

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the March East Internal Drainage Board
hosted at the Middle Level Offices, March on Thursday the 4th June 2020

PRESENT

C E Martin Esq (Chairman)
J F Clark Esq
M Cornwell Esq
A Dunham Esq
A J N Gee Esq

J E Heading Esq
R E Mason Esq
M Purser Esq
P M Tegerdine Esq
F H Yeulett Esq

Miss Samantha Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr Morgan Lakey (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance.

The Chairman enquired whether ALL Board members were happy for the meeting to be recorded. All Members were in agreement.

Apology for absence

An apology for absence was received from C W Albutt Esq.

B.1297 Standing Orders

Miss Ablett reported that to allow the Board to modify the manner in which they hold meetings (for a temporary period) whilst special arrangements are in place to deal with COVID-19, Defra have agreed to the adoption of modified standing orders. Members considered the adapted set of the new model orders, as supplied by ADA, which include two extra clauses at the end of them which include a change to the way in which meetings are held to allow remote attendance.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve in principle.

B.1298 Declarations of Interest

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

B.1299 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 6th June 2019 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1300 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

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

B.1301 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

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

B.1302 Election of Members of the Board

Miss Ablett reported that, as the number of candidates for membership of the Board did not exceed the number of persons to be elected (fifteen), the following candidates were elected as Members of the Board for a period of three years from the 1st November 2019, viz:-

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

(NB) –Councillors J F Clark, M Cornwell, C Marks, M Purser, D Topgood and F H Yeulett are also Members of the Board as the nominees of Fenland District Council under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Miss Ablett also reported that Councillor Divine had been appointed but was subsequently removed.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Purser who was attending his first meeting of the Board.

B.1303 Water Transfer Licencing

Further to minute B.1224, Miss Ablett reported that the relevant licences have been applied for for the MLC and associated Boards and that these were due to be validated before the end of December 2019 and then the EA have 3 further years to determine them. She also advised that it was worth noting that the EA have confirmed that only MLC system to IDB transfers do not require a separate licence.

B.1304 Amalgamation with Euximoor IDB

Further to minute B.1264, Miss Ablett referred to the notes of an amalgamation meeting held on the 16th July 2019 at which the reason for the amalgamation, the name and number of members on the proposed new Board and the differential rating were discussed and approved. She advised

that the financial information requested by the Assistant Clerk had been provided to her by the Treasurer in early October 2019

Miss Ablett reported that the Assistant Clerk had recently contacted the Environment Agency's solicitor to discuss with her how she intended to proceed with the amalgamation and of the likely timescale. She had confirmed that she would take advice from staff within the Environment Agency to ensure that the Assistant Clerk's proposals would be sufficient.

Miss Ablett then explained to the Board the next stages of the amalgamation process and of the likely timescale

Miss Ablett reported that once the advertising stage had been reached the Assistant Clerk had advised that she would contact the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of both Boards. Members requested that the Assistant Clerk also inform each of them to keep them informed.

The Chairman reported that a joint inspection of both Districts had been arranged last year, which the Chairman of Euximoor IDB had subsequently cancelled, however he hoped that an inspection could be arranged later this summer.

Mr Heading advised there were two Boards anxious to amalgamate so every effort must be made to ensure this can be completed within the next 12 months.

RESOLVED

- i) That, as soon as COVID-19 restrictions allow, the Clerk contacts the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of both March East and Euximoor IDBs to arrange an inspection.
- ii) That the Clerk makes every effort to have the amalgamation concluded within 12 months.
- iii) That, once the advertising stage has been reached, the Assistant Clerk contacts every Board member to keep them informed.

B.1305 Drain Maintenance – Point 177 – Grounds Avenue

Further to minute B.1265, Miss Ablett reported that meetings were held in April and October 2019 and on-going discussions had continued with some of the parties responsible for the poorly maintained watercourse that served Grounds Avenue.

She further reported that one of the stakeholders on the sub-group, Anglian Water, had advised they were to discuss the Board's enquiry regarding them paying for the entire channel improvements and carrying out future maintenance of the channel at a meeting in April 2020.

Miss Ablett advised that this meeting had been postponed until the current COVID-19 working restrictions were lifted and this, together with the established contacts for two of the parties having changed due to retirement and changing workloads, had caused a slight delay with this issue. However, the matter was being dealt with to ensure a co-ordinated and amicable resolution.

