

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Warboys Somersham and Pidley Internal Drainage Board
held at the Lakeside Lodge, Pidley on Thursday the 6th June 2019

PRESENT

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| J German Esq (Chairman) | C Leadbetter Esq |
| M P England Esq (Vice Chairman) | G R Munns Esq |
| The Lord De Ramsey | Miss L C A Munns |
| A Edgley Esq | T E A Noble Esq |
| D J Edwards Esq | J M Short Esq |
| D W England Esq | D R Stokes Esq |
| I Johnson Esq | H W Whittome Esq |

Mr Robert Hill (representing the Clerk to the Board), Mr Richard Lloyd (representing the Consulting Engineers) and Mr Robert Wilmer (District Officer) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from D D Brown Esq, G J Bull Esq, C W King Esq and S W Whittome Esq.

B.1617 Declarations of Interest

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

The Vice Chairman declared an interest in minute no. B.1626.

Mr D England declared an interest in minute no. B.1626 and matters relating to the confidential papers.

B.1618 Confirmation of Minutes

Mr D England pointed out that at minute no. B.1592(iv), it was the Vice Chairman, Mr Mark England, who left the Inspection at this point and the minutes should be amended to reflect this.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the amendment, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 22nd November 2018 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1619 Flooding Incident – Red Tile Farm, Puddock Road

Further to minute B.1602, Mr Hill advised that this matter had been discussed at the recent Finance Committee meeting, where it had been reported that the last communication on file was in August 2018 and, as the matter had been reported to the Board's insurers, the Committee did not consider that any further action was required at that time. He reported however, that, within the

last week, a report had been received from the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman concerning a complaint made by the party concerned about the Board. Mr Hill reported that, following a review, the final decision of the Ombudsman was that he would not investigate the complaint as it was considered reasonable for this person to use other legal remedies available to him. Mr Hill reported that there was no further correspondence from him being recorded at the office.

RESOLVED

- i) That no further action be taken by the Board at this time.
- ii) That the Clerk be requested to refer this latest development to the Board's insurers to ensure that they were kept informed of current events.

B.1620 Election of Board Members

Mr Hill reported that the term of Office of the elected Members of the Board would expire on the 31st October 2019 and submitted the proposed Register of Electors applicable to the 2019 election.

The Chairman reported that it was his intention to stand down as Chairman at the next meeting of the Board, and, as it was an election year, it would be down to the new Board to appoint a Chairman.

RESOLVED

That the Register be approved.

B.1621 Deaths on Puddock Road – Road Safety Scheme

Further to minute B.1553, Mr Hill reported that there was no further correspondence from Cambridgeshire County Council recorded on file concerning this matter.

The District Officer reported that some improvements had been made to the road and new signs had been erected.

B.1622 Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.1596, the Board considered their updated Byelaws.

RESOLVED

That the updated Byelaws be adopted.

B.1623 Outbuildings at Puddock Pumping Station

Further to minute B.1598, the Chairman reported that the outbuildings had been sold at auction; that £120,171.00 had been received, sale/auction fees were £984 and other legal agent fees were £3,795.

He further reported that a container unit had been purchased for £2,053 and £445 had been spent on electricity and lighting for the unit.

Mr Hill reported that the Board had previously resolved to fund all costs in relation to the sale from the Development Account and to refund these when the building was sold and that the net sale proceeds should be ring-fenced for future capital investment.

He informed the meeting that in the year-end accounts, the proceeds of the sale had been put into the Development Account and it was the recommendation of the Finance Committee to then use these proceeds to fund improvement works at High Fen pumping station.

RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman be approved.

B.1624 Gate at Fenton Lode – Point 14

Further to minute B.1599, the Chairman reported that, following the last Board meeting, he had obtained quotations for the supply and installation of a gate and had instructed A1 fencing to supply and erect a 6m galvanised gate for the price of £1,165.

RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman be approved.

B.1625 Replacement Excavator Machine

Further to minute 1600, the Chairman reported that he had not been able to locate a suitable second-hand machine but had recently been in contact with Mervyn Lambert Plant, who thought they would have a suitable machine available within the next few days. Members discussed the current age of the Board's machine and its likely trade-in value. In response to the Vice Chairman, the Chairman confirmed there would likely be additional costs in making adaptations in relation to the additional equipment the Board had for its current machine. Mr Johnson queried if £30,000 would be sufficient to change machines.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Chairman monitor the possible purchase of a second hand excavator and trade-in of the Board's existing machine.
- ii) That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to replace the Board's excavator should a suitable machine become available for up to £30,000 trade-in value. Should the trade-in be in excess of this then the Finance Committee be authorised to approve any further actions.

B.1626 Abandoned Sluice Structure – Point 157

Further to minute B.1606, the Chairman updated the meeting on the discussions of the Finance Committee. Mr D England queried the possible location of a structure in relation to the benefits it would give to water levels. The District Officer reported that there had only been

problems concerning water levels in the area due to severe weather conditions. He considered it would be difficult to change levels if a structure was put in place.

The Vice Chairman considered that in severe weather conditions it was important to have a structure to be able to manage levels and reported that if a new structure was installed the temporary earth dam could then be removed.

Mr D England considered that a structure with boards or a control mechanism would give the Board the ability to control flows in either direction, if required. Members considered that the temporary earth dam needed to be removed and a proper control structure put in place.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mr D England and the District Officer be authorised to have a site inspection to identify the most appropriate location and for a new water control structure to be installed at this point.

(NB) - The Vice Chairman and Mr D England declared interests when this item was discussed.

B.1627 Proposed Conservation Area – Point 144 – Madeleine’s Patch Nature Reserve

Further to minute B.1614, the Chairman reported that, following the responses of the Board to the options put forward, there was a majority in favour of the Board to funding an otter holt and kingfisher structure for installation in the Board’s drain. However, as there had been such strong views expressed and there was only a small majority in support, he and the Vice Chairman had considered that the Board should only fund the structures if they were to be installed within the conservation area and not the Board’s drain. Mr Parnwell had been informed of this and the Chairman was currently awaiting his response.

RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman and Vice Chairman be approved.

B.1628 Culvert to the rear of former Lafarge Site

Further to minute B.1615, the Chairman reported that this matter had not yet been attended to but that it was intended to put some clay material around the culvert in the autumn as part of the drain maintenance programme to address the issues.

B.1629 Finance Committee

Members considered the minutes of the Meetings of the Finance Committee held on the 20th May 2019.

RESOLVED

- i) That the minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 20th May 2019 be approved.
- ii) That the actions taken by the Finance Committee be approved.

iii) That the Board approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee save as to the rate as this would be considered later on the agenda.

B.1630 Charges for hire of plant when engaged on private work

Consideration was given to whether any revisions were necessary in the Board's charges for hiring of plant for private work (last reviewed – June 2018).

(i) Doosan DX 140W Excavator

Present charge - £35 per hour in the District) (inclusive of operator's wages)
£40 per hour outside the District)

(ii) Flail Mower

Present charge - £40 per hour inside the District) (inclusive of operator's wages)
£45 per hour outside the District)

The Finance Committee recommended to the Board that the hire charges remain as at present.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be adopted

B.1631 Clerk's Report

Mr Hill advised:-

i) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a third Chair's Meeting was held on the 11th March 2019 and that discussions at this centred around:-

- 1) The provision of increased support to IDBs on Health and Safety management and control.
- 2) The Future investment planning for the Lower River Great Ouse catchment.
- 3) Future planning for IDBs and DDCs administered by the Middle Level Commissioners.
- 4) Member training.

One option for future Board arrangements discussed at the second and third meetings was the subject of a briefing paper.

Mr Hill outlined the background to the briefing paper.

Mr Edgley queried any possible benefits of a single Board and considered it was vital for Boards to retain local knowledge.

The Chairman reported that the main area of discussion at the meeting was in relation to the duplication of paperwork for individual Boards.

Mr H Whittome referred to the long-term viability of a large number of small drainage Boards and the paper had been drafted to promote discussion about the future direction for Boards.

Lord de Ramsey considered that amalgamations were a natural part of the evolution of drainage authorities and that it was likely that they would continue at their own pace. He stressed that all Boards needed to ensure they remain practical and efficient.

RESOLVED

To discuss the matter further at the next meeting of the Board.

ii) Applications for byelaw consent

That the following applications for consent to undertake works in and around watercourses had been approved and granted since the last general meeting of the Board:-

| <u>Name of Applicant</u> | <u>Description of Works</u> | <u>Date consent granted</u> |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| G W England & Son | Installation of 2 No. Field underdrain outfalls in the District Drain between points 131 and 157 in Warboys High Fen | 7 th February 2019 |
| James German | Piping and filling of approx. 6 metres of Board's District Watercourse close to Point 117. Also installation of underground electric cable over pipe. | 16 th April 2019 |
| A & E G Heading Ltd | Installation of 16 No. field underdrain outfalls in the District Drain between points 181 and 158 in the Warboys Tick Fen area. | 24 th April 2019 |

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consents be approved.

