful to present to your Board.

It is a really interesting and exciting time with all this work. I hope you and your Board are supportive of the approach. If you have any questions or would like further information then please contact David, myself or our Project Executive, Claire Bell (Claire.Bell@Environment-Agency.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

Paul Burrows
MCIWEM CWEM CEnv

Flood & Coastal Risk Manager for East Anglia Area (Great Ouse catchment inc North West Norfolk coast)

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customer service line 03708 506 506
gov.uk/environment-agency

January 2019

The Strategic Approach for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Projects

Supplementary Local Guidance Version 1

In both Defra Policy Statements (Appraisal of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management June 2009 and Partnership Funding May 2011) demonstrating and evidencing a strategic approach to flood or coastal erosion risk is a requirement for every project, to ensure value for money for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA).

Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) and Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) form the large scale holistic view of risk management requirements at the catchment or coastal process scale, beneath which more detailed strategies, and the local scale risk management activities should be developed.

Primarily, all schemes seeking FCERM GiA allocation should be in line with or compliment any overarching strategic plan such, for example, the Great Ouse CFMP.

“SMPs or CFMPs will have collected information on the economic, environmental and social assets at risk, the defences or coast protection works that are in place and identified preferred policies. The SMP or CFMP will also have engaged with stakeholders and you may be able to draw some information from the results. Early links need to be made with SMPs or CFMPs and strategies (where applicable) as they may have already identified key issues and broad solutions (in CFMPs these are called generic responses). It is essential to link the problem back to the policy as defined in the SMP or CFMP (and for schemes, to the description of the strategy, where available) to ensure continuity is not lost. Any conflicts between the description of the problem for your project and the recommendation of the SMP or CFMP (or strategy) will need to be highlighted and reconciled before you can progress further.” – Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Appraisal Guidance, 2010.

The meaning of a ‘strategic approach’ is described throughout the FCERM Appraisal Guidance, March 2010, mainly in Chapter 3. It needs to include consideration of wider factors such as the economic, environmental, recreational and social factors that may affect or be affected by the proposed investment opportunity. These wider factors will then subsequently influence the selection of investment options to manage or mitigate the flood or coastal erosion risks. At the early stages of appraisal a wide range and broad portfolio of options should be identified, such as a change in pumping regimes, storage options and combining flood cells and assets for example. These options should be appropriate to the scale and type of project being undertaken.

Any strategic evaluation should be done as early as possible when planning a FCERM project. Findings should be evidenced within the business case, however, as this is produced much later than the initial project submission is submitted to the Environment Agency (through PAFS) it may be required that evidence of a strategic approach be made available to the Environment Agency on request in advance of the programme refresh. Failure to submit such evidence on request, will result in the maximum grant rate for the scheme being reduced to 45%.

“Where there is not a clear strategic approach setting out how benefits are apportioned to individual investments within a system of assets, the maximum grant rate allowable will be reduced to 45%. This means that all risk management authorities, including internal drainage boards, could receive up to 100% grant levels. The reduced grant rate, relevant for all risk management authorities, helps preserve value for money in cases where investments may only score well because benefits are being double-counted.” – Partnership Funding Policy 2011

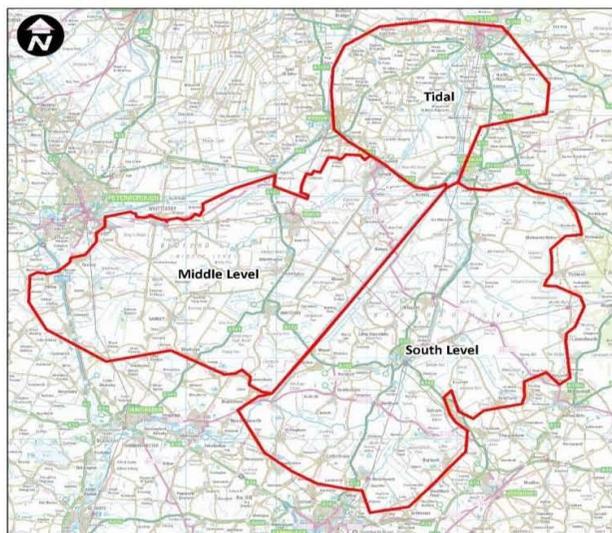
It is understood that there is a significant variation in the types of schemes which may be eligible for FCERM GiA funding. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that the attention given to investigating a strategic approach should be proportional to the size of the scheme. Therefore, for smaller schemes (affecting a lower number of outcome measures and/or seeking a smaller sum of funding) a discussion of how a scheme aligns with a strategic approach may suffice. This could be evidenced, for example in notes accompanying a PAFS submission or captured within meeting minutes held in the early planning stages. Similarly, a larger scheme will require a more substantial demonstration. Any such scheme should be able to include, or reference any strategic analysis prior to PAFS submission or annual programme refresh.

This guidance reinforces the Defra Policy Statements ([Appraisal of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management June 2009](#) and [Partnership Funding May 2011](#)), if these National policies change in the future, this guidance will be amended accordingly.

Flood risk management for the Fens – planning together for a sustainable flood risk future

‘Flood risk management for the Fens’ is a project that has been set up to plan the best way of managing future flood risk in the Great Ouse Fen Area. We are currently in the **first phase** of this project which is developing a shared understanding of the situation and challenges for managing flood risk (from all sources) in the Fens.

A Technical Group (TG) has been formed of organisations (see below) who have **flood risk assets**, or represent those with assets, in the geographical area that has been defined as the Great Ouse Fens.



We are **working together** to set out all the data about flood risk in the area outlined – defining who is managing flood risk, asset maintenance costs and potential available Flood Risk Management Grant in Aid (Government funding). This will identify any difference in **investment needs versus available funding**.

The most important outcome for the first phase of work is for the TG to have a **shared understanding** of the issues and challenges for managing flood risk in the Fens, and to have a **shared ownership** for taking action to overcome these issues.

Pressures on the Fens will come from many sources including, for example, climate change causing sea level rise affecting the Tidal River and the systems discharging into it, and catchment pressures from housing and infrastructure growth.

Following this initial data gathering phase, which we hope to complete in the next 18-24 months, we will produce a **joint project plan** for the next phase of work. The outcome of Phase 2 will be to produce a jointly owned strategic plan reviewing all options that could manage flood risk in the Fens, taking in to account climate change and sea level rise and recommending actions that will be the best/ most appropriate way of managing flood risk in the Fens over the next 50-100 years.

The TG will work closely with the Environment Agency’s Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Partnerships and Strategic Overview Team who are progressing a similar project for the Lincolnshire Fens, but at different timescales.

The TG understands that there are **many different areas of interest** within the Fens, and a lot of groups and individuals will be interested in the work of the project.

At this stage in the project, there is a very **strong focus on the flood risk management challenges** – specifically focusing on current flood risk management assets. We will keep interested stakeholders updated with the progress of this stage of the project and **our work will be overseen by the Anglian Central Regional Flood and Coastal Committee**.

The TG is aware of the importance of linking Phase 1 outputs to other projects shaping the future of the Fens landscape.



South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City SFRA

The relevant webpage on the District Council's web states that "An update of the SFRA is planned for Spring 2012." No further progress has been made concerning an update of the SFRA.

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Local Planning Policy

NB. The Local Plan (sometimes referred to as 'The Local Development Plan') is a set of policies and land allocations prepared by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) that provides guidance upon future development within its district.

South Cambs Local Plan (SCLP)

Further to previous reports correspondence was received from the District Council in October advising that:

"Notice is hereby given in accordance Regulations 17, 26 and 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) that the **South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018** was adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council on **27 September 2018**.

The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in March 2014. This examination was conducted between March 2014 and August 2018. The Inspectors' Report concluded that, with the recommended main modifications which are set out in their report, the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan satisfies the requirements of Section 20(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and meets the criteria for soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework. The adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 incorporates these main modifications, as well as some additional modifications that do not materially affect the policies, pursuant to Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

A list of the main and additional modifications which have been adopted and which form part of the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan may be viewed via the following link: www.scambs.gov.uk/localplan2018."

Cambridge Water Company (CWC) Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP)

Note A WRMP is a document required by Government of every water company which describes how it proposes to maintain the balance of supply and demand over the next 25 years allowing for the influences upon its operation. These include an increasing population, economic growth, the changing climate and the need to protect the environment.

Further to the last meeting a Statement of Response (SoR) to representations received on the draft WRMP 2019 was published in August 2018. This can be viewed at: <https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/media/2287/camstatement-of-response-to-dwrmp-2019.pdf>.

The SoR shows how CWC has addressed the points raised in the consultation period by regulators and other interested parties, and how it will be revising its final WRMP.

Where necessary, CWC has addressed the points made by making changes in its revised draft WRMP, published alongside the SoR, however it does not consider its revised draft WRMP to be the final 2019 WRMP.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)

The final report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER), prepared by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Commission (CPIEC) was published in September.

Jointly funded by the CPCA and Cambridge Ahead the report sets out how the CPIEC considers the area can sustain its own economy and support the UK economy whilst providing a better and more fulfilling way of life for the people who live and work in this area and details how this should be achieved, with fourteen key recommendations, and another thirteen subsidiary recommendations. Some of the suggested actions will be difficult to implement requiring close collaboration between leading institutions in the area, this is likely to include the relevant RMAs including the Commissioners and associated Boards, who will be needed to deliver them effectively.

Issues considered relevant to our interests include the following:

General

- a) The success of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a project of national importance.
- b) The Government should recognise the benefits further devolution to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough would bring

Flood Risk and Water Level Management

- a) The area has not been subject to dramatic flooding events in recent years, which can mean the issue is paid little attention.
- b) Flood risk infrastructure should be considered enabling infrastructure, in that it allows a great deal of economic activity to happen in the first place (land being the most fundamental of all the economic factors of production).
- c) In the fens, water has an especially significant effect on the local economy with much of the area classified by the EA as being in flood zone 3 and this presents challenges to local economic development. Finding solutions to this problem is likely to have to happen little by little, with the finer points of detail being worked through with the EA,

Anglian Water, and others. Wisbech should be seen as a UK testbed for new flood-resistant approaches to development, and levels of investment in flood defence infrastructure should be substantially increased.