Miss Ablett reported that the Planning Officer had advised that if it was not possible to meet in the next month or so he would seek an update from the contacts concerned.

RESOLVED

That, as soon as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, a meeting be arranged with all parties concerned and that the Planning Officer seeks an update within a couple of months

B.1306 Complaint to County Council

Further to minute B.1270(vi), Miss Ablett reported that the Board's issues concerning the Local Lead Flood Authority not taking into account the views, concerns and recommendations made by IDBs when approving planning matters had been discussed informally, but an official complaint had not yet been made. The Planning Officer had advised that once the meeting season had been finalised he intended to collate all the issues raised by other Boards in one comprehensive response.

RESOLVED

That as soon as the Planning Officer has composed a comprehensive response incorporating all issues raised by all Boards he makes a complaint to the County Council.

B.1307 Maintenance Strip – Drain at Wimblington (Matthew Homes)

Further to minute B.1279, Miss Ablett reported that although a formal letter had not been sent to both Bruce Smith and Matthew Homes regarding the potential contravention of the Board's Byelaws, as resolved at the last meeting, both the Assistant Clerk and the Planning Officer have had ongoing discussions with both parties.

A query was raised regarding the 4 metre Byelaw and Mr Heading advised that, although the standard width of a maintenance strip was 9 metres, in respect of this application however, the Board had made a concession and so every effort should be made to ensure that it was adhered to. Miss Ablett confirmed she would advise the Planning Officer and Assistant Clerk.

B.1308 Clerk's Report

Miss Ablett advised:-

i) COVID-19 Actions

That following the instructions given by government on 23rd March the following list of actions have been taken (this list is not exhaustive);

- Arrangements were made for all MLC staff to have the facility to work from home. This included access to email, and in most cases full remote access to work computers. This was implemented and fully operational by Wednesday 25th March.
- MLC operatives continue to attend work but in a more restricted manor following NHS guidelines.
- A skeleton rota to ensure that the office phones are manned has been put in place, post is received and processed and letters sent out where necessary.
- Other temporary arrangements have been implemented to help support the continued operation of the office whilst the COVID-19 government restrictions remain in place, this includes allowing more flexible hours of work, allowing access to the office as and when

required to collect or deposit papers making arrangements for the post to be collected and delivered to a safe location outside the office.

- A licence to run video conferencing meeting was obtained and arrangements made to hold meetings by telephone and/or video. Chairmen were contacted at each stage as government advice emerged.
- A policy statement was issued via the MLC website stating the actions the MLC were taking.
- Consultation with ADA on more or less a daily basis were undertaken in the first few weeks encouraging them to take proactive action. Of value to us (and as called for) ADA have been able to secure IDBs 'Key Worker' status and have obtained approval from Defra to move to web/telephone conference meetings.

ii) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a fourth Chair's Meeting was held on the 26th November 2019.

The meeting commenced with a presentation with slides covering the lottery funded 'Fens Biosphere' bid. This UNESCO designation would have no statutory backing but instead aims to draw attention to the unique nature of the area. Good practice sharing would be facilitated and a framework of support for positive action developed. The idea is to frame the application around the Cambridgeshire peat lands and the IDB districts which provide a network of interconnecting watercourses. As this designation would not lead to a set of actions which would be enforced but could have a positive impact on the area the Board were asked (at this stage) to consider giving its approval in principle to the bid.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve support for the Biosphere bid in principle

Health and Safety discussions followed and it was agreed that the new arrangement with Cope Safety Management was working well.

The future vision for the MLC and IDBs was discussed and is covered as a separate agenda item.

On member training, after discussion, it was agreed that members would benefit from training on 'communications and engagement' as it was felt that Boards generally had challenges in getting messages across to the public.

The only other item covered in any detail was in relation to Board agendas and minutes. It was resolved that the Chairs supported the move to reducing the amount of paper leaving the MLC offices and it was also agreed, for reasons of efficiency, that Chairs be provided with an action points list as soon as practical after the meetings but in advance of issuing draft minutes.

That a fifth Chair's Meeting was held on the 10th March 2020.

Topics discussed included health and safety, effective communications with the public, the move to electronic agendas, consideration of the level of planning information included in reports, planning fees and the work of WRE.

Planning and Consenting

One of the agreed actions from the last Chair's meeting was that each Board be asked to consider the degree of delegation and reporting they require on planning and consenting matters. This was in response to several queries over the extent of detail being reported on

such matters and the delays in issuing responses due to the number of people being consulted. I have outlined several possible options below to assist the Board but of course there are many other permutations and it is for the Board to decide which suits its interests best.