(NB) – The Chairman and Mr D England declared interests when this item was discussed.

iii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

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

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 was held on Tuesday the 12th March 2019. The meeting format was changed this year and included a morning workshop session led by the EA. Topics covered were water resources, PSCAs and future planning of FRM. Robert Caudwell spoke for ADA in the afternoon followed by talks from Brian Stewart, the FRCC Chair, Paul Burrows, the FRM Area Manager and Claire Jouvray, the Operations Delivery Manager.

That the date of the next meeting is Tuesday the 3rd March 2020.

c) 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 has been included with this agenda and can be downloaded from the ADA website.

That ADAs workshops were well attended and are helping to deal with the questions being raised by Defra following the Audit Commission Report which criticized aspects of IDB governance. At least one member of this Board attended one of the two local workshops in the area and hence the Board will be able to record in the IDB1 Defra return that training has been provided on Governance. In addition to governance Defra appear to expect over time that training will be given for the following; Finance, Environment, Health, safety and welfare and Communications and engagement. The Board may wish to consider an order of priority for future training and a timetable for delivery.

d) Workstreams

That ADA annually review their workstreams and an update is included.

iv) 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 maximised in stressed years.

v) The New Rivers Authorities & Land Drainage Bill

That this Bill has completed its Committee stage in the House of Commons and passed through its Third Reading. It has now started its progression through the House of Lords.

The Bill, which has been prepared by Defra, aims to put the Somerset Rivers Authority onto a statutory footing as a precepting body, but it would also enable the reform of IDB ratings annual value lists. It does this by recognising the need to ensure that the methodology through which IDBs calculate and collect drainage rates and special levy sits on a sound legal basis that can be periodically updated to contemporary values better reflecting current land and property valuation.

With the above in mind ADA has been working with Defra and a number of IDBs to test a new methodology using contemporary valuation and Council Tax lists that could be applied via this legislative change.

vi) Environment Agency consultation on changes to the Anglia (Central) RFCC

That a consultation is taking place on the constitution of three RFCCs following a formal proposal for two new unitary authorities to be formed in Northamptonshire (West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire) has been submitted to the Government for consideration. If approved these authorities would coming into existence on the 1 April 2020.

In Buckinghamshire the decision to create a single unitary authority replacing the existing five councils has been made by the Government, subject to Parliamentary approval. It would come into existence on the 1 April 2020.

Each new authority will be a unitary authority, delivering all local government services in their respective areas, including their functions as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFAs).

The membership of Thames RFCC, Anglian (Central) RFCC, and Anglian (Northern) RFCC currently includes representation from one or both of the existing county councils. To reflect the changes proposed the membership of all three RFCC will need to be varied before 1 December 2019.

At the same time to better reflect a catchment-based approach it is proposed to change the name of Anglian (Central) RFCC to Anglian (Great Ouse) RFCC. ADA has stated that it supports the naming revision.

B.1632 Consulting Engineer's Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

Warboys, Somersham & Pidley I.D.B.
Consulting Engineers Report May 2019

Pumping Stations

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

Puddock

Pump No 2 continues to operate with the Moisture Ingress Sensor (MSI) unit defeated and a recent test of the motor windings showed no further deterioration in its insulation resistance. At its last meeting the Board resolved to remove the pumpset for inspection and overhaul in spring 2019, this is planned for late May/early June.

High Fen

The No 2 pump's drive motor winding insulation resistance to earth, which had deteriorated due to inactivity, has been re-checked and found to currently be satisfactory.

At its last meeting the Board asked for quotations to be obtained for; replacement controls, an automatic weedscreen cleaner (with a replacement weedscreen) and security fencing.

Budget quotations were obtained from the two companies, CW Group and Metalcraft, who have most recently provided the lowest quotations at other sites.

The CW Group provided the following budget costs:

To install a Gantry weedscreen cleaner at this site - £56,000.

To replace the weedscreen - £8,500.

Replacement of main MCC - £16,000.

Metalcraft also provided a budget price of £76,795 for the manufacture and installation of an automatic weedscreen cleaner and replacement weedscreen, similar to that installed at Westmoor but they did not include for new pump controls.

However, it is worthy of note that we have been informed by Metalcraft that its accounts department has recently conducted a review of the business overhead recovery and this has identified that its rates have remained unchanged for a number of years. There was therefore a requirement for an increase to be applied, in line with the current overhead recovery, and this was implemented in April and amounts to some 15-20%.

The costs from both companies do not include for damming off and dewatering which would be carried out by the MLC at cost.

The budget cost for fencing would be £5,000.

Should the Board be interested in the significantly lower offer from the CW Group a revalidated firm quotation can be obtained. To assist with considering this option a quote has recently been received from Carlton Controls for a MCC similar to that for Westmoor Pumping Station, details follow below:

Reference **T3330/19**
18/05/19

**HIGH FEN PUMPING STATION
WARBOYS, SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY I.D.B.**

Prices

Item 1

1 - Wall mounting pump control panel, equipped as detailed in the attached specification

Price including delivery to site £10,838. Nett

Item 2 – Site work & cabling

To carry out the following site work for the installation of the replacement motor control centre

- a) Identify, disconnect and remove all existing cables. Note Supply Company to isolate power
- b) Remove existing MCC including disposal
- c) Off load and install replacement MCC
- d) Re-gland and terminate the existing cables to replacement MCC
- e) Reconnect existing supply cables to wall mounted company cut-out

Price including all site work travelling expenses £3,230. Nett

Comments on specification

Our price includes the supply of the Pulsar Ultra 5 ultrasonic level controller complete with Db6 transducer with 10m of cable and programmer.

Despatch

Estimated time for despatch 6/7 working weeks, subject to receipt of your official order containing full and final information enabling to proceed with uninterrupted design and manufacture.

Conditions of sale

Our standard conditions of sale will apply, the quotation remaining valid and open for acceptance for a period of 30 days and prices subject to V.A.T. at the applicable rate.

Payment

100% within 30 days from date of despatch or readiness to despatch.

MOTOR CONTROL CENTRE SPECIFICATION

Main supply : 400V 3PH & N 50Hz
Control supply : 110V 50Hz via individual control transformers
Enclosure : Wall mounting with feet, front access only
BS EN60439-1 Form 4 compartmented design

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| | IP54 Protected, T type locking door catches 2mm sheet steel welded construction. |
| Finish | : External - BS4800 14-C-39 Forest green Internal – zinc plated |
| Cable entry | : From above & below |
| Power distribution | : Cabled bus wires only |

In detail the motor control centre would comprise the following fully segregated compartments: -

- 1 - 160 A mains incomer & Building services distribution section
- 2 - 30 kW star delta starter for pumps arranged for duty / assist operation
- 1 - Pump controls section
- 1 - Spare 16A TP&N fuse switch feeding

Dimensions

Height 1800mm including feet, Length 1500mm Depth 300mm

Compartment arrangement as previous job for Westmoor PS – C960

In detail each individual section would be equipped as below

Mains incomer

- 1 - 160A TP fuse switch, door interlocked.
- 1 - Bolted neutral link
- 1 - Voltmeter fuses / link
- 1 - Mains failure relay
- Door components
- 1 - Voltmeter with phase selector switch
- 1 - 6 way SP & N mcb distribution board complete with 30mA rcd incomer and 2 off 16A & 4 off 6A M9 mcb's

Star delta pump starters

- 1 - TP on/off/test fuse switch, door interlocked
- 1 - Set of TP line, star & delta contactors, mechanically interlocked
- 1 - Electronic overload protection relay
- 1 - Electronic earth leakage relay (adjustable 0.03A – 30A)
- 1 - 15 KVAR PFC capacitor with protection fuses and switching contactor
- 1 - Control circuit test switch, internal & door interlocked
- 1 - 400:110V control transformer with primary fuse / link
- 1 - Set of control, heater & lamp fuses and link
- 1 - Provision for remote emergency stop
- 1 - Star delta changeover timer
- 1 - Delay restart timer
- 1 - Set of control relays
- 1 - Provision for auto run signal from controls section
- 1 - Panel heater with thermostat
- 1 - Provision for 110V motor heater
- 1 - Provision for 230V remote mounted 'running' lamp
- 1 - Set of outgoing terminals
- 1 - Set of spare fuses, held in clips
- Door components
- 1 - Ammeter with C.T
- 1 - Hours run counter
- 1 - Hand / off / auto control switch
- 1 - Set of start / stop / emergency stop /delay restart override / reset / lamp test pushbuttons

1 - Set of indicator lamps for running / overload trip / earth fault trip

Pump controls section

1 - SP & N fuse switch, non-door interlocked

1 - 230:110V control transformer

1 - Set of control, heater and lamp fuses and links

1 - Panel heater with thermostat

1 - Electrode relay for low level cut-out

1 - Set of control relays and timers

1 - Timer to prevent pumps from starting simultaneously

Door components

1 - Pulsar Ultra 5 ultrasonic level controller, complete with Db6 transducer head with 10m of cable

1 - 7 day programmable 2 channel time clock for tariff control

1 - Tariff override switch - key operated

1 - Indicator lamp for low level

1 - Set of reset / lamp test pushbuttons

1 - Pump duty selector switch 1-2 / 2-1

Another company can supply similar machines but at this stage it has not been asked to quote as recent submissions have been well in excess of £100k.