- d) It is estimated that during a serious drought scenario, England could face £1.3billion of lost economic activity every day.
- e) A requirement of 110l per person per day should be enforced in water stressed areas, and that in future councils should have the power to enforce 80l per person per day requirements for new developments where appropriate.

The Environment

NB. 'Natural capital' refers to the stock of living ('biodiversity') and non-living (eg minerals, water) resources that interact and provide a flow of services ('ecosystem services') upon which society depends. Some of these services are delivered locally, others may have national or international value. All other capitals (human, social, intellectual, manufactured, financial) are ultimately underpinned by natural capital.

- a) Climate change is already having a damaging effect on biodiversity and could put a strain on the water supply.
- b) Within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, most districts were put into the middle band for levels of natural capital, although fenland (perhaps unsurprisingly) scores highly on this measure.
- c) The fens must also be considered as one of the UK's greatest natural assets with a rich wetland ecosystem which affords great leisure opportunities. The value of this natural capital must not be overlooked.

Economic Growth

- a) The Commission reached the conclusion that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area is not one, but three economies, the Greater Cambridge area, which includes Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire, and parts of Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire; the Greater Peterborough area, the area around Peterborough; and the fens but should function significantly more as a single area than it does at present. This ought to be feasible whilst being compatible with each part of the Combined Authority area retaining its distinctive sense of place.
- b) A distinguishing feature of the whole area is how strongly it continues to grow outpacing both the East of England and UK over the last decade. This has been driven primarily, but not entirely, by rapid business creation and growth in Cambridge

and South Cambridgeshire, where knowledge-intensive sectors are strongly clustered, densifying and highly dependent on their location.

- c) Evidence from the review identifies that both employment and turnover growth have been picking up right across the area. Employment growth has seen strong growth numbers in all districts but has been highest in East Cambridgeshire. Looking at growth rates in the global turnover of companies based in the area between 2010/11-2016/17 all six districts have seen turnover growth of over 2% per annum. In South Cambridgeshire this rises to over 10% per annum, which shows impressive company growth.
- d) Many very large firms, such as McCain and Del Monte, have plants in the north-east of the county and export from here around the world. Figures show that primary sectors constitute 24% of East Cambridgeshire's turnover, and 17% of Fenland's with Wholesale and Retail Distribution making up 33% of Fenland's turnover, and 28% of South Cambridgeshire's.
- e) The Netherlands, which has similar prevailing conditions to the fens but produces much higher-value agricultural goods, should be seen as an exemplar.
- f) Laws governing planning permission may impede business growth.
- g) It is very important to support the growth of market towns.
- h) There is a need for companies to invest in their employees.
- i) There is potential for greater commercial office development, particularly in Peterborough.

Housing

- a) To account for the fact that actual delivery of housing has been less than previously predicted and if employment growth continues to be significantly above what is forecast it might be necessary to build in the range of 6,000 – 8,000 houses per year over the next 20 years.
- b) In some areas, particularly in the north of Cambridgeshire, house prices are too low to make sufficient profit from development, rendering them unviable.

- c) There is positive evidence that ecological considerations are being taken seriously in new developments, with the new Eddington District in Cambridge being a notable example. Eddington reuses surface level water, reducing wastage and minimising flood risk.

Infrastructure

- a) Utilities underpin all economic activity, and there are areas of concern, particularly regarding electricity capacity. The government has committed to banning new diesel and petrol vehicles from 2040, but if it is envisioned that these will be replaced by electric vehicles, substantial levels of investment into upgrading the grid will be needed.
- b) The importance that flood defence infrastructure and the equally clear stresses upon water in one of the UK's driest counties are recognised.
- d) The level of the infrastructure of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been inadequate for too long. The growth seen in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire seems very unlikely to be sustained in the future without further and significant investment in infrastructure.
- e) A package of transport and other infrastructure projects to alleviate the growing pains of Greater Cambridge should be considered the single most important infrastructure priority facing the Combined Authority in the short to medium term. These should include the use of better digital technology to enable more efficient use of current transport resources.

Projects that seem likely to further this aim are the full dualling of the A47, better connecting the Peterborough economy to the Fenland economy; the A10, better connecting the Cambridge economy to the Fenland economy; and improvements to rail between Peterborough and Cambridge, particularly the Ely North junction thus better connecting all three economies.

- f) There should be greater awareness of potential supply chains and scope for collaboration within the region.
- g) It was suggested that several elements were needed to underpin the approach to financing infrastructure:

- An Investment Fund should be created to execute priorities which leverages third party resources, meaning a sustainable momentum can be achieved by the prudent use of public resources (from both local and central government)
- An Investment Pipeline should be established showing what is feasible to be delivered over a three, five, and ten-year period
- A Mayoral Development Platform (such as a development corporation) is needed to facilitate and support development in collaboration with the private sector (investors and developers) and wherever practicable the community in which development takes place.
- Relevant RMAs possibly including the Commissioners and associated Boards may be asked to contribute to these.

Consulting Engineer

31 January 2019

Swavesey(360)\Reports\January 19

Swavesey Internal Drainage Board

Capital Improvement Programme (2019/2020)

		PREVIOUS YEARS	2019/2020	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	FUTURE YEARS	ALL YEARS
		Pre Yr 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Post Year 10	Total Expenditure
Long Causeway P/S	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	750.0	750.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0	0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	30.0
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
Drainage Channels														
	Refurbishment of inlets/outfalls	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
		0	0	0	20	0	5	15	0	0	0	0	760	800

Swavesey Internal Drainage Board

Biodiversity Action Plan Report 2018-19

Note on 2018-19 report

This report continues those compiled by Cliff Carson from 2010 – 2018 to help record, promote and preserve the biodiversity interest of Swavesey IDB.

As Cliff noted in his update of January 2016 (included here as Appendix 1.) Internal Drainage Boards of the Middle Level have demonstrated great commitment to biodiversity through their work and general interest, successfully achieving many of the objectives put forward in their Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs). There is an opportunity now to update Internal Drainage Boards BAPs with future direction aiming to consolidate the good foundations established during the period to date, broaden our species work and reflect new trends or methodology.

Understanding and discussing what these new opportunities may be will be looked at in 2019, with the potential to have some new suggestions in place for 2020. As such, this report for 2018-19 will continue to provide updates and guidance based on the existing BAP. Included too are some potential species initiatives for Internal Drainage Boards to consider from 2020 (see 'Opportunities').

Report Summary

Swavesey IDB is an enjoyable area to visit with good hedgerow connectivity, well maintained ditches and some good examples of BAP initiatives in place. An updated Biodiversity Action Plan Map of the District is attached here. It indicates areas of environmental interest and management recommendations where appropriate.

Crassula

The highly invasive non-native water plant New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) was discovered in the Board's drains (nodes 4 to 8) on 28th August 2017. 2 applications of round-up received (2017). There was no sign of this plant during a visit in January 2019 but it is highly persistent and a follow up visit will be arranged in spring. Board members and public are urged to report any sightings of the plant to the Conservation Officer. Please see Appendix 2 for details on crassula

Lairstall Pond

Not accessed during visit in January 2019, Conservation Officer to monitor with permission as part of crassula checks in spring.

Bats

The bat box installed on the south side of the pumping station in 2013 is difficult to check. From distance appears in good condition and some signs indicate it may be being used by something. The landscape of Swavesey IDB is likely to have good bat potential and an additional box and survey in summer may be useful.

Barn Owls

Box did not appear to be used in 2018 but likely has done previously.

Otters

No sign or reports but likely to present. One fatality (road) reported nearby in Willingham area.

Kingfisher

No sign or reports but likely to present.

Other

Please see Appendix 2 for a nationwide species alert on the highly invasive Asian Hornet which poses a threat to native honey bees and other pollinators. It has not yet been found in Cambridgeshire.

Opportunities

The following are some potential future options.

- Pollinators

The declining number of pollinating insects (such as bees, butterflies, hoverflies and moths) across Britain has been widely studied and reported in the media. With such a critical role to play in food-producing systems this represents a significant issue. There may be opportunities to look at how Internal Drainage Boards can support insect populations both on drainage networks through sowing of flowering mixes and management, or on adjacent land by allowing verges of arable plants to develop and flourish through spring and summer.

- Turtle Doves

The UK's fastest declining migrant breeding bird is on the verge of extinction across the country. Studies show that East Anglia remains a core area for them and the Cambridgeshire fens in particular. They show a preference for sites near water which puts them well within reach of the important work of IDBs.

Turtle Doves can be supported in different ways: through nesting habitat creation/management (they need tall, dense hedgerows or scrub), arable pond creation, low density planting of seed-rich plants and supplementary feeding in spring.

The Middle Level will be trialling and monitoring two supplementary feed plots in 2019.