- a) Remain with the current arrangements.
- b) Continue to delegate all commenting on consent applications and relevant planning matters to the chairman and in his absence (or where he has an interest) to the Vice Chair. The Chair to have the power to decide if a matter should be raised at the board meeting for its consideration where legal timeframes permit this. All matters however to be reported generally more briefly within the Board report, ie number of applications responded to and number of consents issued or refused.
- c) As above but leaving the Clerk with the power to determine the appropriate responses to consent applications and planning matters without reference to the Chair or Vice Chair.

RESOLVED

That the Board continue with the current arrangements.

iii) Applications for byelaw consent

That the following applications for consent to undertake works in and around watercourses have 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>
Cambridgeshire County Council	Undertake strengthening works to Martins Bridge on Binnimoor Road, March	4 th October 2019
Matthew Homes	Formation of a 600mm dia culvert approx. 16m long between Points 80-81 Bridge Lane Drain East of March Road, Wimblington	16 th March 2020

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consent be approved.

iv) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 82nd Annual Conference of the Association had been held at the ICE building in Westminster on Wednesday 13th November 2019.

The conference was very well attended and the speakers this year were:-

Stuart Roberts - Vice President National Farmers' Union – an arable and livestock farmer who has also worked for Defra and Flood Standards Agency – who shared his views on the need for more radical and bold thinking on flood risk management and the supply of water for agriculture.

Bryan Curtis – Chair Coastal Group Network – Chartered Engineer and a member of CIWEM and ICE.

Bryan is Chairman of the Coastal Group Network. This is a network of Councils, Ports, Government bodies who provide a collective voice for the coast and management of the shoreline.

Robin Price – Interim Managing Director – Water Resources East (WRE)

Water Resources East is a partnership from a wide range of industries including water energy, retail, the environment, land management and agriculture who are working in collaboration to manage the number of significant risks to the future supply of water in the East of England. The NFU and ADA (via the David Thomas) have membership on the Board of WRE.

The conference was introduced by Robert Caudwell who asked all present to mark their appreciation of the work being done in the north east of England to respond to and manage the impacts of the floods. He stated his opinion that warnings at previous ADA conferences over the lack of river maintenance had fallen on deaf ears and that the flooding taking place at the time was clear evidence of the need to better balance capital investment with maintenance spending. He then went on to outline ADA's intention to lobby all parties throughout the general election. This included sharing the 7-point plan detailed below;

1. Long term investment horizons in the face of climate change challenges

Flood risk management delivers enduring benefits and authorities involved need to be able to plan ahead financially over multiple years and need to receive a sensible balance of capital and revenue funding, spread across the river catchments, in order to find efficiencies through climate change adaptation and resilience, and attract business investment.

2. Promote co-operation and partnership working to manage the water environment and reduce flood risk

Close cooperation between flood risk management authorities, water companies, communities, business and land managers needs the continued strong support of government to deliver adaptive and resilient flood risk maintenance and similar activities more efficiently and affordably.

3. Total catchment management

Total catchment management is now the widely accepted approach to managing our water and now is the time to increase and empower local professionals and communities to manage and operate these catchments together.

4. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)

The next government needs to fully implement Schedule 3 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, to ensure future development can keep pace with the challenges of the changing climate, by ensuring that SuDS are maintained over the lifetime of a development.

5. Support local governance in flood and water level management decision making

In some parts of England there is an appetite for greater local maintenance delivery on watercourses and flood defence assets than that currently afforded from national investment. This can be achieved via the careful transfer of some main river maintenance to local bodies or the expansion of areas maintained by those local bodies, such as Internal Drainage Boards, where there is local support and transitional funding.

6. Local Government Finances

It is vital that Special and Local Levy funding mechanisms for drainage, water level and flood risk management continue to be part of this funding landscape to maintain the democratic link with local communities affected.

7. Brexit: Ensuring a resilient regulatory framework for the water environment

The next government needs to provide clear policy messages about how they wish to make the delivery of environmental improvements to the water environment easier and more effective as we transition from European legislation such as the Water Framework Directive.