As reported at the Board's last meeting a quotation in the sum of £8,720 had been obtained from B J Plant Hire to refurbish the footbridge across Fenton Lode which is in a poor condition and dangerous. This included the following work;

- lift the bridge from its current position and set aside for repainting works
- excavate for two concrete pads, one each side of the drain
- setting all formwork as required
- cast concrete pads
- remove formwork once the concrete has cured
- remount the existing bridge following repainting and fit new decking and additional hand railing.

As requested at the meeting two further quotations for similar works have been obtained from BCS UK Ltd and the CW Group in the sum of £10,126 and £22,500 respectively.

Stainless Metalcraft was also asked to quote but declined.

The Board's further instructions are requested.

Westmoor

The No 2 pump's drive motor winding insulation resistance to earth, which had deteriorated due to inactivity, has been re-checked and found to currently be satisfactory.

Five yearly electrical condition reports have been completed at all of the Board's stations with only two minor defects identified, which have been rectified

Pumping Hours

This will be covered in the District Officer's report.

Planning Matters

In addition to matters concerning previous planning matters, the following 46 new development related matters shown below have been received and, where appropriate, dealt with since the last meeting:

| MLC Ref. | Council Ref. | Applicant | Type of Development | Location |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 988 | F/YR18/3110/COND | N & M Hobbs | Retail (Garden Centre) | Doddington Road, Chatteris |
| 989 | Enquiry | Client of BWB Consulting | Unknown | Fillenhams Drain, Chatteris |
| 990 | F/YR18/0860/RM | FRW (UK) Ltd | Residence | Doddington Road, Chatteris |
| 991 | H/18/01860/REM | RHD Developments | Residential (3 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 992 | H/18/00840/FUL | Mr F Adams | Mobile home bases (8 plots) + day rooms and gym/store | Chatteris Road, Somersham |
| 993 | H/18/02144/FUL | A & E G Heading Ltd | Agriculture (Pig rearing units & anaerobic digestion plant) | Chatteris Road, Somersham |
| 994 | F/YR18/3125/COND | Miltons (Wallpapers) Ltd | Retail (Garden Centre) | London Road, Chatteris* |
| 995 | H/18/02251/HHFUL | Mr D Hopkins | Residence (Extension) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 996 | H/18/02547/HHFUL | Mr S Addicott | Residence (Extension) | Fenton Road, Warboys |
| 997 | H/18/02620/AGDET | Mr F Clarke | Agricultural (Storage) | Parkhall Road, Somersham |
| 998 | H/18/0297/FUL | Mr & Mrs Silk | Leisure (Glamping Pods) | Parkhall Road, Somersham |
| 999 | H/18/02451/FUL | Client of Partners In Planning And Architecture | Residential (2 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1000 | H/18/02408/FUL | Manchett's Transport | Industrial (Warehousing and workshop) | Heath Road, Warboys |
| 1001 | H/18/02690/PIP | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (2 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1002 | F/YR18/1154/F | Mr C Back & Miss B Lenton | Residence (Extension) | Westbourne Road, Chatteris |
| 1003 | H/18/02733/HHFUL | Mr & Mrs Mead | Residence (Garage) | Station Road, Warboys |
| 1004 | H/18/02739/FUL | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (2 plots) | Warboys Road, Pidley |
| 1005 | H/18/02332/HHFUL | Mr E Cafferkey | Residence (Extension) | Pond Close, Pidley |
| 1006 | F/YR19/0048/F | Mrs L Behagg | Industrial/Storage (part retrospective) | London Road, Chatteris |
| 1007 | H/19/00105/FUL | Mr A Austin | Residence | Warboys Road, Pidley* |
| 1008 | H/19/00117/OUT | Mr J Simons | Residential (2 plots) | Warboys Road, Pidley |
| 1009 | H/19/00115/PIP | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (3 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |

| | | | | |
|------|------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1010 | H/19/00114/PIP | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (3 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1011 | H/19/00116/PIP | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (2 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1012 | H/19/00110/PIP | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (4 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1013 | H/19/00172/PIP | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (4 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1014 | H/19/00153/AGDET | Mr S Clark | Agricultural (Storage building) | Parkhall Road, Somersham |
| 1015 | H/19/00174/PIP | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (4 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1016 | H/19/00166/AGDET | T E A Noble | Agricultural (Grain store) | Puddock Road, Warboys |
| 1017 | H/19/00120/PMBPA | Mrs U Walker | Residence | Parkhill Road, Somersham |
| 1018 | H/19/00351/AGDET | Mr A Bareham | Agricultural (Storage building) | Fenside Road, Warboys |
| 1019 | H/19/00322/AGDET | Mr J & Mrs V Short | Agricultural (Storage building) | Heath Road, Warboys |
| 1020 | F/YR19/0152/O | Alan Barlett & Sons Ltd (Chatteris) | Residential (50 plots) | Fairbairn Way, Chatteris* |
| 1021 | H/19/00420/PIP | Mr D Hopkins | Residence | Warboys Road, Pidley |
| 1022 | H/19/00370/FUL | Mr & Mrs Gosney | Residence | Dunkirk Drove, Somersham |
| 1023 | H/19/00212/HHFUL | Mr & Mrs Robinson | Residence (Garage & store) | Puddock Road, Warboys |
| 1024 | H/19/80079/COND | Mr & Mrs W Twigg | Residence | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1025 | H/19/00458/PIP | Mr S Dew | Residential (2 plots) | Chatteris Road, Somersham |
| 1026 | H/19/00429/FUL | Mrs S Austin | Residential (2 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1027 | H/19/00640/FUL | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (7 apartments) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1028 | H/19/00625/HHFUL | Mr D Hopkins | Residence (Garage) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1029 | H/19/00730/PIP | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (2 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1030 | H/19/00734/PIP | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (2 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1031 | H/19/00731/PIP | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (2 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1032 | H/19/00732/PIP | Mr D Hopkins | Residential (2 plots) | Fen Road, Pidley |
| 1033 | H/19/00563/HHFUL | Mr & Mrs Rees-Manley | Residence (Extension) | Fen Road, Pidley |

Planning applications ending 'COND' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions

Planning applications ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters

Planning applications ending 'HHFUL' relate to Householder Full

Planning applications ending 'AGDET' relate to Agricultural Determination

Planning applications ending 'PIP' relate to Permission in Principle

Planning applications ending 'PMBPA' relate to Prior Approval - Agricultural to Dwellings

Developments that proposes direct discharge are indicated with an asterisk. The remainder propose, where applicable and where known, disposal to soakaways, infiltration devices and/or Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

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

- *Erection of workplace homes - Mr G Collett (MLC Ref Nos 437 & 613) & Midland Ventures Ltd (MLC Ref No 548) and Erection of up to 3no dwellings at land south west of (Womb Farm) Doddington Road [George Way], Chatteris - Mr G Collett (MLC Ref No 910)*
- *Residential development on land east of Llanca, Huntingdon Road, Chatteris – Mr B Biggs & Mr J Biggs (MLC Ref No 468), Bexwell Tractors (MLC Ref Nos 607 & 739) and HB Villages Developments Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 943, 973 & 977)*
- *Industrial/Haulage Yard at Fenton Way, Chatteris (MLC Ref No 529) & Erection of a vegetable processing building and formation of balancing pond – Client of Grounds & Co (MLC Ref No 627); Allpress Farms Ltd (MLC Ref No 638); Produce World Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 776 & 777); & Erection of warehouse with offices and business units on land west of Fenton Way, Chatteris - R W Simpson Ltd (MLC Ref No 644)*
- *Erection of foodstore (A1), petrol filling station (pfs), car parking and associated highway works on land north of Honeysome Industrial Estate fronting Fenland Way, Chatteris - Harrier Developments Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 567, 584, 585 & 663) & Erection of Builders Merchants at Fenland Way, Chatteris - Harrier Developments Ltd (MLC Ref No 584)*
- *Haulage yard; aggregates storage area & sales use; inert waste & soil recycling operations; and a lean-to extension to existing buildings accommodating an ancillary office, welfare facilities & storage uses at Furlong Farm, First Furlong Drove, Chatteris – Mandley Brothers (MLC Ref Nos 718, 944 & 981)*
- *Residential Development involving demolition of existing storage building on land west and south of 74 West Street, Chatteris – Client of LK Consult Ltd (MLC Ref No 742), Land Planning Partnership Ltd (MLC Ref No 826) & WS Sandbach Ltd (MLC Ref No 928)*
- *Installation of a Biomethane Injection pipeline (to inject into the National Grid) involving the erection of an associated plant compound with 2.4m high boundary security fence and gates at Gas Pipeline for Anaerobic Digester Plant, Iretons Way, Chatteris – Little Green Consulting Ltd (MLC Ref No 783) and Pretoria Energy (MLC Ref No 785)*
- *Construction of a solar energy farm and associated works including underground cables at land east of Honeysome Farm Bungalow, Honeysome Road, Chatteris – Honeysome Road Solar Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 805, 818, 837, 855 & 887)*
- *Erection of a single-storey extension to rear of existing building and creation of earth bund/increase height of existing bund at 16 Albert Way, Chatteris – A E Sutton Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 834 & 859)*
- *Erection of 26 no dwellings (max) at land west of 15 Fairbairn Way, Chatteris – Alan Bartlett & Sons Ltd (MLC Ref No 890)*
- *Environmental Permit Application EPR/KB3199AV/A001 for treated effluent discharge at Hayden House, High Street, Pidley - Mr D Bird (MLC Ref No 966)*

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.