- Swifts

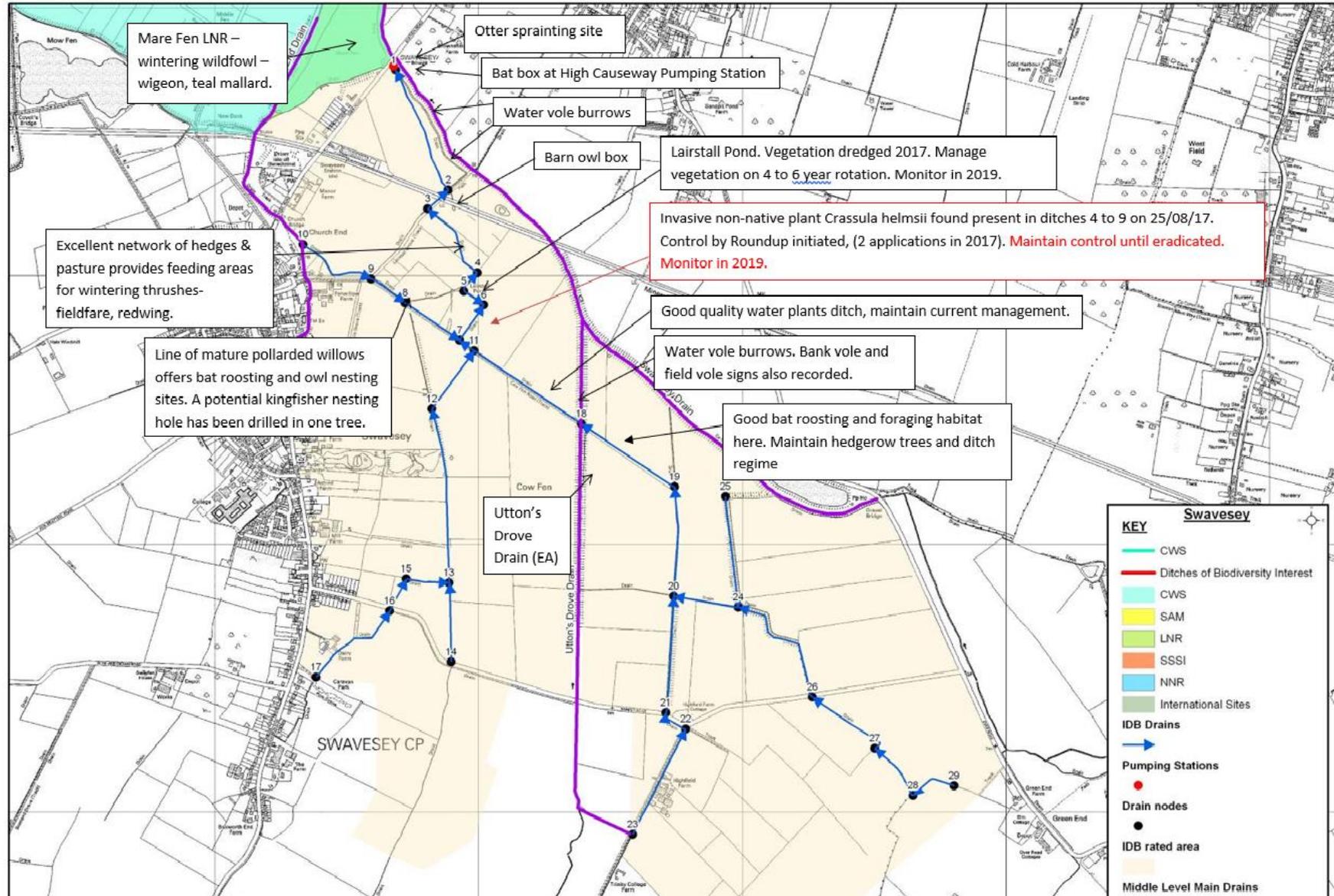
Like Turtle Doves, swifts are declining at an alarming rate, we have lost nearly half our population in the last 20 years. Being dependent on man-made structures however means simple, cost-effective steps can be taken to help. For example, installing 'swift bricks' on old pumping stations or nest boxes on farm buildings.

The Middle Level will be looking at options for its Head Office and other buildings in spring 2019.

If you would like to discuss any of these ideas, adopt them in your IDB or make suggestions of your own please contact the Conservation Officer.

Peter Beckenham, January 2019
07765 597775

Swavesey IDB Map 2018-19



Drainage Ditch Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Report
1	Manage ditches for biodiversity as well as for drainage	1.1	Establish and maintain a management plan for routine IDB operations incorporating key biodiversity features	Conservation Officer	2015	Plan finalised and followed each year	<i>A map-based is attached. It will be amended as further information is gathered.</i>
		1.2	Look for opportunities to provide natural erosion protection such as marginal plant ledges when re-profiling ditches	Conservation Officer	Ongoing	If re-profiling is carried out, opportunities identified	<i>No re-profiling carried out during the period.</i>
		1.3	Provide natural erosion protection as in 1.2 if opportunities available	Conservation Officer	Ongoing	Length of ditch with ledge / natural vegetation revetment	<i>As above.</i>
2	Identify ditches of conservation interest and manage appropriately	2.2	Ensure appropriate management of ditches for priority species	Conservation Officer, Plantlife, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	Specified in management plan	<i>Ditches of interest identified on Management Plan map.</i>
3	Support the Conservation Officer in working with landowners to benefit wildlife in the district	3.1	Refer private landowners to the Conservation Officer for advice on creating field margin buffer zones and wildlife-friendly ditch management	Conservation Officer, Natural England, Wildlife Trust, FWAG	Ongoing	Number of contacts received and passed to Environmental Officer	<i>No enquiries were received during the period</i>
4	Control invasive species	4.1	Report any sightings of non-native invasive species immediately to the Conservation Officer and control as appropriate (see Appendix F for species list)	Conservation Officer, Environment Agency, Plantlife, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	Reports to Conservation Officer	<i>Crassula present and treated in 2017. Follow up survey in spring 2019</i>

Reedbed Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Report
1	Identify, assess and map any areas of reedbed over 0.5ha in size	1.1	Pass details of any known areas to Conservation Officer	Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Environment Agency	2013	Review of reedbed areas carried out	<i>No areas of reedbed over 0.5ha identified.</i>
2	Support appropriate reedbed creation	2.2	Manage the District adopted drains, where possible, to assist private landowners who wish to create areas of reedbed on their own land	Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency	Ongoing	(a) Number of requests received (b) Number of landowners assisted	<i>No requests received.</i>
3	Take conservation value of reedbed into account when planning and carrying out ditch and river maintenance	3.2	Where reeds are present, commence mowing or cleansing work outside the bird breeding season (7 th April – 15 th July). Where reeds are growing in water be aware of the potential for late-nesting reed warblers being present until late August and avoid mowing in that location. In exceptional circumstances where this is not possible, seek advice from the Conservation Officer.	Conservation Officer, Wildlife Trust, RSPB	Ongoing	Reeds not cut during bird nesting season	<i>Management work was not carried out during the bird nesting period.</i>

Grazing Marsh Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Report
1	Identify, assess and map areas of existing floodplain grazing marsh	1.1	Pass details of any known areas to Conservation Officer	Wildlife Trust, RSPB, WWT, Natural England, Environment Agency	2012	Review of potential grazing marsh area carried out	<i>Existing Grazing marsh (Mare Fen) is already on WT records.</i>
2	Support landowners in creating or restoring grazing marsh / wet grassland	2.1	Manage District adopted drains where possible to assist private landowners and organisations undertaking habitat creation	Conservation Officer, Natural England, RSPB, WWT, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	(a) Number of requests received (b) Number of landowners assisted	<i>No requests were received during the period.</i>

Open Water Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Report
1	Promote the creation of ponds, lakes and reservoirs in appropriate areas	1.1	Consider pond creation as mitigation when a ditch has to be filled in or culverted	Local authorities, Amphibian & Reptile Conservation, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	(a) Number of mitigation opportunities (b) Number of ponds created	<i>Lairstall pond restored in 2017. Follow up visit in 2019.</i>
		1.2	Support creation of flood storage areas and reservoirs	Environment Agency, Natural England, Wildlife Trust, RSPB	Ongoing	Number of projects involved with	<i>No flood storage areas or reservoir projects arose during the period</i>
		1.3	Assist private landowners with advice, information or contacts as necessary	Amphibian & Reptile Conservation, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	(a) Number of information requests (b) Number responded to	<i>No information requests were received</i>
2	Look for opportunities to create open water habitat when managing ditches	2.1	Create a pool at an appropriate ditch junction when re-profiling (see the Drainage Channel Biodiversity Manual, technique CL3))	Conservation Officer	2010	One pool successfully created	<i>No new opportunities for this method arose but the clearance of Lairstall pond restored a previous feature.</i>

Water Vole Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Report
1	Manage ditches according to the law and to best practice for water vole	1.1	Assume water voles are present when carrying out works (discuss special circumstances with the Conservation Officer) and follow the ADA water vole mitigation guide	Conservation Officer	Ongoing	Measures incorporated in management plans	<i>Water vole Best Practice methods were used where appropriate.</i>
		1.2	Publicise good practice for rat control near drainage ditches	Conservation Officer, Wildlife Trust	Ongoing	Good practice publicised	<i>Best Practice for rat control was publicised in the Environmental Officer's Natural Level newsletter in December 2011.</i>

2	Enhance drainage ditch habitat to benefit water vole	2.1	Look for opportunities to add a marginal shelf when re-profiling banks	Conservation Officer	Ongoing	(a) Opportunities identified (b) Measures taken	<i>No opportunities identified, no measures taken during the period.</i>
		2.2	Consider using coir roll to stabilise banks and provide marginal vegetation	Conservation Officer	Ongoing	(a) Sites considered (b) Measures taken	<i>No appropriate sites or opportunities arose during the period.</i>
3	Monitor water vole populations	3.1	Set up a survey programme to monitor water vole populations	Conservation Officer, Wildlife Trust	2010	Surveys carried out	<i>Survey for water voles carried out by volunteers in 2013. Conservation Officer to revisit in 2019.</i>
		3.2	Provide data on water vole to the relevant Biological Records Centres	Conservation Officer, CPERC, NBIS	Ongoing	Data sent via Environmental Officer annually	<i>Data sent to CPERC.</i>
4	Control mink as necessary	4.2	Carry out mink control as part of the Middle Level programme and report all sightings to the Environmental Officer	Conservation Officer	Ongoing	(a) Number of trapping days (b) Number of mink caught	<i>No evidence of mink presence recorded so no trapping was carried out.</i>