Unfortunately, because the conference was held during the pre-election period sometimes known as Purdah, which restricts certain communications during this time, there were no representatives available from the Environment Agency or Defra which significantly restricted the debate on flood risk management, funding and maintenance issues. However, there was considerable support from the floor of the conference for the view that lack of maintenance had significantly contributed to the recent problems with the River Don and the flooding of Fishlake village.

Officers of the Association were re-elected, including Lord De Ramsey as President and Robert Caudwell as Chairman.

Subscriptions to ADA would be increased by 2% for the following year.

b) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities will be held in London on Wednesday the 11th November 2020.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to obtain a ticket for the Annual Conference of the Association for any Member who wishes to attend.

c) 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 3rd March 2020.

The meeting format was as per the 2019 conference with a workshop in the morning and the Conference in the afternoon. Topics covered were control of invasive species, water resources, planning and effective communications with the wider public.

That the date of the next meeting is Tuesday the 2nd March 2021.

d) Further Research on Eels

Further to minute B.1203(d), ADA have advised that the valuable research work being carried out by Hull University on eels and eel behaviour in pumped catchments will be continuing for at least another two years. ADA consider that the financial support to the project to date provided by the IDBs has been positive and noted by the regulator (EA), leading to positive engagement on finding practical solutions at pumping station sites. They therefore consider that it would be useful if IDBs could consider whether they would be willing to continue their annual contributions to this research over that period.

RESOLVED

That the Board contribute £100 per year for the next 2 years towards further research on eels.

e) Emergency Financial Assistance for Internal Drainage Boards

That whilst in East Anglia we have not had the unprecedented levels of rainfall which have occurred further north and in the west of the county in recent years this by no means equates to there being no risk of it occurring here. ADA have written to DEFRA seeking to formalise a mechanism for IDBs providing support to the EA in a major event to recover costs. An update will be given should there be any substantive movement from DEFRA

v) Tactical Plans for the Fens Agreement

That the Environment Agency have set up a multi-partner group (FRM for the Fens) to steer work on developing strategic plans for managing flood risk in the lower Great Ouse catchment. This work is considered necessary to address the impacts of population growth and climate change, which are particularly relevant in this area. The EA is requesting approval to the approach being taken in principle and follows the letter sent in January 2019. The perceived value of this work is that it pre-apportions the benefits (land and property which would flood if not defended) so that applying for grant should be more straight forward and the amount of grant possible clearer. This should give increased certainty and clarity and resolves the issue of double counting benefits where for example a property is protected from flooding by both EA and IDB assets. Work on developing the strategy could take up to 15 years though and the proposal also therefore includes a mechanism for allowing grant-aided works to progress during this time on a hold-the-line basis.

Mr Heading advised that although he agreed in principle the Board should be made aware that this was a long-term project and would be very expensive. He added that the Environment Agency were expecting IDBs to contribute financially and so jointly the Board could be responsible for some considerable expenditure and should be able to have some input and influence in the way the project is progressed.

Councillor Clark enquired whether if the Board agreed to make contributions at an earlier stage they would retain the right to withdraw from the project at a later date.

Councillor Cornwell advised that as this was such a big commitment more clarity on the effects of the project to the Board was required and the sooner the Board understood their position the better.

The Chairman agreed that the Board should seek further information from the Clerk regarding the points raised.

RESOLVED

i) That the Board approve in principle.

ii) That the Clerk provide further information to Members regarding the costs to the Board, whether the Board has any input into the project and also whether the Board would be able to remove themselves from the arrangement if costs escalated.

vi) Water Resources East (WRE)

That the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Executive has been appointed as ADA's area representative on the Board of WRE. He will act as spokesman for IDBs who have an interest in the future management and provision of water in the East of England. This is

particularly important as government consider plans to make the area more resilient and as the impacts of climate change start to bite in an area of rapid housing growth.

vii) Vision for the Future of Boards administered by the MLC

That Members will be aware that the Chair's meetings hosted by the MLC has had an item on the agenda for the last few meetings on future planning of administration and delivery of operations for the Board's collectively. As part of this process it has been agreed that members thoughts should be sought on what they envisage the collective future can and should look like to ensure the most resilient, delivery focused approach that can be achieved. Members should when developing their vision of water management in the fens in 2030 consider the challenges of maintaining representation, improving financial resilience, reducing duplication of work, the potential for cost savings, advantages and disadvantages of the various options available, the impacts of technology and sharing of resources and knowledge.