Mixed Use Development on land at Tithe Barn Farm and south east of London Road, Chatteris - Hallam Land Management Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 160, 184, 606 & 630)

Discussions between the District Council and the applicant's agent, Bidwells LLP, and respective legal teams continue but, according to Fenland District Council's (FDC) Public Access web page, a decision on this site still remains pending.

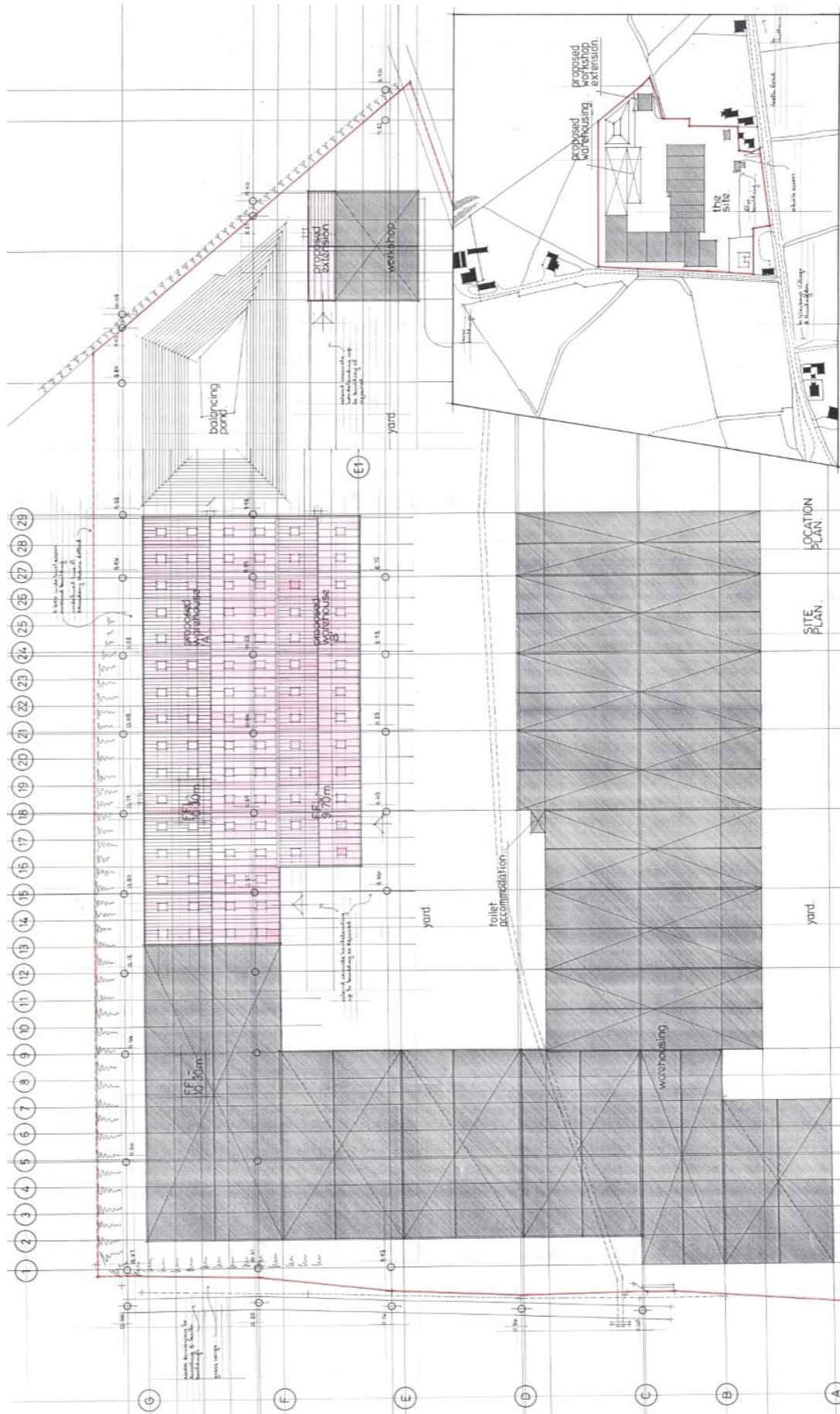
The Board has yet to be formally contacted.

Developments at Manchetts Transport, Heath Road, Warboys – Manchetts Transport (MLC Ref Nos 519, 540, 569, 684 & 1000)

Further to previous reports, a planning application for the erection of additional warehousing and extension of workshop was submitted in November 2018 and subsequently approved by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) in March.

Despite previous concerns being raised with HDC no reference is made to either flood risk or surface water disposal. The County Council, in its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority, does not appear to have supplied a response.

Correspondence has been received from the applicant's agent, John Huggins, and this is currently being considered.

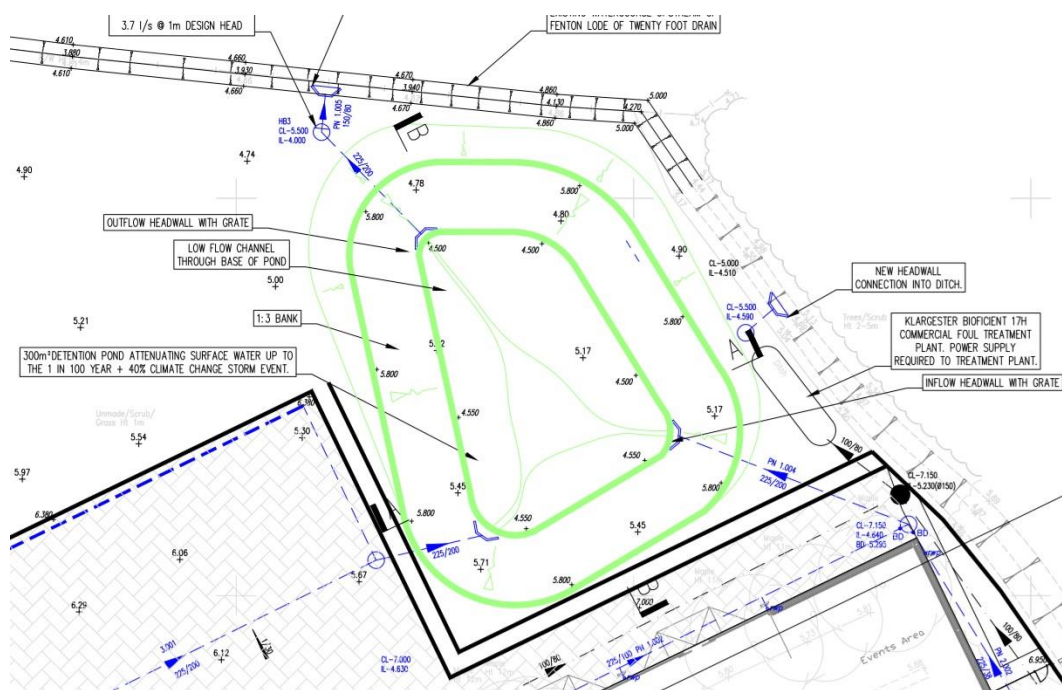


Extract from the John Huggins Drawing No 1286/1 Rev. A showing the Site Layout

Erection of a garden centre (with restaurant area) with 2.2M (max height) fence and gates involving the demolition of existing sheds, greenhouses, and single-storey elements to 134 London Road, Chatteris – Miltons (Wallpapers) Ltd (MLC Ref No 888)

Further to the Board's June 2017 meeting, a discharge of conditions application was submitted to Fenland District Council (FDC) in July 2018 and subsequently approved in April.

Initially the County Council, in its role as the LLFA, was unable to recommend the discharge but, upon the provision of a management plan, later advised that the surface water conditions could be discharged. However, the Board is reminded that whilst the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Board, who as a non-statutory consultee has yet to consider the proposals and is the authority which receives and processes any resultant flows, will be in agreement.



Extract from the JMS Groups Drawing No. CO10/533/11-011 Rev. P3 showing the location of the pond and foul water treatment plant

A detailed assessment has not been undertaken but it is understood that a Sustainable Drainage Solution will be employed that will continue to discharge to the current outfall.

Applications for the disposal of surface and treated foul effluent water have not been received.

Therefore, in order to resolve this matter and guide further discussions it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion, further instruction and approval to initially write to the parties concerned in order to resolve this potential issue.

Residential development on land south of 8 - 59 Fairbairn Way, Chatteris – Alan Barlett & Sons Ltd (Chatteris) (MLC Ref Nos 890 & 1020)

Further to the original planning application (MLC Ref No 890) for twenty-six properties being approved by FDC in January, a subsequent planning application for up to fifty properties has been submitted for consideration.