Otter Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Report
1	Improve otter habitat	1.1	Identify and maintain existing key bushes and trees near watercourses likely to be important for otters	Conservation Officer	2012 and ongoing	Sites identified and listed in management plans	<i>No sign but likely present</i>
2	Monitor otter populations	2.3	Ensure any dead otters are reported to the Conservation Officer and transferred to the Environment Agency for post mortem	Environment Agency	Ongoing	Otters reported to Conservation Officer, if found	<i>No dead otters were reported.</i>

3	Reduce otter deaths related to eel and crayfish trapping and road traffic	3.1	Report incidents of suspected illegal netting, trapping or fishing to the Environment Agency Fisheries Officers and the Conservation Officer	Environment Agency, Angling Clubs & syndicates	Ongoing	Incidents reported, if discovered	<i>No reports or indications of illegal trapping noted.</i>
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Bats Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Report
1	Improve habitat for bats	1.1	Put up at least one bat box at an appropriate site, e.g. a pumping station	Bat Conservation Trust	2015	Number of bat boxes sited	<i>A bat box was installed at the Board's Pumping Station in February 2013.</i>
		1.2	Pollard suitable trees to provide bat roosts		Ongoing	Number of trees pollarded	<i>Several suitable willows are already pollarded beside Board drains and are indicated on the Management Plan map.</i>
		1.3	Identify potential sites for a bat hibernaculum, e.g. in disused buildings or tunnels	Conservation Officer, Bat Conservation Trust	As opportunities arise	(a) Potential sites looked for (b) Site created	<i>Potential sites for hibernaculum are limited. No sites identified near Board drains but a potential site within the District will continue to be sought.</i>
2	Collect information on bat populations	2.1	Monitor bat boxes	Bat Conservation Trust	2015 onwards	(a) Number of boxes monitored (b) Number of boxes used by bats	<i>The bat box was monitored for signs of use</i>
		2.2	Pass bat box information to CPBRC and NBIS	Conservation Officer, CPBRC, NBIS	2015 onwards	Data via Conservation Officer annually	<i>Annually if box found to be occupied by bats.</i>

Kingfisher Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Report
1	Improve the quality of kingfisher habitat	1.1	Provide at least one potential nest hole in sheet pilings	Conservation Officer	Ongoing	Number of nest sites provided	<i>No sign but likely present</i>
		1.2	Leave kingfisher fishing perches where possible (e.g. occasional branch)	Conservation Officer	Ongoing	Number of perch sites left	<i>There are many natural perch sites for kingfishers available.</i>
2	Collect records of kingfisher breeding between March and July	2.1	Note sightings of potential breeding kingfisher and pass information to CPBRC and NBIS via the Environmental Officer	Conservation Officer, CPBRC, NBIS	Ongoing	Data sent via Environmental Officer annually	<i>No breeding sites have been identified.</i>

Barn Owl Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Report
1	Improve the quality of barn owl habitat	1.1	Put up at least one barn owl nest box in a suitable location	Wildlife Conservation Partnership	2015	Number of nest boxes provided	<i>One. A barn owl box was installed at Lairstall Drove in 2013.</i>
		1.2	Pollard suitable trees to provide natural nest sites	Conservation Officer	Ongoing	Number of trees pollarded	<i>Several mature pollarded willows are already present beside Board drains and are indicated on the Management Plan map.</i>
2	Collect records of barn owl presence	2.1	Monitor nest boxes for use. Have occupied boxes checked for success by licensed barn owl ringers.	Wildlife Conservation Partnership	2015	(a) Number of nest boxes checked by licensed ringers (b) Number of nest boxes used	<i>(a) 1. The Lairstall Drove box was checked. No signs of use for breeding in 2018</i>
		2.2	Pass barn owl box information to CPBRC and NBIS	Conservation Officer, Wildlife Conservation Partnership, CPBRC, NBIS	2015	Data sent via Conservation Officer annually	<i>Annual, when box is occupied.</i>

Procedural Action Plan

Target Reference	Target	Action Reference	IDB Actions	Partners	Date	Indicators	Report
1	Provide training on IDB BAP and conservation management of drainage channels for all relevant staff by 2013	1.1	Establish programme of 1-day courses for IDB staff and members	Conservation Officer, Wildlife Trust, Natural England, other specialists	2013	(a) Number of courses held (b) Number of Board members / staff attending courses	(a) 0 (b) 0. A representative from the Board to attend the next IDB BAP meeting on 4th December 2019 would be very welcome.
		1.2	Establish suitable training for contractors' staff	Conservation Officer, Contractors	2013	Contractors attended training course	The contractor's machine operator has attended a training workshop.
2	Take biodiversity into account when planning and undertaking capital works	2.1	Consult with the Conservation Officer and choose the best possible mitigation solutions for biodiversity, e.g. fish-friendly pumps	Conservation Officer	Ongoing	(a) Number of capital schemes undertaken (b) Number of schemes commented on	No capital schemes were undertaken by the Board during the period.

APPENDIX 1.

Biodiversity Action Plan Updates (*Cliff Carson, January 2016*)

The Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) for all the Boards in the Middle Level BAP Partnership were created in April 2010 and included five-year targets such as bat box, barn owl box and kingfisher nesting hole provision to be achieved by March 2015. Swavesey IDB has achieved their targets and it is now time to consider updating the BAP for a further five years.

Internal Drainage Boards and the role they play in flood protection and wildlife conservation are more in the public eye than they were five years ago. By providing practical actions for species such as bats, barn owls, black poplars, otters, water voles and kingfishers and publicising this work, IDBs are viewed very positively by the general public and government.

The direction for future BAP action will aim to consolidate the good foundations established during the first five years. There will be a need to record the activity at 80+ bat boxes, 90+ barn owl boxes, 80 otter holts, many water vole sites and 80+ kingfisher sites in the 36 Districts of the Middle Level IDB BAP Partnership. There will be a need to engage with local communities to recruit volunteers to help with this and other conservation work.

The areas we will be looking to develop during the next five years include education, training, surveying & recording, and publicising the work of IDBs. Other areas in need of support include pollinators, amphibians and reptiles and aquatic invertebrates. The creation of micro habitats at ditch margins and ponds benefits most of those groups. While actions towards those were included in the previous BAPs, the ambitious targets for specific species received most of the time and effort during the period.

Talks are in progress with the Association of Drainage Authorities, Natural England and fund-raising bodies with a view to making a funding bid that would support these aims and the next round of Biodiversity Action Plan targets. Having a BAP is not a statutory duty (although having regard for the environment and to prevent damage is) so IDBs can benefit from grants for this purpose.

If a funding bid is successful it will affect the scope and size of our BAP targets for the next five years so until we know what funds may be available we are carrying on with the targets in the existing plans.

My thanks once again to the Board members who have supported the practical biodiversity work in the past and for your continued support in the future.

Cliff Carson Environmental Officer

APPENDIX 2

Species Alerts: New Zealand Pigmyweed (aka 'Crassula') and Asian Hornet

Crassula:



Picture left (GBNNS): Crassula close-up, right: ditch at nodes 6-7 filled with crassula 2017 (Cliff Carson)

Environmental Impact

Except in deep water, New Zealand pigmyweed tends to form dense mats, from 0.5m above water to depths of 3m under water, which apparently shade out other plants. These can also apparently cause oxygen depletion of the underlying water leading to *a decline in invertebrates, frogs, newts and fishes.*

Economic Impact

New Zealand pigmyweed may have adverse economic impacts where it forms dense mats in shallow water, *obstructing movement of water and increasing flood risk*

Asian Hornet:

Please see attached sheet regarding this species of significant concern in the UK. Report any sightings to the Conservation Officer with urgency.

The Asian hornet is a species of hornet which is not native to the UK. It is smaller than our native hornet and poses no greater risk to human health than other hornets or bees which serve vital ecological functions.

To date, there have been 13 confirmed sightings of the Asian hornet in England.

Asian Hornet

Alert!

Report sightings of this species online at:
www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet
by email alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk
or through the iPhone and Android recording app:
Asian Hornet Watch

Species Description

Scientific name: *Vespa velutina*

AKA: Yellow-legged Hornet

Native to: Asia

Habitat: Nests usually high in trees and man made structures, sometimes closer to the ground; hunts honey bees, other insects and also feeds on fruit and flowers.

Not easily confused with any other species. Dark brown or black velvety body. Characteristically dark abdomen and yellow tipped legs. Smaller than the native European Hornet.

Introduced to France in 2004 where it has spread rapidly. A number of sightings have been recorded in the UK since 2016. High possibility of introduction through, for example, soil associated with imported plants, cut flowers, fruit, garden items (furniture, plant pots), freight containers, or in/on untreated timber. The possibility that it could fly across the Channel has not been ruled out.

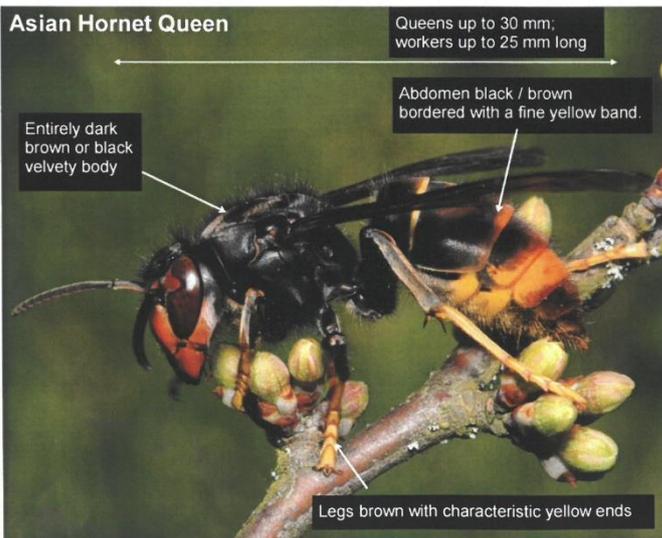
A highly aggressive predator of native insects. Poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators.