The general feeling of the Boards so far was that they recognised there could be problems with Boards and the need to amalgamate possibly ten years down the road but most seemed to be happy to continue with their current arrangements. However, this should remain under review and where appropriate amalgamations between Boards supported.

B.1309 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

March East I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – May 2020

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

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

Provisional notices for the 2020 phased programmed machine cleansing works were issued last year. The extent of this year's works is shown on the following site plan.

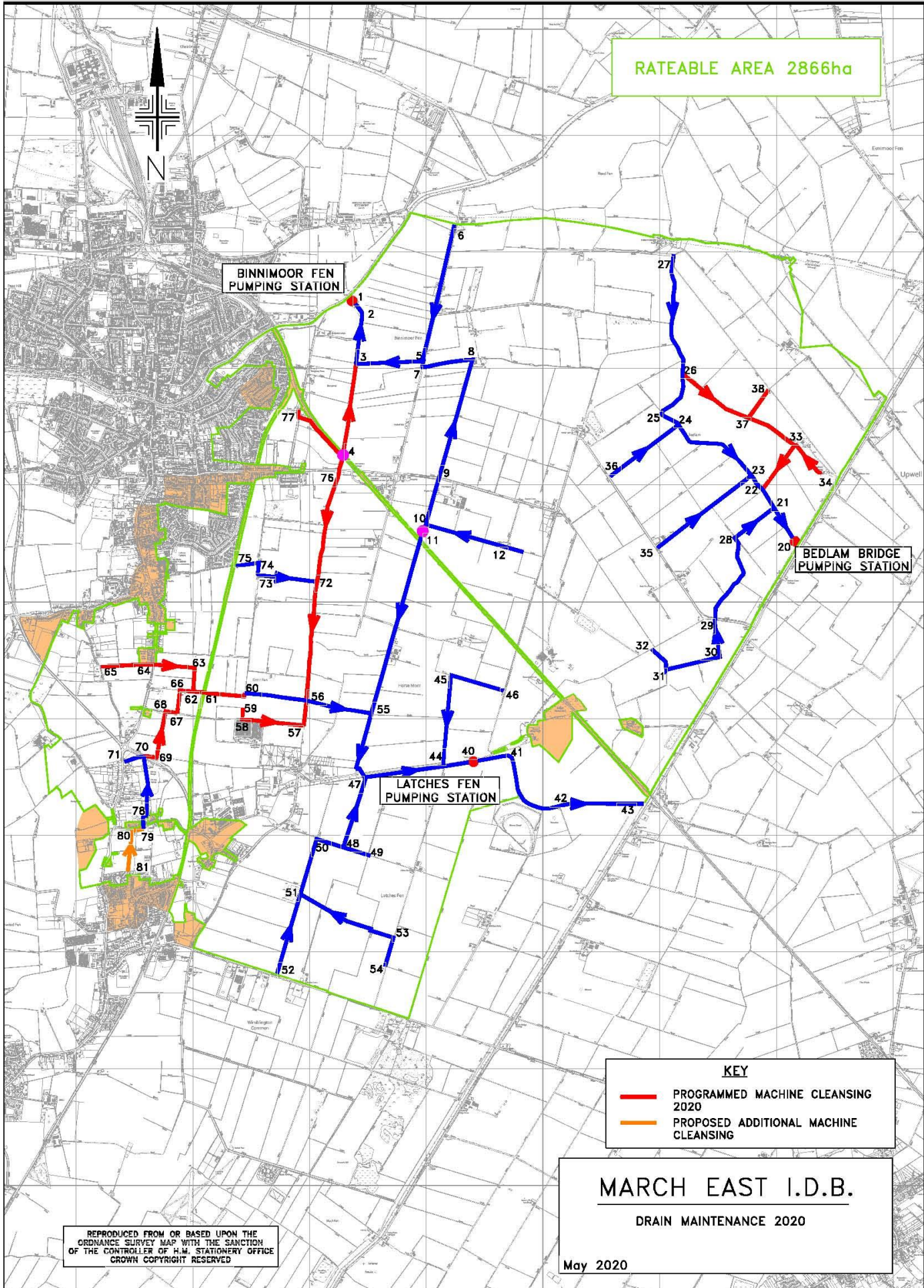
A recent inspection of the Board's district drains has revealed that the majority of the drains are in a satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard. The inspection indicates that many of the Board's drains, that fall within this year's phased machine cleansing programme, will only require light machine cleansing to retain their good status.