A detailed assessment has not been undertaken but it is noted that the Flood Risk Assessment & Sustainable Drainage Strategy Ref. 2251 – FRA & DS Dated Feb 2019 submitted to FDC states that "...geology is of a low hydraulic conductivity thus infiltration systems are not considered to provide a feasible means of draining surface water from the site in this instance". However, it goes on to explain that a hybrid Sustainable Drainage Solution that could utilise a mixture of permeable paving, large diameter pipe, tank and storm cell systems together with water reuse systems such as rainwater harvesting and/or water butts. It further advises that "... discharge from the main access road will be directly to the conventional drainage system that will continue to discharge to the current outfall" but does not identify how any attenuation will be achieved.

Despite the above the LLFA in its response to FDC has advised that it has no objection in principle to the development subject to the imposition of relevant conditions. It is understood that a decision by FDC is pending.

To date, the applicant; its agent, SISCO Architecture Ltd; and its engineering consultant, MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd, have not contacted the Board to enquire whether this approach is acceptable or would be approved should the proposal proceed. An application for discharge consent, has not been received.

Members will be aware of the problems in the area and are reminded that no increase in rates or volumes of flow will be consented by the Board as this is likely to have detrimental consequences.

Therefore, in order to resolve this matter and guide further discussions it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion, further instruction and approval to initially write to the parties concerned in order to resolve this potential issue.



Extract from MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd Drawing No 2251-03 Rev – showing the Indicative Surface Water Drainage Plan

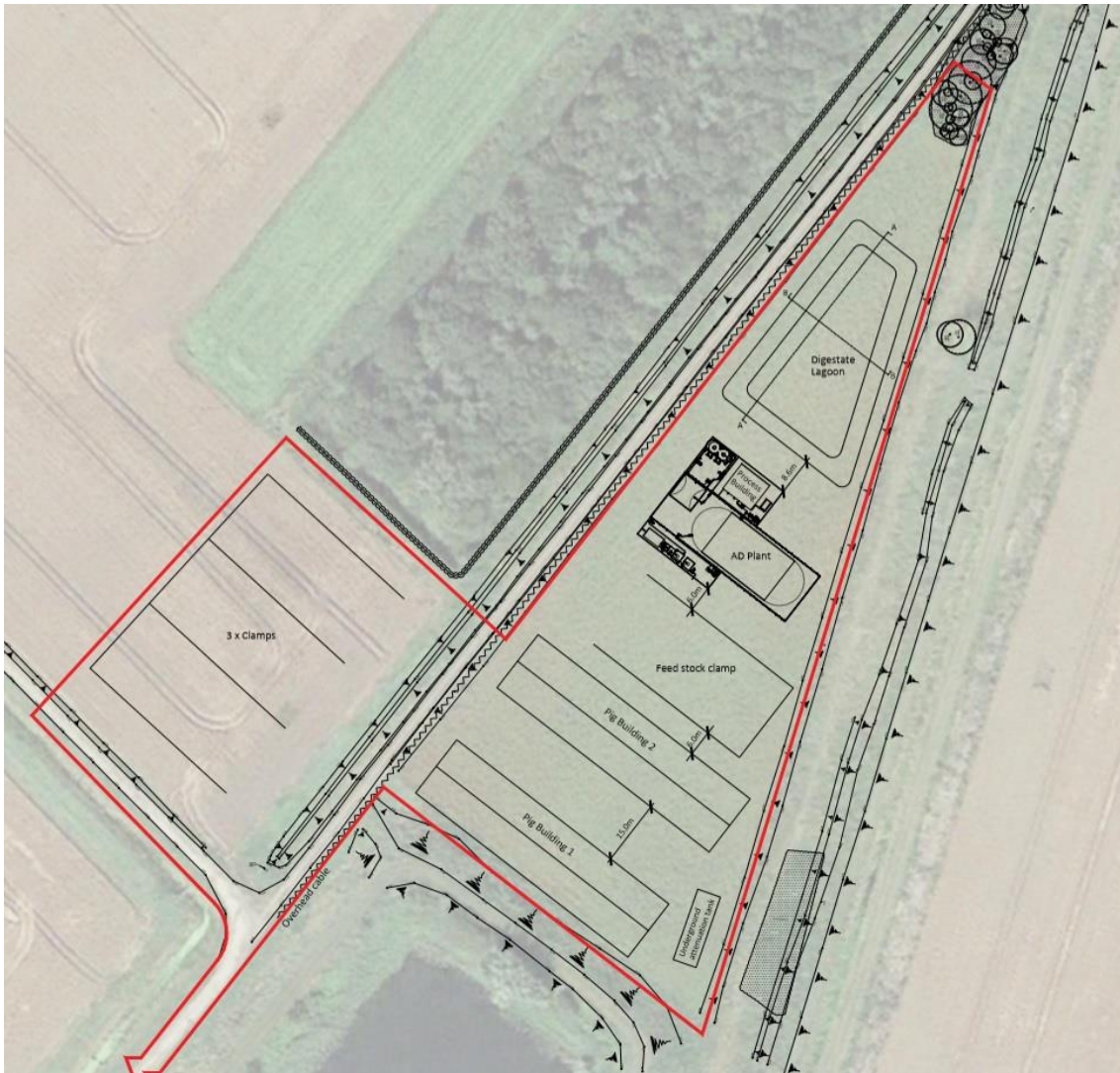
Proposed pig rearing units and associated anaerobic digestion plant at 1 Colne Fen Farm, Chatteris Road, Somersham – Client of RM ASSOCIATES (MLC Ref No 961) and A & E G Heading Ltd (MLC Ref No 993)

Further to the flood risk information provided to the applicant’s engineering consultant in April 2018, as part of a paid procedure, a planning application for the construction of pig rearing units and an AD Plant to produce heat and power to be used in the pig units, within the existing farm buildings, and with excess green electricity fed into the National Grid, was submitted to HDC in October for its consideration.

The LLFA advised HDC that it had no objection to the proposed development subject to the imposition of its standard condition. However, the Board is reminded that whilst the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Board, who as a non-statutory consultee has yet to consider the proposals and is the authority which receives and processes any resultant flows, will be in agreement.

Planning permission was granted for this proposal in February subject to the imposition of conditions including surface water disposal and ecology/biodiversity. Reference is made within the Officer’s Report to flood risk but this predominantly refers to flood zones and no specific reference is made to its close proximity to open watercourses and any adverse impacts on the Board’s system.

Rather disappointingly neither HDC's Decision Notice nor the LLFA's response included an informative referring to the Land Drainage Act and the potential need to seek the Board's consent.



Extract from the Robert Doughty Consultancy Drawing No. 1311-1_PL_SP01

A detailed assessment has not been undertaken but it is understood that a Sustainable Drainage Solution will be employed that will continue to discharge to the current outfall.

Whilst not really a planning consideration a potential issue for the Commissioners is the alignment and construction methods of the associated utilities, cables and pipelines. No reference is made within the submission documents concerning these and it is presumed that they have not yet been considered as part of the proposed scheme.

Despite being advised that the proposals will be designed to inflict minimal damage, problems have been encountered in the past relating to such energy schemes which do not always appear to consider other related issues, for example, channel crossings,

transport routes and associated remedial works, the formation/uprating/reconstruction of access culverts/roads, and other works to accommodate specialist construction machinery and associated infrastructure, whether it is under or over ground, are required. Therefore, the Board's attention is drawn to the problems that have been encountered by other Boards within the local area concerning the ownership, adoption and maintenance requirements of such utilities.

Pollution control is not really a matter for the Board, presumably being the subject of Environmental Permits issued by other authorities, however, there are concerns that a leachate "spill" could have an adverse impact on the waterborne environment.

The proposals involve several items that are of interest to the Board and may require its consent but, with the exception of the aforementioned provision of flood risk information referred to above, to date the applicant, its agent, The Robert Doughty Consultancy, and its engineering consultant, RM ASSOCIATES, have not contacted the Board to enquire whether this approach is acceptable or would be approved should the proposal proceed. An application for discharge consent, has not been received.

Members will be aware of the historic flooding problems in the area and there are concerns that the continued failure to seek the Board's comments could contribute to further flooding in the village.

Therefore, in order to resolve this matter and guide further discussions it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion, further instruction and approval to initially write to the parties concerned in order to resolve this potential issue.

Development Contributions

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

Local Plan Update and Associated Consultations

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Local Plan to 2036

Proposed Main Modifications Consultation

[Public examination hearings](#) were held on the Huntingdonshire Local Plan Proposed Submission between 17-20 July and 10-27 September 2018. Following this, proposed main modifications were identified by the Planning Inspector as necessary to make the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036

'sound' and 'legally compliant'. Consultation on the proposed main modifications and associated sustainability appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment ran from 10 December 2018 to 29 January 2019.

A generic response to the Planning Inspectorate's Main Modifications was submitted to the District Council on behalf of both the Commissioners and our associated Boards, for whom we provide a planning consultancy service.

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)

Public Consultation on the Draft Cambridgeshire Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) document

No further correspondence has been received in respect of this document.