Do not disturb an active nest. Members of the public who suspect they have found an Asian Hornet should send a photo to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk.



Key ID Features

Asian Hornet Queen



Asian Hornet

European Hornet



Asian Hornet abdomen is almost entirely dark except for 4th abdominal segment.



Photos from: J. Haxaire; Rachel Scopes and Nigel Jones; Richard Ball

Similar Species

Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) for comparison

- Queen up to 30mm long, worker up to 25mm long
- Legs yellow at the ends
- Dark brown / black abdomen with a yellow / orange band on 4th segment
- Head dark from above, orange from front
- Dark coloured antennae
- Entirely black velvety thorax
- Never active at night

Actual size



Q. Rome

European hornet (*Vespa crabro*)

- Queen up to 35mm long, worker up to 30mm long
- Legs brown at the ends
- Yellow abdomen marked with brown on the upper part, not banded
- Head yellow from above, yellow from front
- Yellow antennae
- Thorax black with extensive brown markings
- May be active at night

Actual size



Roger Burgess

Mia Tonge, National Bee Unit

Giant woodwasp (*Urocerus gigas*)

- Larger than Asian hornet, female up to 45mm long
- Legs yellow
- Distinctive yellow and black banded abdomen
- Long cylindrical body unlike Asian hornet which has an obvious waist
- Long yellow antennae
- Female has an obvious long sting-like appendage (ovipositor) which it uses to lay eggs in trees

Actual size



Q. Rome

Hornet mimic hoverfly (*Volucella zonaria*)

- Abdomen has more yellow stripes than Asian hornet
- Legs darker than Asian hornets
- Only one pair of wings (hornets and wasps have two pairs)
- Large, globular eyes

Actual size



Didier Descouens

Alvesgaspar

Median wasp (*Dolichovespula media*)

- More extensive yellow and orange colouration on abdominal segments than Asian hornet
- Yellow markings on thorax unlike Asian hornet

Actual size



Q. Rome

Field Signs

Active April-November (peak August/September). Mated queens over winter singly or in groups, in various natural and man-made harbourages – underneath tree bark in cavities left by beetle larvae, in soil, on ceramic plant pots – potentially any small, well-insulated refuge. Makes very large nests in tall trees in urban and rural areas, but avoids pure stands of conifers. Will use man made structures (garages, sheds etc.) as nesting sites.



For more information visit:

www.nonnativespecies.org

www.nationalbeeunit.com

Alert!

Report sightings of this species online at:
www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet
 by email alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk
 or through the iPhone and Android recording app:
Asian Hornet Watch

INVASIVE NON-NATIVE WATER PLANT ALERT

Waterway users entering or using drains and rivers in the Middle Level network are urgently asked be aware of the need to prevent the spread of Floating Pennywort, an invasive non-native water plant that is present in the Bedford Ouse, the Old West River, the River Cam, the Ely Ouse and the Tidal River Ouse, including the Denver Sluice area. It is highly invasive and grows very aggressively during warm conditions in summer. It remains green through much of the winter. It forms thick floating mats spreads easily when small or large fragments are broken off and float to new sites. It out-competes other plant species and by blocking out light inhibits the ability of native insects, plants and their dependant animals and fish to survive.

As far as we know, it is currently not present in the Middle Level system and we are very keen to prevent it becoming established in a new catchment. **Well Creek is one of the most vulnerable waterways for it to be carried into.**

We are seeking the help of everyone that has any contact with waterways to prevent Floating Pennywort entering the Middle Level system and to be alert and **report any early signs of it so that it can be controlled at an early stage.**

Boat owners entering the Middle Level from the Denver Sluice direction are particularly asked to ensure there are no fragments of vegetation being carried into Well Creek on propellers, anchor chains or any other means. It is requested that propellers, drive shafts and water intake filters are checked **before** entering Salters Lode Locks. Before approaching the locks at Salters Lode in the Tidal River Ouse channel it is requested that back-thrusting (putting the propeller briefly in reverse) is carried out at least twice, when safely possible, to throw off any vegetation attached. If any fragments of vegetation are found in the water filter or any part of the boat they should be carefully placed in an air-tight plastic bag tied closed until they can be deeply buried in a site away from water that will not be disturbed. Anglers moving tackle and equipment from other areas, especially the South Level, River Cam etc. should ensure no vegetation is carried into the Middle Level. Internal Drainage Board members and staff, anglers, dog walkers, riverside joggers, birdwatchers and all water users can help by being on the alert for signs of the plant in the system by studying the attached identification sheet and reporting any suspected signs to any or all of the contacts below.

Peter Beckenham, Conservation Officer, Middle Level Commissioners.

Office 01354 602965. Mobile 07765 597775 peter.beckenham@middlelevel.gov.uk

Also contact the EA at their 24/7 hotline 0800 80 70 60

Further biosecurity information can be viewed at

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/biosecurity-for-anglers.cfm>

Floating Pennywort

Species Description

Scientific name: *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*
AKA: Dail-ceiniog arnofiol (Welsh), *Hydrocotyle nova zealandiae*
Native to: North America
Habitat: Emergent or floating on the surface of still or slowly moving freshwater

Free-floating or rooted. The characteristic leaves and growth form help to make this plant easy to identify. It is found mostly in the south-east of England and occasionally in the north-west of England and Wales. Spreading rapidly.

First naturalised in 1990 as a result of discarded plants from garden ponds. Can grow up to 20cm per day and may quickly dominate a waterbody forming thick mats and impeding water flow and amenity use. May out-compete native species by blocking out light, causing deoxygenation, obstructing air breathing insects from reaching the water surface and reducing water temperatures.

Floating pennywort is listed under Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with respect to England, Wales and Scotland. As such, it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause this species to grow in the wild.

For details of legislation go to www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation.



Key ID Features

Grows horizontally



Leaves can be floating or emergent

Shiny, kidney-shaped leaves with crinkled edge, frequently broader than long



Fleshy stalks

Fine roots



Up to 7cm

Identification throughout the year

Varies little throughout the year, although in the winter it is most likely to be found at the water's edge. Tiny white flowers are rare, but if present, they appear between July and August.

Distribution

Common in the south-east of England, and spreading to other parts of the British Isles.

Source: NBN Gateway. Check website for current distribution



Similar Species

Marsh Pennywort
Native
(*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*)



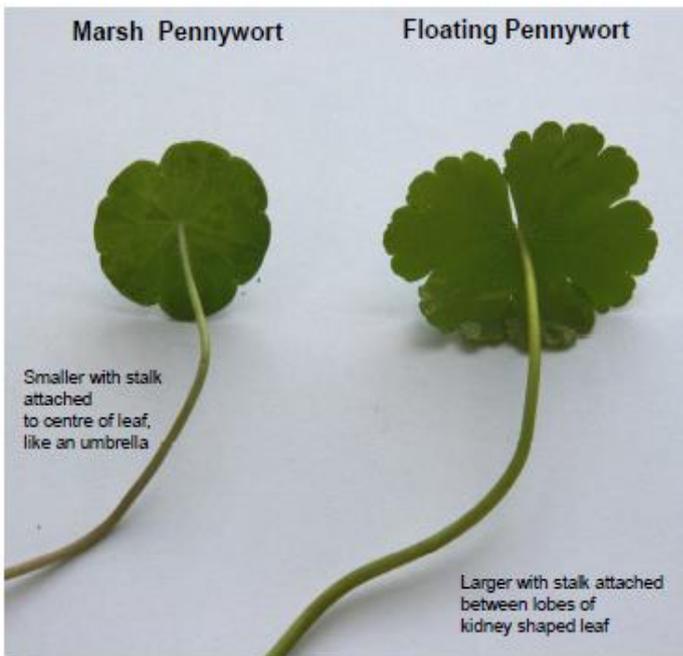
Grows on damp ground in bogs and fens. Always rooted in the ground, never free-floating

Floating Pennywort can form dense mats that need to be physically removed



Marsh Pennywort

Floating Pennywort



Smaller with stalk attached to centre of leaf, like an umbrella

Larger with stalk attached between lobes of kidney shaped leaf

References and further reading:

Blamey, M, Fitter, R and Fitter, A (2003) *The Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland. The Complete Guide to the British and Irish Flora.* A & C Black

Preston, C D and Croft, J M (1997) *Aquatic plants in Britain and Ireland.* Harley Books

Preston, C D, Pearman D A and Dines, T A (editors) (2002) *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora.* Oxford University Press

Stace, C (1999) *Field Flora of the British Isles.* Cambridge University Press

Photos from: Olaf Booy, Richard Lansdown (RL), Mike McCabe, British Waterways

Swavesey Internal Drainage Board

Notice of conclusion of the audit

Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2018

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 /234)

- 1 The Audit of accounts for the Swavesey Internal Drainage Board for the year ended 31st March 2018 has been concluded and the accounts published.
- 2 The Annual Governance & Accountability Return is available for inspection by any local government elector of the area of Swavesey Internal Drainage Board on application to:

The Clerk
Swavesey Internal Drainage Board
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambridgeshire
PE15 0AH

between the hours of 9.00am and 4.00pm on Mondays to Fridays (excluding public holidays), when any local elector may make copies of the Annual Return.
- 3 Copies will be provided to any local elector on payment of £2.40 for each copy of the Annual Return

Announcement made by: D C Thomas - Clerk to the Board

Date of Announcement: 12th September 2018

Annual Internal Audit Report 2017/18

SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

This authority's internal auditor, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls to be in operation during the financial year ended 31 March 2018.