Stonea Farm Drain, reach 29-30

However, the inspection did highlight, that the drains to the south of Bridge Lane, Wimblington (reach 79-80-81), contain sporadic stands of reed and aquatic vegetation. Board members will recall these drains were deliberately omitted from the Board's 2008 phased maintenance programme, and are scheduled to receive maintenance on an "as and when" basis. It is considered they require maintenance this season and therefore it is recommended they are treated with an application of Roundup herbicide followed by light machine cleansing when weather conditions and field access

It was also noted the Barkers Lane drains (reach 72-73-74-75) and the Stonea Farm drains to the South of Upwell Road (reach 29-30-31-32) contain an early season infestation of watercress and it is recommended they are included in this year's proposed herbicide applications.



RATEABLE AREA 2866ha

BINNIMOOR FEN PUMPING STATION

BEDLAM BRIDGE PUMPING STATION

LATCHES FEN PUMPING STATION

KEY
 — PROGRAMMED MACHINE CLEANSING 2020
 — PROPOSED ADDITIONAL MACHINE CLEANSING

MARCH EAST I.D.B.
 DRAIN MAINTENANCE 2020
 May 2020

REPRODUCED FROM OR BASED UPON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP WITH THE SANCTION OF THE CONTROLLER OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

The Board's flail mowing contractors, Messrs Ashman, have indicated they will be available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements this year. A sum has been allocated within the estimated costs to allow for flail mowing of the district drains.

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

The estimated costs of this year's Weed Control and Drain maintenance works are as follows:

1.	Machine cleanse the following drains:		£	£
	<u>Bedlam Bridge Pumping Area</u>			
	(i) Reach 22-33	500	m @	1.10 550.00
	(ii) Reach 37-38	300	m @	1.10 330.00
	(iii) Reach 26-37-33-34	1500	m @	1.10 1650.00
	<u>Latches Fen Pumping Area</u>			
	(i) Reach 56-57-58-59	400	m @	1.10 440.00
	(ii) Reach 56-72-76-77	2600	m @	1.20 3120.00
	(iii) Reach 60-61-62-63-64-65	1500	m @	1.10 1650.00
	(iv) Reach 62-66-67-68-69-70	1000	m @	1.10 1100.00
	(v) Reach 79-80-81	500	m @	1.10 550.00
	<u>Binnimoor Fen Pumping Area</u>			
	(i) Reach 3-4	800	m @	1.20 960.00
2.	Roundup application to control reed water cress and other emergent weed growth in district drains	Item	Sum	1500.00
3.	Allow sum for flail mowing.	Item	Sum	7500.00
4.	<u>Provisional Item</u> Allow sum for bank revetment, emergency Cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance works	Item	Sum	2000.00
5.	Fees for inspection, preparation, and submission of report to the Board, arrangement, and supervision of chemical applications and maintenance works.	Item	Sum	2000.00
TOTAL				£23,350.00

Please refer to the site plan on the previous page for locations.

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

Pumping Stations

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

Weedscreen

The replacement weedscreen could not be installed at the time fabrication was completed owing to a high drain level. The opportunity for installation did however arise when the drain water level was later lowered for drainworks and hence it was fitted and commissioned in November 2019.

Pumping Hours

Bedlam Pumping Station

Hours Run	May 12 – May 13	May 13 – May 14	May 14 – May 15	May 15 – May 16	May 16 – May 17	May 17 – May 18	May 18 – May 19	May 19 – May 20
No 1	(11114) – (11322) = 208	(11322) – (11536) = 214	(11536) – (11731) = 195	(11731) – (12082) = 351	(12082) – (12303) = 221	(12303) – (12501) = 198	12501 12556 = 55	13005- 12566 = 449
No 2	(9052) – (9778) = 726	(9778) – (10136) = 358	(10136) – (10877) = 741	(10877) – (10936) = 59	(10936) – (10949) = 13	(10949) – (11486) = 537	11581 11486 = 95	11934- 11581 = 353
Total	934	572	936	410	234	735	150	802

Binnimoor Pumping Station

Hours Run	May 12 – May 13	May 13 – May 14	May 14 – May 15	May 15 – May 16	May 16 – May 17	May 17 – May 18	May 18 – May 19	May 19 – May 20
No 1	(99) – (421) = 322	(421) – (646) = 225	(646) – (1020) = 374	(1020) – (1194) = 174	(1194) – (1300) = 106	(1300) – (1532) = 232	1560 1532 = 28	1902-1560 = 342
Total	322	225	374	174	106	232	=28	342