Consultation on the proposed 2019 revision of the Local Validation Guidance List & Local Validation Check List for planning applications for the County Council's own development & for waste development

A Public Consultation on the proposed 2019 revision of the Local Validation Guidance List and Local Validation Check List for planning applications for the County Council's own development and for waste development was held from 28 February until 11 April.

The consultation responses received as part of the consultation have been taken into consideration, by the County Council and some additional revisions made to the proposed Validation List and Guidance Notes, which will be presented to the Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 16 May 2019 to seek approval for the revisions.

A response was submitted to the County Council on behalf of both the Commissioners and our associated Boards, for whom we provide a planning consultancy service. It was pleasing to note the inclusion of the Middle Level Biodiversity Manual (2016) and the reference and a link to our "Planning Advice and Consent Documents" within the Guidance Notes.

Fenland District Council (FDC)

FDC Liaison Meeting

A follow up meeting was held on 28 March.

Planning Committee Decision at Estover Road, March

Members may be aware of the District Council's decision in relation to the outline planning application for a residential development at Estover Road, March. However, members may be

interested in the principles established at the Committee Meeting in respect of the Board's interests.

The March Fifth District Drainage Commissioners requested that the Planning Engineers represented them at the Planning Committee's September meeting.

It was interesting to note that the Commissioners' presence was acknowledged with one Councillor stating that as the Commissioners have made the effort to attend the Committee should listen to them. Another comment made was that the Committee is concerned that Statutory Consultees do not attend the Planning Committee Meetings.

There was considerable support for the Drainage Boards particularly from Cllrs Bligh, Laws and Newell, but you will note the comments which were quite rightly made by Cllr Sutton and Nick Harding.

In view of this it appears that, within Fenland at least, the comments of the LLFA, as a Statutory Consultee, override that of the Commissioners, even though they have to receive and transfer any flows and deal with any resultant problems at their ratepayers' expense.

Relevant extracts from the minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12 September are copied below:

"F/YR15/0668/O

LAND NORTH OF 75-127, ESTOVER ROAD, MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

OUTLINE WITH ONE MATTER COMMITTED DETAILED AS ACCESS IN RELATION TO 95 NO DWELLINGS (MAX) WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING, DRAINAGE AND OPEN SPACES

Middle Level Commissioners strongly object to the application.

Members received a presentation in accordance with the public participation from Mr Graham Moore (Middle Level commissioners), who was speaking on behalf of Middle Level Commissioners and March Fifth Internal Drainage Board [sic] and Mrs Liz Whitehouse, who were both speaking in objection to the Application.

It is the IDB not the Environment Agency, FDC, CCC or Anglian Water, which has to receive and transfer flows that emit from the site.

The site is located in flood zone 1 and the applicant has provided information to evidence that surface water from the development can be managed and there have been no objections from the Lead Local Flood Authority and Environment Agency who are statutory consultees. The Middle Level Commissioners are not statutory consultees; however the queries that have been raised by them have been looked at

by the applicant but as this is an outline planning application and it would not be reasonable to supply the information requested currently and the details relating to the design of the scheme and details regarding the drainage scheme details are unknown. The condition that the LLFA have requested will put an appropriate safeguard in place to ensure a suitable strategy is established prior to the commencement of construction.

Members asked questions, made comments and received responses as follows:

- *Councillor Mrs Laws stated that it is a windfall site but the drainage issue is an area of concern. With regard to viability, the site does not deliver what it should and although the Section 106 Officer has looked into this. The development is therefore less sustainable than it should be.*
- *Councillor Sutton stated that he believes the development is sustainable. It is in flood zone 1 and the Lead Local Flood Authority who is a Statutory Consultee has no objection to the proposal. The issues concerning the discharge raised by Middle Level Commissioners and the IDB can be reviewed at a later stage and do not need to be considered today. Planning Committee Members have to make decisions on material planning reasons. The proposal does not go against the Neighbourhood Plan; if it did then Officers would not be recommending it for approval.*
- *Councillor Sutton stated he can see no material planning reason to refuse the application.*
- *Nick Harding stated that in terms of the surface water issues which have been raised. The IDB have recognised that the LLFA is the authority that we should be going to in consideration of these matters and if the NPPF is referred to it does state that major development should incorporate sustainable drainage systems and should take account of the advice of the LLFA. The advice from the LLFA is that this development proposal with conditions is acceptable.*
- *Nick Harding stated that he is very supportive of the IDB's they have a separate legal process which has to be complied with by persons who wish to discharge their surface water and just because planning permission is granted for a development it does not mean they are automatically going to get consent from the IDB's. The Developer still has to apply to the IDB and the detail for the scheme has to be agreed.*
- *Nick Harding stated that with regard to Anglian Water, they have raised no objection to this application. They have indicated that they will make necessary improvements to their network to ensure they can deal with the water and therefore as we do not have an objection from Anglian Water, and members should consider on what basis would we be able to defend a reason for refusal based on foul water capacity.*

Following the meeting the Planning Engineer advised the Clerk to the Commissioners that:

"Whilst I was concerned when we originally stood back and stopped making bespoke responses to the LPA in preference to writing to the applicant and/or agent, which does cause some problems, the planning decision confirmed that this choice was the correct one, as the Commissioners and associated Boards are not wasting their

limited resources by issuing letters that will be ignored by the LPA. However, this procedure is, under the current circumstances, potentially wasteful as the developer, LPA and LLFA could put considerable effort into an application which may be granted planning permission but which a Board refuses to consent.”

It is presumed that in similar circumstances Huntingdonshire District Council would have a similar view.

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:

Quarterly Meetings

The most recent meeting was a joint meeting held with the Peterborough Flood & Water Management Partnership (PFLoW) of which the MLC are also a partner. The number of meetings held each year may reduce from four to three.

County Council Public Sector Services

The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer has raised concerns with the County Council's Flood Risk and Biodiversity Business Manager about the potential deterioration of service within Cambridgeshire as a result.

RMA support & the Delivery of projects

Following concerns raised by IDBs and other RMAs the EA Local Levy is funding two LLFA and IDB Flood Risk Advisors who have been recruited to assist in the delivery of projects. Based at Ely they are the Commissioners'/Boards' point of contact in respect of FDGiA funding.

Initial meetings with the relevant advisor and the MLC staff have occurred.

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 RFCC wants us to all understand each other's projects better. They would particularly like it if the RFCC 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 Partnership 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.

Rain Gauges

The Rain Gauge Network Project is progressing with the installation of gauges being undertaken in the next financial year.

Flood Risk Management Trainees

One of the trainees wrote an article which was published in the Winter 2018 edition of the ADA Gazette. The article can be found at

<http://flickread.com/edition/html/index.php?pdf=5c101ead23d6e#13>

IDB Good Governance Guide/East Ridings of Yorkshire Council Guide

ADA has subsequently launched its Good Governance for IDB Members guide at the ADA Conference which is primarily aimed at new Board members. Five workshops were held during March and April.

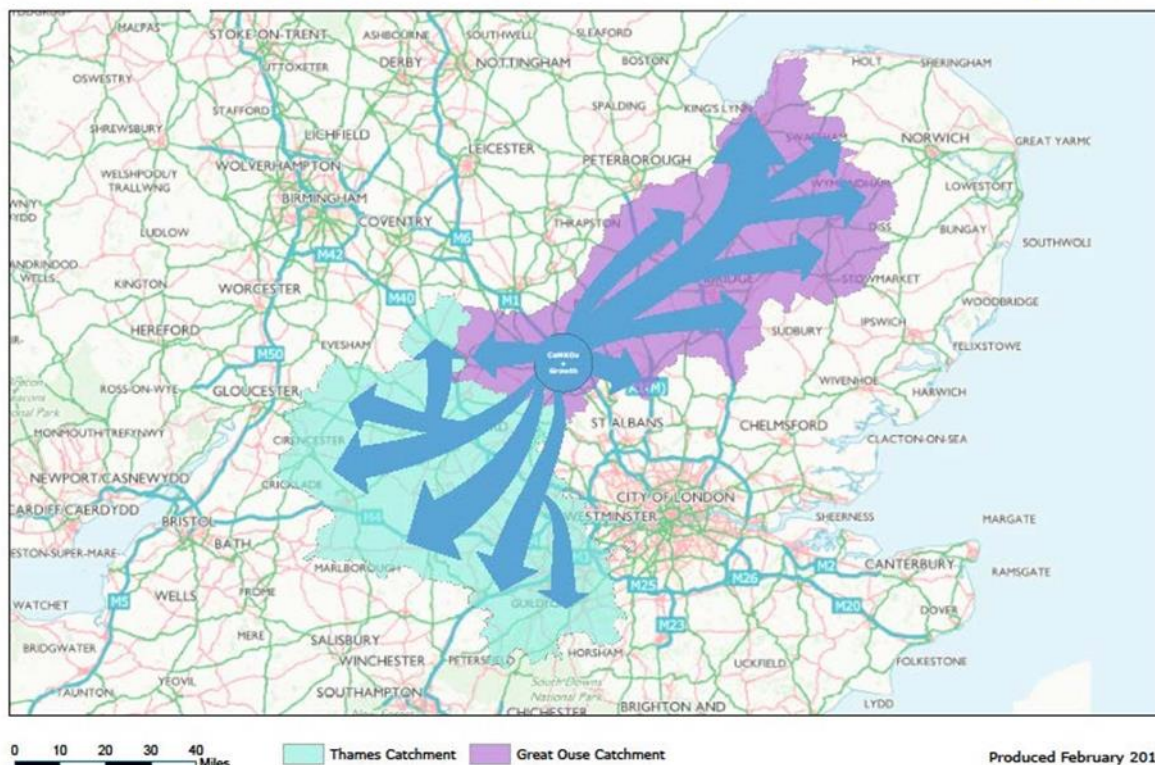
Further details on the guide and the workshops can be found at the following link

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

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).