The internal audit for 2017/18 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. (For local councils only)			
Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

22/06/18

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

WHITING & PARTNERS INTERNAL AUDITOR

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

M. Hayden
SIGNATURE REQUIRED
Whiting & Partners

Date

30/06/2018

**** SEE ATTACHED SHEET FOR ITEMS NOT DIRECTLY COVERED THIS YEAR**

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Swavesey Internal Drainage Board **Year Ended 31st March 2018**
Supplementary Schedule – Regarding “Not Covered” in Year per Annual Return

Internal Control Objective Section	Date of most recent summary audit work carried out on this area	Date of most recent detailed audit work carried out on this area	Date when next planned detailed audit work will commence
A	Year ended 31/03/2018		
B	Year ended 31/03/2018	Year ended 31/03/2017	Year ending 31/03/2020
C	Year ended 31/03/2018		
D	Year ended 31/03/2018	Year ended 31/03/2016	Year ending 31/03/2019
E	Year ended 31/03/2018	Year ended 31/03/2017	Year ending 31/03/2020
F	Year ended 31/03/2018	N/A – no petty cash	N/A – no petty cash
G	Year ended 31/03/2018	N/A – no employees	N/A – no employees
H	Year ended 31/03/2018	Year ended 31/03/2016	Year ending 31/03/2019
I	Year ended 31/03/2018		
J	Year ended 31/03/2018		

Our internal review work for the year ended 31st March 2018 is based on a combination of annual whole system review, annual analytical review and other works; this is in addition to the more detailed sampling methodology outlined above, carried out on a planned cyclical basis as modified if appropriate in light of the current year assessment.

Conclusion

From our work carried out, the internal control objectives listed above are satisfactory for the year ended 31/03/2018.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

M Haydon – Whiting & Partners

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Date

Whiting & Partners

7-9-2018



PARTNERS

Philip W Peters FCA
Mark A Haydon CA
James G Gable FCA
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J James Harrison FCA

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Christopher D Pinyan FCA
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Ian G C Piper FCA
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ASSOCIATES

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Stephen D Malin CAT
Paul M Jefferson ACA

PRACTICE MANAGER

Leah Topley

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Bury St. Edmunds Ely Godmanchester King's Lynn March Mildenhall Peterborough Ramsey St Ives St Neots Wisbech

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

We acknowledge as the members of:

SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2018, that:

	Agreed		*Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
			<i>has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.</i>

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified.

This Annual Governance Statement is approved by this authority and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

dated 21/06/2018

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval is given:

Chairman  SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk  SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Other information required by the Transparency Codes (not part of Annual Governance Statement)
Authority web address

AUTHORITY WEBSITE ADDRESS

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2017/18 for

SWAVESBY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2017 £	31 March 2018 £	
1. Balances brought forward	86,583	92,113	<i>Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.</i> Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	19,389	19,389	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	5,129	4,074	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	0	0	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	18,988	24,833	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	92,113	90,743	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	92,657	93,297	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	513,000	513,000	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. <i>N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.</i>

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2018 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return present fairly the financial position of this authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

19th June 2018

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

29/06/2018

and recorded as minute reference:

MIN 19-49 REFERENCE

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where approval of the Accounting Statements is given

Signature REQUIRED

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2017/18

In respect of **Swavesey Internal Drainage Board DB0108**

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2018; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work **does not** constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

2 External auditor report 2017/18

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with *Proper Practices* and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

- The annual internal audit report focuses on ten internal control objectives covering an authority's key financial and accounting systems and concludes whether, in all significant respects, the internal control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the authority. We note that the internal auditor has not provided a conclusion on the following internal control objectives: B, D, E and H. The annual internal audit report will inform the authority's response to assertions 2 and 6 in the annual governance statement. As a result, the authority must ensure that assurance that has not been provided via these control objectives has been sought elsewhere.

3 External auditor certificate 2017/18

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2018.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date

08/09/2018

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews for 2017/18 in Auditor Guidance Note AGN02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

MNH/BB/SAB/MM053

27 July 2018

Messrs. D Thomas and R Hill
Middle Level Offices
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambs.
PE15 0AH

Dear Messrs. D Thomas, R. Hill and S Ablett,

Internal Drainage Boards - Internal Audit 2017-2018

Having completed the internal audit for the various Internal Drainage Boards administered by the Middle Level Commissioners officers for the year ended 31 March 2018, we are pleased to provide you with the following recommendations to be considered for implementation. We have included some general points and some points which are related to specific boards.

General Points

1. Surplus Balances

In the prior year we were pleased to note that you had taken on our earlier recommendation to place surplus balances in interest yielding accounts. However, these were short term deposits and it does not appear that in this audit year these have been reinvested. This has resulted in a noticeable drop off in interest income for the number of IDB's this year.

Due to a number of the IDB's holding significant cash reserves we would recommend these surplus balances are reinvested in order to achieve a greater return on public funds.

Comment:

Investment opportunities are kept under review, but during the period, interest rates again reduced, which led to further restrictions in relation to investments. During this period, the minimum balance to invest with approved bodies increased to £1m, which was beyond the ability to access for individual boards.

Cont....



PARTNERS

Philip M Peters FCA
Mark N Haydon CA
James D Cater FCA
Paul N Tatham FCA
J James Harrison FCA

Andrew P Winards FCA
Christopher D Ridgeon FCCA
Richard C Meadows FCA
Ian G O Piper FCA
Christopher P Kelly FCA

Barbara Nicholas CTA
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Keith J Day FCCA
Aminda E Newman FCA

ASSOCIATES

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Stephen D Millett CAT
Paul M Jefferson FCA
Chris J Yarrow FCCA

PRACTICE MANAGER

June Proctor

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Bury St. Edmunds

Ely

Godmanchester

King's Lynn

March

Mildenhall

Peterborough

Ramsey

St Ives

St Neots

Wisbech

2. Risk Management

- (a) We are pleased to note that each board is undertaking a formal risk management strategy and reviewing this on a regular basis. In its current form the risk management document presented annually to the board does not show evidence of when the individual risks were last reviewed. We would recommend that this is documented going forward to prove regular reviews are occurring.
- (b) As you are aware there is increasingly more risk and regulations surrounding digital systems and the retention of sensitive data. We note that currently within your risk management strategy there is no specific areas that cover IT security and data management (which has increasingly come into the spotlight as a result of the introduction of GDPR regulations in May 2018). We would strongly recommend that this area is addressed swiftly, so as to ensure that there are adequate procedures in place to avoid and/or deal with data breaches that could lead to significant regulatory penalties under the new General Data Protection Regulations.

Comment:

Each individual Board has a risk register which is reviewed at 5 year intervals. Between this process the Boards review the annual risk management process at meetings to all areas are covered.

Within the current risk register there are two identified risks:

- Computer Programming services & Telemetry Installations,
- Critical incident loss of data

Both of which are managed by the Middle Level Commissioners. As part of the process for the introduction of GDPR, the administered Boards appointed the Middle Level Commissioners solicitor as Data Protection Officer who carried out a review of current procedures which will be updated along with the risk registers if considered necessary.

3. Opera Bank Reconciliations

As in prior years we have noticed that there are still issues with the Opera bank reconciliation function, as such in some cases the Opera unreconciled reports do not tie back to the main cashbook reconciliation. We are aware that this is a software issue and not down to human error. In all cases with the assistance of the manual reconciliation provided, no differences were identified in the year end bank and cash figures.

Comment:

As referred to, this is a minor software glitch associated with system shut-downs at the time transactions being processed, with part of the transaction getting on the unreconciled report. We should now be able to have these postings rectified remotely by our software provided through our maintenance agreements, but this is obviously done after the event. As mentioned, these do not constitute an error with the transaction postings which require any adjustments to the accounting ledgers.

4. **Aged Creditors and Debtors**

We are pleased to note that in most boards old debtors and creditors have been addressed and cleared, however there remains items in some IDB's that exceed the legal time limit for the life of debt (6 years). As such we would urge you to review these older balances owing/owed and write back as appropriate. Where items are significantly aged but not written back we would suggest justification of this is shown on the debtors and creditors schedule as part of the accounts preparation process.

Comment:

Detailed schedules are kept and reviewed annually, with appropriate actions taken.

5. **Published Minutes**

As in the prior year we have identified some isolated errors between the published minutes on the Commissioners website and the underlying accounts, in all cases the error was with the published minutes. As such we would suggest that the figures to be published are reviewed rigorously prior to publication in order to avoid this happening going forward.

Comment:

The point relates to the transposition of figures from one format to another and had been previously identified and further procedures put in place to minimise the risk.

6. **Rate Software**

As in prior year we are satisfied that the rate software is operating as expected. However, on enquiry we understand that the programme is still not being used to its full capabilities as a result of it not being fully linked to the Opera software. This was highlighted in the prior year and therefore we question whether the system is delivering full value for money to the boards and ratepayers as it appears the system is effectively being used in the same way as the preceding system.

As mentioned in the prior year's management letter it was identified that only one member of staff has a working knowledge of the new rates system and is the only member of staff who can access the programme. This could lead to great operational impact if the employee became indisposed or decided to leave the organisation. As such we would urge that further users are trained to avoid over reliance on one member of staff and promote segregation of duties.

Comment:

The installation/commissioning of the new software took longer than initially anticipated and through this process the software was restricted to one workstation, the software is currently on two workstations, both of which are used. There is an operational manual for the operation of the software and staff are required to keep an updated procedures manual for their areas of work. During the installation of the new software, the other finance officer was on maternity leave so it was not possible for her to be trained in its operation at the same time. There continue to be delays in getting the software fully integrated with the accounting software and training will continue to give additional cover.

7. ADA Subscription

We notice that ADA subscription appear not to be accounted for on an accruals basis, as the subscription run in line with the calendar year and not an accounting year. As such we would suggest going forward that all boards adopt the accruals concept for these subscriptions. It is noted on review that there is not material difference between cost and accruals bases on recalculation due to the minimal year-on-year variance in subscription cost; therefore this is merely to ensure consistency of approach.

Comment:

The approach to dealing with these subscriptions had been consistent but was highlighted following a number of boards withdrawing their annual subscriptions and then re-commencing leaving a 'gap'. A schedule has been drawn up to ensure a consistent approach moving forward.