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

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-most-at-risk-in-a-flood-warns-environment-agency-british-red-cross>

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 – A1, A14, A47 etc. 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 projects below:

(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.

Fenland Flooding Issues Sub-group

A meeting was held in early April and there are currently no known issues within the Board's catchment.

Flood Risk Management (FRM) for the Fens Technical Group [previously reported as the Future Fenland Project]

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 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.

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for people and wildlife



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.

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

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

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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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Paul Burrows".

MCIWEM CWEM CEnv

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

Mobile: 07824 431597

paul.burrows@environment-agency.gov.uk

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

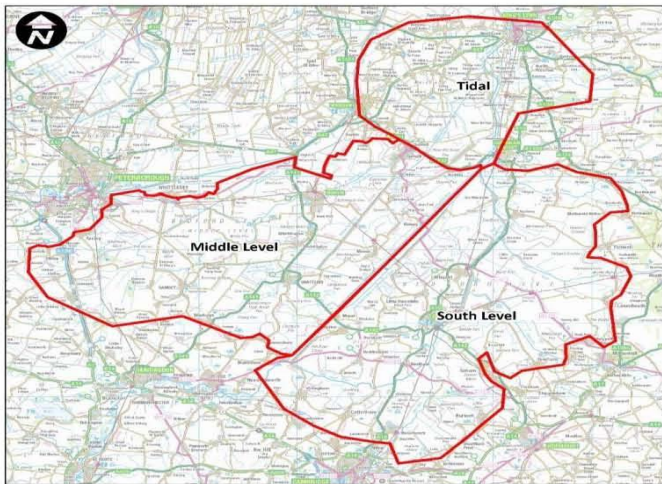
It is understood that there is a significant variation in the types of schemes which may be eligible for FCERM GiA funding. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that the attention given to investigating a strategic approach should be proportional to the size of the scheme. Therefore, for smaller schemes (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.

Flood risk management for the Fens Project

Phase 1
Data gathering and collective ownership

Phase 2
High level action plan / strategy

Phase 3 onwards
Phased action plans



Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards



middle level commissioners



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.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.

- e) There should be greater awareness of potential supply chains and scope for collaboration within the region.
- f) 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.

General Advice

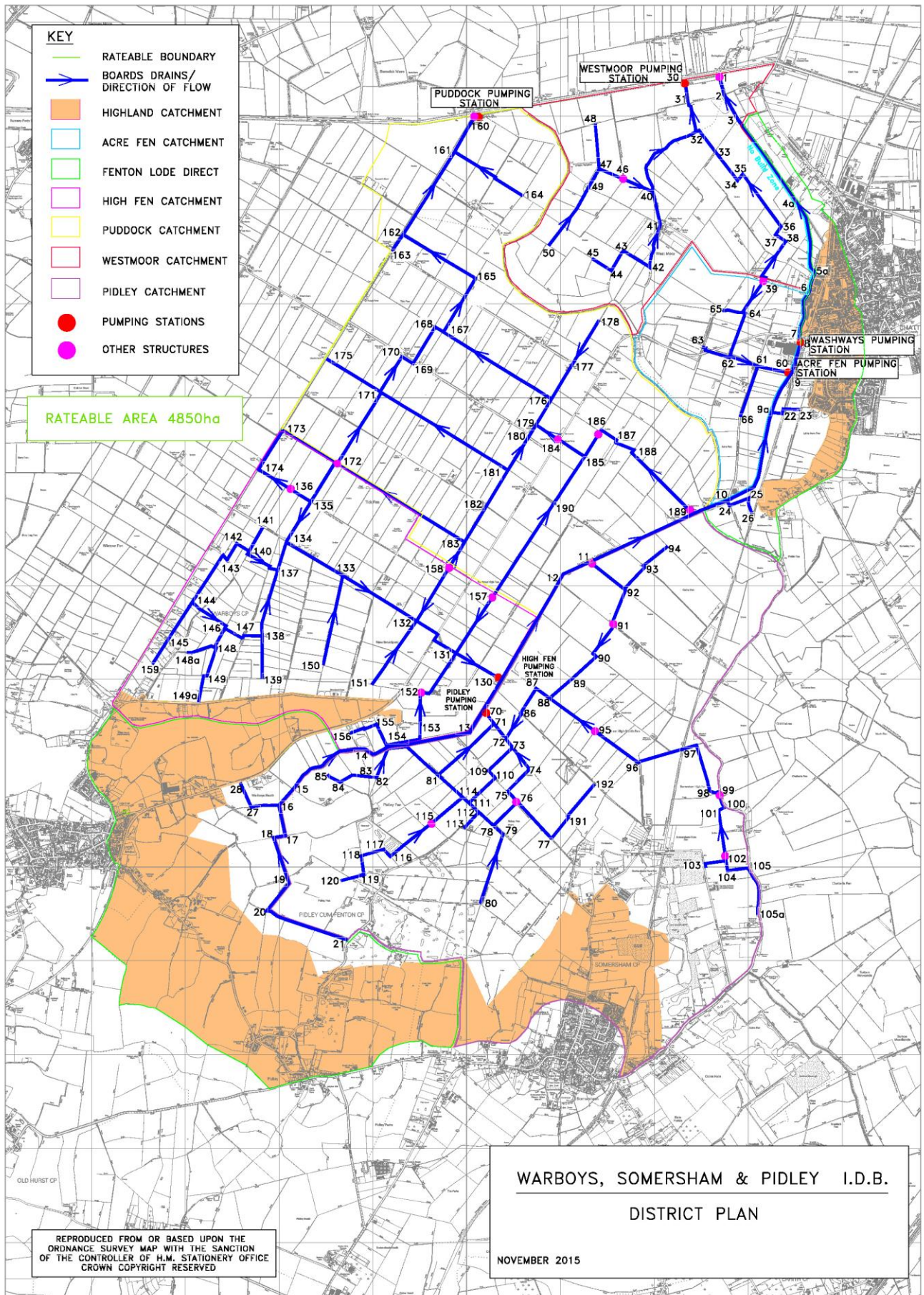
Assistance has been given, on the Board's behalf, in respect of the following:

- (a) G W England and Sons – An application for byelaw consent to install two field underdrain outfalls into a district drain between Points 131 and 157, in the Warboys High Fen area, was recommended for approval.
- (b) James German – An application for byelaw consent to pipe and fill 6 metres of the district drain close to Point 117 with a 900mm diameter plastic pipe to provide a crossing for an underground electric cable over the pipe was recommended for approval.
- (c) A & E G Heading Ltd – An application for byelaw consent to install 16 field underdrain outfalls into a district drain between Points 181 and 158 in the Warboys Tick Fen area was recommended for approval.

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Consulting Engineer



Mr Lloyd referred to the last Board report comments concerning pump No. 2 at Puddock pumping station and reported that, in his opinion, there was nothing currently wrong with the operation of the pump, the issue appeared to be the sensor. He informed Members that in his experience when submersible pumps are overhauled, although appearing satisfactory, they never give a prolonged length of service before developing further faults and he felt it would not provide value for money to remove and overhaul the pump at this time.

In response to Mr H Whittome, Mr Lloyd considered the pump was not showing any signs of other issues apart from, in his opinion, a faulty sensor.

Mr Lloyd considered that submersible pumps could operate for around 25 years or 25,000 hours and the District Officer confirmed that the pump had operated for a estimated 6,000 hours. The District Officer reported that there was not a duty selector switch at Puddock pumping station which Mr Lloyd confirmed should be a relatively straightforward job to install, if required.

The Vice Chairman queried if the Board should, when the time arrived, be looking at replacing submersible pumps with new rather than overhauling them. Mr Lloyd considered that was a question which could only be answered at the time, depending on circumstances, and estimated that a new pump would be in the region of £30,000-£35,000.

Mr Lloyd reported that the pumps at High Fen pumping station were satisfactory and referred to the quotations for automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment and a replacement control panel at the station.

The Chairman reported on the replacement of the footbridge at High Fen pumping station and that he had received a quote from B J Plant Hire to replace the bridge on concrete pillars in the sum of £8,720.

He further reported that, after discussions with Mr Johnson, he had approach Lattenbury Farm Services who had quoted to refurbish the footbridge, sitting it on wooden sleeper mats rather than concrete, as they raised concerns over possible issues concerning the weight of concrete on the bank side, in the sum of £7,890. Lattenbury Farm Services had also indicated that a new footbridge would be in the region of £17,000.

With regards to the replacement control panel, Mr H Whittome considered it should be suitable for future upgrades, should the Board consider the installation of telemetry.

Mr Lloyd referred to the grab on the Stainless Metalcraft weedscreen cleaner design causing problems in other locations by instigating the pump tripping out (due to issues with the water 'swirling') when it entered the water. He considered the design of the grab at Westmoor pumping station to be more suitable.

The District Officer referred to security fencing and that it should be designed to the specifications of the Board to allow the access required to clear the site.

Mr Lloyd reported that the 5-year electric condition reports had been completed for all the Board's pumping stations with no major problems identified.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) That the recommendations of the Finance Committee be adopted.

- iii) That no action be taken at this time in relation to pump No. 2 at Puddock pumping station.
- iv) That the Consulting Engineers arrange for a duty selector switch to be installed at Puddock pumping station.
- v) That the Consulting Engineers obtain firm quotations for the installation of automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment, a replacement control panel and security fencing at High Fen pumping station and that, upon receipt of the quotations, the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to take any further action as they consider appropriate.
- vi) That the quotation from Lattenbury Farm Services in the sum of £7,890 for the refurbishment of the footbridge at High Fen pumping station be accepted.
- vii) Planning Applications received from Miltons (Wallpapers) Ltd (MLC Ref No 888), Alan Bartlett & Sons Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 890 & 1020) and A & E G Heading Ltd (MLC Ref No 993)

That the Planning Engineer liaise with the Chairman to resolve the outstanding issues associated with these applications.

(NB) - Mr Noble declared an interest in the planning application (MLC Ref No 1016) received for Mr T E A Noble.

B.1633 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

The Chairman referred to the discussions of the Finance Committee.

RESOLVED

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

B.1634 District Officer's Report

The District Officer referred to this year's maintenance programme being High Fen catchment and sections of Fenton Lode and that drainworks notices were currently being prepared.

The District Officer referred to the structure at Point 136 and that he had looked to control flows with the installation of a board at Point 173 which he felt had kept the levels better in the Puddock Drain. Mr H Whittome considered that this had proved beneficial and referred to the culvert at Point 135. Members approved for this to be replaced as part of the current maintenance programme.

Mr H Whittome referred to issues getting water from Puddock Road at Point 170 and Mr Munns queried why the section between Points 173-183 was no longer a District watercourse.

The District Officer reported that he had looked into the possibility of hiring a weed boat to assist with annual maintenance works on the Fenton Lode and other watercourses within the District and that quotes ranged between £400-£600 per day. He informed Members that the Middle Level

Commissioners had recently purchased a new weed boat and were currently in the process of selling an older one on e-bay. He considered the purchase of this second hand boat would be an asset to the Board. He estimated the likely cost to be between £8,000-£10,000 but, as this boat was in good condition, it could sell for up to £15,000.

In response to the Chairman, the District Officer reported that a general boat handling safety certificate would be required and, as the boat was flat bottomed, a trailer would be required. Mr Lloyd referred to the boat weighing in the region of 2½ tonnes, if lifting was to be considered. Mr Stokes queried the implications of lone working. In response to Mr H Whittome, the District Officer reported that the main use of a boat would be to rake weed, primarily cott.

Members gave consideration to the potential environmental benefit of using a weed boat as opposed to using a mechanical excavator. Lord de Ramsey considered that there did not appear to be enough information available for the Board to properly assess the value for money that might be provided by the purchase for the Board to make a decision. Mr H Whittome agreed that more information was required.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved and that the Officer be thanked for his services over the preceding year.
- ii) That K R German & Son be engaged to carry out the long reach maintenance works for 2019.
- iii) That the Chairman, Vice Chairman and District Officer draw up a proposal to show the benefits the purchase of a weed boat may provide together with a value for money assessment for the consideration of Board Members.

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

B.1635 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Mr Hill referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter, dated December 2018, previously circulated to Members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.1636 Clerk's fee

Consideration was given to the fee of the Clerk.

RESOLVED

That there be no increase in the fee paid to the Clerk for the year 2019/2020

(NB) – The Lord De Ramsey and Mr H Whittome declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) when this item was discussed.

B.1637 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.

Update on the EA grant-in-aid position

Mr Hill reported that the EA undertook a 'refresh' of its grant allocation schedule and optimised it to increase the likelihood of meeting the government outcome measure targets. As part of this some schemes were deferred in favour of those which could be delivered within the next two years with certainty and the programme has, as a consequence, become financially oversubscribed. This effectively means that there will be little or no chance of receiving grant for any new schemes between now and 2021 (at the earliest). This date marks the end of the six-year funding commitment and whilst it is understood that the EA are pressing hard to have another six-year settlement and, if agreed to by treasury, for this to be larger than the previous one to help address the increasing investment required to tackle climate change driven impacts. At this point in time we do not know what will happen and changes could be made in any event to the funding model, what outcome targets are or the process of securing grant. What is clear is that the further ahead that IDBs collectively plan their investment needs the more likely whatever grant is available will be accessible by them.

Some members will recall that in 2009 asset surveys were carried out on all IDB pumping stations. As ten years has now passed it might be timely to revisit and update these to reflect any changes that might have occurred and for this updated information to be used to plan for future investment needs. Similarly, as it is five years since these assets were valued for insurance reasons, it is also considered worthwhile revising the rebuilding estimates to reflect construction cost inflation.

RESOLVED

- i) That no proposals be formulated at the present time.
- ii) That the Consulting Engineers be requested to update the asset survey.

B.1638 District Labour District Officer's Salary

The Board considered the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the salary of the District Officer be increased in accordance with the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award, as indicated on the Supplementary Schedule.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be adopted.

B.1639 Environment Agency – Precept

Mr Hill reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2019/2020 in the sum of £21,343.25 (the precept for 2018/2019 being £20,327).

B.1640 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

(a) Mr Hill reported that the sum of £2,574.20 (£10,953.69 less £8,379.49 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2017/2018 together with the sum of £9,883.86 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2018/2019.

(b) Further to minute B.1567(b), Mr Hill referred to the discussions with the Environment Agency over the monies available to fund highland water claims.

RESOLVED

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

B.1641 Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Subscriptions

Mr Hill reported that it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 2% in 2019, viz:- from £832 to £849.

RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2019.

b) Future ADA Communications

Mr Hill referred to a letter received from ADA dated 18th October 2018 and to the form included with the agenda.

In order to continue to receive communications from ADA in 2019, ADA required a completed form from each Member. The form could also be completed and returned electronically via the link at www.ada.org.uk/communications.

B.1642 Determination of annual value for rating purposes

The Board considered the recommendations for the determination of annual value for rating purposes.

In response to Mr Johnson, Mr Hill informed the meeting of the implications for carrying out drain maintenance works on non-agricultural land.

RESOLVED

- i) That the determination recommended be adopted by the Board.
- ii) That the Clerk be empowered to serve notices and to take such other action as may be necessary to comply with statutory requirements.

iii) That the Chairman and the Clerk be empowered to authorise appropriate action on behalf of the Board in connection with any appeal against the determination.

iv) That the Clerk write to the applicant for determination to explain the implications of the Board's Byelaws and access requirements for drain maintenance works.

B.1643 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £21,166.91.

Mr Hill reported that the Finance Committee recommended to the Board that the arrears be written off and adjusted.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be adopted.

B.1644 Contribution from Developers

Mr Hill reported that a contribution towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume had been received.

B.1645 Health and Safety

Mr Hill reported 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.

Mr Hill outlined the discussions at the Chairs meeting and the proposals to use Cope Safety Management for health and safety consultancy and that the Finance Committee had recommended that the Board enter into an arrangement with Cope Safety Management and for a budget allocation to be made for an additional 2 days consultancy. He confirmed that the contract was for 3 years at £600 per year and that additional consultancy was at £500 per day.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be approved.

B.1646 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.1647 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 and gave consideration to having a professional valuation of the Board's real estate assets, for insurance purpose.

RESOLVED

That the Consulting Engineers be requested to recalculate the pumping station valuations.

B.1648 Exercise of Public Rights

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

B.1649 Annual Governance Statement – 2018/2019

The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2019.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2019.

B.1650 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £185,358.83 which had been made during the financial year 2018/2019.

(NB) - The Chairman declared an interest in the payments made to K R German and Sons.

(NB) – The Lord De Ramsey and Mr H Whittome declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.1651 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2018/2019

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2019 as required in the Audit Regulations.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2019.

B.1652 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2019/2020

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 Mr Hill that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 89.24% and 10.76%.

Mr Hill reported that the Finance Committee had recommended a rate of 20.0p in the £ should be set with a Special levy of £4,541 on Fenland District Council and a Special levy of £13,434 on Huntingdonshire District Council.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £167,088 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 £149,113 and £17,975 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 20.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v)
 - a) That a Special levy of £13,434 be made and issued to Huntingdonshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
 - b) That a Special levy of £4,541 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levies referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levies by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.1653 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.1654 Date of next Meeting

Mr Hill reminded Members that the next Meeting of the Board would be held on Thursday the 21st November 2019 at Lakeside Lodge, Pidley which would include an inspection of the District commencing at 9.30am.