8. Bank Reconciliation Verification

During the course of auditing IDB's, it appears that the verification on the bank reconciliation for the first two months of the year has not been done, in addition on some boards the year end bank reconciliation had not been verified. We understand that this is a busy time for the accounts department, due to the preparation of the Accounts and Annual Returns for the year for a number of IDB's. However, this could lead to potential material errors or manipulations if checks are not carried out. As such we would strongly suggest that concerted effort is made to resolve this issue in the coming year.

Comment:

Concerning the first quarter of the financial year the bank statements are reconciled monthly by input into the accounting software, it not being possible to proceed without the reconciliation being complete, but, due to work-loads finalising year end accounts during this period it is not possible to carry out the manual reconciliation check, which is then done at the end of the first quarter. This matter has been discussed further and additional processes will be put in place for the first quarter of the next financial year. With regards to the verification of year end bank reconciliations, this is an "administration" error in that the reconciliations have been completed, together with all supporting documents for the preparation of the year end accounts, but the statement had not been signed. Again, we have looked at this for future procedures.

9. Building Insurance

We note from the property insurance schedule provided that the buildings (excluding pumping stations) were last revalued for insurance purposes in 2012. We would suggest that due to residential and commercial property values increasing in recent times that the buildings owned by the IDB's would be worth more in today's market and could therefore potentially be slightly underinsured. As such we would suggest that, as with the pumping stations in 2015, the IDB's with such property revalue for insurance purposes and carry out regular revaluations going forward.

Comment:

Residential property insured valuation were reviewed by Board chairman during February 2018 (Middle Level Commissioners had valuations carried out by Maxey Grounds) and revisions were, where approved, put in place for insured values as from 1 April 2018.

10. District Officer Fee

We understand that in some circumstances additional work from the District Office is required over and above the fee level agreed in the minutes at the beginning of each financial year, leading to additional fees. We would recommend that should this situation arise, any amounts over and above that agreed within the minutes need to be minuted and specifically authorised by Chairman.

Comment:

The main issue relates to the situation if additional works have been carried out, which are included on the same invoice from the officer. This has been looked at and additional procedures will be put in place concerning this.

11. IT Security

We are pleased to note that you have taken on board our prior recommendations and that all staff have been provided with their own passwords and login details, this has ensured accountability of work carried out within the accounting and rates systems.

12. Amalgamated IDBs

We are also pleased to note that all NS&I accounts for the amalgamated IDB's has been updated and there are no accounts for previously separate IDB's still active.

Specific Point(s)

Sutton & Mepal IDB

We note that the depreciation charges in relation to additions from the previous year, calculated in the prior year on a pro-rata basis from the date of acquisition, have not been changed in the current year to reflect a full years charge. This does not affect the figures for the annual return as assets are shown at deemed cost. We have communicated this during the course of the audit and note that the error will be adjusted on the next year accounts.

Finally we take this opportunity to thank your staff involved in our audit for their assistance and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Whiting & Partners

Whiting & Partners



To the Clerks, Internal Drainage Boards

Date: 24 April 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

IDB Annual Report for year ending 31 March 2018.

Please find enclosed a copy of the above statutory form to be completed and returned by 31 August 2018 for the Board(s) that you manage.

We are sending the form to you by email and we should be grateful if you would complete the form electronically. Please see further below for instructions on completing the form.

Changes since 2017

As you may know Defra has worked with ADA, IDBs and other stakeholders (EA, NE, CLA, NFU, RSPB) to update the IDB1 form, particularly in light of the NAO report into IDBs published in March 2017. We have amended/included the following:-

- Page 2: - under income, we have included lines for PSCAs (6) and Loans (7);
- Page 3: - under expenditure, we have included lines for PSCAs (17), developers funds income not applied in year (24), grant income not applied in year (25).
- Page 4: - we have included full guidance notes for all the expenditure entries;
- Page 5:- there are new questions under biodiversity and we have added in questions on SSSIs;
- Page 6: - new questions have been added under Asset Management and there are new questions on Health and Safety;
- Page 7: new questions under Guidance and Best Practice;
- Page 8: new questions on number of complaints, public engagements and percentage of drainage rates outstanding at year end.
- Page 9: new guidance notes in Section B



Completion Instructions

In order to ensure consistency of the responses and ensure we capture the correct information, when you complete the yes and no answers, please could you follow these instructions:-

Depending on whether your response is yes or no - click on the relevant yes/no box, by right clicking on that box and then when the box pops up – click on properties – you will see within the box under default values that it is “not unchecked”, please click on “checked” and then OK – this will then leave a X in the box to indicate your reply.

We should be grateful if you would submit the form by email to our shared email box at floodreports@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Copies should also be sent to the Environment Agency via rachael.hill@environment-agency.gov.uk.

In accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the transparency code for smaller authorities, we are looking to IDBs to publish their completed IDB1 forms on their websites.

If you have any queries about completing the form, please do not hesitate to contact Suja Ratnasingham, Business Support Unit at Sujahini.ratnasingham@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,



Carol Tidmarsh, Flood Risk Management



Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2018

The Law – the following annual report is provided in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to the Land Drainage Act 1991.

No later than 31 August 2018 a copy must be provided to:

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Flood Management Division, Floor 3, Seacole, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF via floodreports@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- National Flood and Coastal Risk Manager (Strategic Delivery), The Environment Agency, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH via rachael.hill@environment-agency.gov.uk
- The Chief Executives of:
 - all local authorities that pay special levies to the Board;
 - all County Councils or London Boroughs within which the Board is situated.

Please complete the form electronically. If you are unable to complete the form electronically, please complete in BLOCK LETTERS using **black ink**.

Please round all cash figures down to nearest whole £.

SWAVESEY

Internal Drainage Board

Section A – Financial information

Preliminary information on special levies issued by the Board for 2018- 19

Information requested below is essential in calculating future formula spending share. It is not covered elsewhere on this form or by the external auditor's certificate.

Special levies information for financial year 2018-19 (forecast)	
Name of local authority	2018-19 forecast £
1. SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL	6,298
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
Total	6,298

Section A – Financial information (continued)

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2018

All Internal Drainage Boards must ensure that the Income and Expenditure information provided below is consistent with the Board's annual accounting statements which have been prepared in accordance with proper practices found in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – A Practitioners' Guide to proper practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory annual accounts and governance statements March 2017*

	Notes	Year ending 31 March 2018 £
INCOME		
1. Drainage Rates		13,091
2. Special Levies		6,298
3. Higher Land Water Contributions from the Environment Agency		3,708
4. Contributions received from developers/other beneficiaries		300
5. Government Grants (includes capital grants from EA and levy contributions)		0
6. PSCAs from EA and other RMAs		0
7. Loans		0
8. Rechargeable Works		0
9. Interest and Investment Income		67
10. Rents and Acknowledgements		0
11. Other Income		0
Total income		23,464
EXPENDITURE		
12. New Works and Improvement Works		0
13. Total precept to the Environment Agency		1,644
14. Watercourse maintenance		13,650
15. Pumping Stations, Sluices and Water level control structures		3,002
16. Administration		5,146
17. PSCAs		0
18. Rechargeable Works		0
19. Finance Charges		0
20. SSSIs		0
21. IDB Biodiversity and conservation (other than item 20 expenditure)		678
22. Other Expenditure		714
Total expenditure		24,834

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS		
23. Profits/(losses) arising from the disposal of fixed assets		0
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		-1,370
24. Developers Funds income not applied in year		32,288
25. Grant income not applied in year		0

Notes:

11. Include all other Income, such as absorption account surpluses (for example plant and labour absorption accounts).
12. State the gross cost of undertaking minor capital works that have not been capitalised and the annual depreciation charges of all major schemes that have been capitalised. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the schemes.
13. State the total precept demanded for the year as properly issued by the Environment Agency, in accordance with section 141 of the Water Resources Act 1991. Providing that the precept has been properly issued as before stated it should always be included here, even when the Board has appealed against the amount of contribution, in accordance with section 140 of the Water Resources Act 1991. Where the Board knows with certainty the outcome of any such appeal, it should also include the appropriate accrual/prepayment.
14. State all costs associated with the maintenance of watercourses, meaning work associated with open channels, pipelines, culverts, bridges, etc. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the maintenance programme.
15. State all costs associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures.
16. Include the cost of non-technical staff only, office accommodation, annual depreciation of office equipment that has been capitalised, minor office equipment that has not been capitalised, postages, telecoms', stationery, printing, advertising, auditing of accounts, general insurances and all other costs associated with supporting the organisation. Please note that this does not include support costs, which are directly associated with the delivery of front line services.
17. State all costs associated with the PSCA
18. State all costs associated with undertaking work for third parties. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with undertaking the rechargeable work.
19. Include the cost of servicing any borrowing, in terms of bank/loan/hire purchase Interest payable.
20. State all costs associated with undertaking works – capital or maintenance – specifically for helping to achieve favourable condition on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). In most cases, these costs will be incurred in implementing actions set out in SSSI Water Level Management Plans or SSSI River Restoration Plans.

21. State all costs associated with undertaking works – capital or maintenance – that are likely intended to help conserve biodiversity (other than works on SSSIs). These costs are likely to be incurred in implementing actions set out in an IDB’s Biodiversity Action Plan or other conservation actions on non-designated sites.
22. Include all other expenditure, such as a provision for bad/doubtful debts, write-offs, and absorption account deficits (for example plant and labour absorption accounts).
23. For the disposal of assets, state the difference between any proceeds from the sale/disposal of the asset and the cost of the asset less accumulated depreciation.
24. Total balance of developer fund year end.
25. Unspent grant at year end.

Section B –IDB Reporting

Policy Delivery Statement

Boards are required to produce a publicly available policy statement setting out their plans for delivering the Government’s policy aims and objectives. It is recommended that these statements be published on Boards’ websites where they have them and reviewed every three years.

Is an up to date statement in place and copy (or weblink) provided to Defra, and EA?..... Yes No

Biodiversity

Please indicate whether your Board has a Biodiversity Action Plan.....Yes No

If “yes” is the Biodiversity Action Plan available on your website?.....Yes No

What year was your Biodiversity Action Plan last updated?).....

Have you reported progress on BAP implementation on your web site?.....Yes No

When was biodiversity last discussed at a Board meeting (date)?.....

Do you have a biosecurity process?.....Yes No

SSSI water level management plans

Please indicate whether your Board is responsible for any SSSI water level management plans?.....Yes No

If so, which ones:

Area of SSSI with IDB water level management plans.....

Area of SSSI where IDB water level management activities are contributing to recovering or favourable condition?

Area of SSSI where IDB water level management actions are required to achieve recovering or favourable condition?

Access to environmental expertise

Does your IDB have access to environmental expertise? If so please tick all those options below through which environmental expertise is regularly provided to your IDB:

Appropriately skilled Board Members (e.g. Board member from an Environmental Body/Authority)

Co-opted members

Directly employed staff

Contracted persons or consultants

Environmental Partners/NGOs

Other (please describe)

Asset Management

What system/database does your Board use to manage the assets it is responsible for?

ADIS

Paper Records

Other Electronic System

Has your Board continued to undertake visual inspections and update asset databases on an annual basis?

Yes

No

What is the cumulative total of identified watercourse (in km) that the Board periodically maintains?

How many pumping stations does the Board operate?

What is the cumulative design capacity of the Board's pumping station(s) (enter zero if no stations are operated)?

Health and Safety

Does the Board have a current Health and Safety policy in place?

Yes

No

Does the Board have a responsible officer for Health and Safety?

Yes

No

Have there been any reportable incidents in the past year?

Yes

No

If so, please summarise in the box below:

Guidance and Best Practice

Has your IDB adopted a formal Scheme of Delegation? Yes No

Has your IDB provided training for board members in the last year in the any of the following areas?

- Governance
- Finance
- Environment
- Health, safety and welfare
- Communications and engagement
- Other (please describe)

Is your Board’s website information current for this financial year? (Board membership, audited accounts, programmes of works, WLMPS, etc) Yes No

Has your IDB adopted computerised accounting and rating systems?..... Yes No

Has your board published all minutes of meetings on the website?..... Yes No

Does the Board publish information on its website on its approach to maintenance works and provide contact details to allow for and encourage public engagement? Yes No

When planning maintenance and capital works are environmental impacts taken into account and wherever possible best practice applied? Yes No

Has your Board adopted the following governance documents?

Standing Orders Yes No

Have the Standing Orders been approved by Ministers Yes No

Byelaws Yes No

If you have Byelaws, have you adopted the latest model byelaws published in 2012..... Yes No

Have the Byelaws been approved by Ministers..... Yes No

Code of Conduct for Board Members Yes No

Financial Regulations.....Yes No
 Register of Member's Interests.....Yes No
 Anti-fraud and corruption policy..... Yes No

Board membership and attendance

How many Board members (in total – elected and appointed) do you have on your IDB?	9
Seats available to appointed members under the Land Drainage Act 1991.	2
Number of elected members on the board at year end.	7
Number of appointed members on the board at year end.	2
Mean average number of elected members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	6
Mean average number of appointed members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	1

Have you held elections within the last three years?.....Yes No N/A
 Did elections comply with the requirements specified by the Secretary of State under Regulation 28 of the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938?..... Yes No N/A

Complaints procedure

Is the procedure for a member of the public to make a complaint about the IDB accessible from the front page of its website?.....Yes No

Number of complaints received in the financial year?	0
Number of complaints outstanding in the financial year?	0
Number of complaints referred to the Local Government Ombudsman?	0
Number of complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman?	0

Public Engagement

Set out what your Board has done in this financial year to engage with the public (tick relevant box(es) below):

Press releases
 Newsletters
 Web site
 Meetings
 Shows/events (including open days/inspections)
 Consultations
 Notices

Percentage (in value) of drainage rates outstanding at year end?

Section B: NOTES

Guidance and Best Practice

Has your Board published **all** minutes of meetings on the web site? In answering this question, this should apply to all the main Board meetings held in the year and any appropriate meetings the Board has held with external stakeholders.

Board membership and attendance

When referring to **elected members** of the Board, this relates to the number of landowners/drainage rate payers that are elected to the Board.

When referring to **appointed members** of the Board, this relates to the number of members appointed by the local authorities to represent the local council taxpayers.

When referring to mean average number of elected and appointed members in attendance at meetings at each board meeting – **this should be expressed as a number of attendees** and not as a percentage attendance.

With regard to elections, under Schedule 1 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, elected members should hold office for three years, at which point a further election is held. When elections are held, they should comply with the requirements under Regulation 28 of the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938 – to advertise and notify local stakeholders accordingly.

Section C – Declaration

SWAVESEY

Internal Drainage Board

I confirm that the information provided in sections A-C or with this form is correct.

Signature

Date

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

MISS SAMANTHA ABLETT

Designation

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Email address

ADMIN@MIDDLELEVEL.GOV.UK

SWAVESEY IDB
INSURED VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS

PUMPING STATIONS

As At
31st March 2019

High Causeway Pumping Station

513,000.00

513,000.00

Swavesey Internal Drainage Board

Payments made 2017/2018 (1st February 2018 - 31st March 2018)

Swavesey Memorial Hall - Room Hire	21.90
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of highland water claims	360.49
J W Burgess & Sons Ltd - Ditching work	288.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board reports, planning and development applications)	290.40
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	229.80
Middle Level Commissioners - Bank revetment works to Reach 1 to 2	743.61
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity supply to High Causeway pumping station	642.28
	<hr/> <hr/> 2,576.48

Payments made 2018/2019 (1st April 2018 - 31st January 2019)

Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Weed control and drain maintenance 2017/18, production of board report, planning and development applications)	1,319.56
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weed-screen cleaning equipment at pumping station	263.24
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery and Health and Safety contract	3,215.53
K & P J Wilderspin - Supervisors fee (2017/2018)	2,076.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	339.60
Environment Agency - Precept	834.50
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2017-2018	650.40
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	232.20
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to concrete bagged headwall at reach 7 - 11	1,227.58
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances	488.49
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	252.60
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)	209.40
Middle Level Commissioners - Binding of minutes (Account from Brignell Bookbinders)	92.40
PKF Littlejohn LLP - Audit fee (2017/2018 accounts)	240.00
Information Commissioner - Data Protection Registration renewal	40.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges,	2,136.44
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of highland water claims	343.31
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	252.60
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weed-screen cleaning equipment at pumping station	584.21
Environment Agency - Precept	834.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)	870.60
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	370.20
Middle Level Commissioners - Chemical weed control of District Drains	715.67
Lattenbury Services Ltd - Flail mowing	3,504.00
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity supply to High Causeway pumping station	1,348.72
	<hr/> <hr/> 22,441.75

(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)

SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET PROPOSAL 2019/2020

	<u>Estimated 2018/2019</u> £	<u>Probable Actual 2018/2019</u> £	<u>Budget proposal 2019/2020</u> £	<u>Remarks</u>	
1 Insurances	700	477	600	A - Includes: Repairs to weedscreen cleaner	487
2 Repairs and renewals	2,000	2,450 ^A	2,000	B - Includes engineers items	9,050
3 Fuel	2,250	2,000	2,250	C - Replace probe brackets and probes	
4 Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	12,000	7,500	12,000 ^B	D - Includes estimated highland water contributions based on probable out-turn	
5 Planning applications	1,750	1,750	1,750	E - Includes receipt of full calculated highland water contributions	
6 Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising etc	6,400	5,980	6,400	F - Includes: estimated highland water - estimated highland water contributions based on probable out-turn - Use of balances for improvement works at pumping station	1,500
7 Environment Agency - Precept	1,670	1,669	1,752		
8 Improvement works	0	0	1,500 ^C	G - Does not include provision for writing off rate arrears	
	26,770	21,826	28,252		
LESS Deposit Accounts interest, Highland Water contributions etc	3,504 ^D	3,649 ^E	4,986 ^F		
	23,266	18,177	23,266 ^G		

Estimated General Fund Opening Balance	49,262	49,262	50,474	
Rates Raised	19,389	19,389	23,266	Rate £0.840
Net Expenditure	23,266	18,177	23,266	
Use of balances	0	0		
Closing Balance	45,385	50,474	50,474	

Swavesey Internal Drainage Board

Rate and levy requirements

Under Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the appropriate proportions in which the net expenditure of the Board must be borne for 2019/2020 is:-

AREA 1

- a) Proportion to be borne by the Agricultural Sector – 62.42%
- b) Proportion to be borne by Special levy issued to South Cambridgeshire District Council – 37.58%.

The product of a rate of £1 in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £10,953.

AREA 2

- a) Proportion to be borne by the Agricultural Sector – 70.25%
- b) Proportion to be borne by Special levy issued to South Cambridgeshire District Council – 29.75%

The product of a rate of £1 in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £5,676.

AREA 3

All of the net expenditure must be borne by the Agricultural Sector.

The product of a rate of £1 in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £2,072.

The product of a rate of £1 in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £18,701.

A rate of £1 together with corresponding Special levy will raise £27,698.

EXPENDITURE

Estimated revenue cash balance in hand on 31st March 2019 £50,500.

The estimated net expenditure for the Boards Revenue and Capital Programmes in 2019/2020 is £23,266, is equivalent to:-

- a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of 84.00p and
- b) a Special levy on South Cambridgeshire District Council of £7,557.

The full rate raised in 2018/2019 was 70.00p in the £ and a Special levy of £6,298 was issued to South Cambridgeshire District Council to raise £19,389 against estimated expenditure of £23,266.

D C THOMAS
Clerk to the Board

January 2019