Latches Fen Pumping Station

Hours Run	May 12 – May 13	May 13 – May 14	May 14 – May 15	May 15 – May 16	May 16 – May 17	May 17 – May 18	May 18 – May 19	May 19 – May 20
No 1	(18380) – (19915) = 1535	(19915) – (20744) = 829	(20744) – (21621) = 877	(21621) – (22134) = 513	(22134) – (22528) = 394	(22528) – (23375) = 847	23768 23375 = 393	24824- 23768 = 1056
No 2	(466) – (524) = 58	(524) – (552) = 28	(552) – (589) = 37	(589) – (640) = 51	(640) – (643) = 3	(643) – (652) = 9	654 652 = 2	667- 654 = 13
Total	1593	857	914	564	397	856	=395	1069

Pumping Station Asset Appraisals

Further to the asset appraisal carried in 2010 for the EA the Board requested an update for 2020.

Bedlam



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	March East
Commissioned	1971
Refurbished	Pumps refurbished 2010/11
Pumps	2 no. Allen Gwynnes 15"/18" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow No.C4/80606/1&2
Duty	425 l/s @ 4.2m Total Gauge Head
Drive Motor	Brooks Crompton Parkinson SC TEFV 30kW @ 965 rpm
Gearbox	Newbrook SPL26 Dual Drive
Control Equipment	BHI DOL
Automatic Level Control	Milltronic Multiranger
Weedscreen Cleaner	Brackett Bosker HD500 (2003)
Control Building	Brick with felt covered flat roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	1.8m high galvanised palisade

General Comments

Bedlam is one of three pumping stations in the March East IDB district and drains a catchment to the east of March and to the west of the Sixteen Foot Bank (B1098). The pumping station was constructed in 1971 and at 49 years old only has around 20-25 years of design life left.

The two vertical spindle pumps discharge the incoming flows into a reinforced concrete chamber and then via a gravity pipeline to an outfall in the Sixteen Foot Drain, which is maintained by the Middle Level Commissioners.

Weedscreen



The weedscreen was replaced when the screen cleaning process was automated in 2003. The weedscreen consists of 10mm thick galvanized bars at 65mm centres. At seventeen years old the screen is in a good condition and should have a further 20 years life unless damaged by the cleaning process.

The automatic weedscreen, manufactured by Brackett Green, consists of a Bosker model monorail, motorised hoist drum and hydraulic grab mechanism. The weedscreen cleaner is in good order but may well require an overhaul in the next 5 years giving it a further 15 years life at least.

Control House



The control building was constructed in 1971 and is formed of brick with a mineral felt covered flat roof and it is in reasonable condition with no major signs of spalling, cracking or subsidence. The roof is constructed of Woodcemaire panels and covered with mineral felt. The ceiling has been covered with polystyrene tiles. The building structure should last a further 30 years but the mineral felt roof covering will need to be replaced in the next 10 years.

There are no windows to the building and lighting is artificial by means of a twin LED light.

The entrance door is of steel construction and if regularly maintained should last a further 20 years.

The plastic rainwater goods are in reasonable condition and should last a further 20 years.

Control Equipment/Pumps



The pump control panel is generally as installed in 1971 although some components have been replaced since installation. It is in reasonable condition for its age and because of its basic design it is relatively easy to repair and retro fit new modern components into it. The panel should last a further 10-15 years with appropriate maintenance.

The pumps operate by ultrasonic level control via a Milltronics Multiranger programmable logic controller located in the control panel, which was installed approximately 15 years ago and is likely to be nearing the end of its design life. Replacements are readily available.

The station has two 15"/18" Allen Gwynnes vertical spindle axial flow pumps mounted vertically in a reinforced concrete sump. Both pumps were refurbished 2010/11 and appear in good order however they are likely to need a further overhaul in ten years' time.

Lowland in the Bedlam catchment area is at a level of approximately 98.30 metres ODN; the minimum freeboard provided to the lowest land in the winter is therefore in the order of 1.5 metres at the current winter operating levels.

The pump's impeller is at a level of 95.80 metres, which equates to the manufacturer's specified minimum automatic pumping level. At the current winter operating levels there is approximately a further 0.8 metres impeller submergence giving scope for future lowering of the district water levels. The sump and pump submergence therefore appear to be of adequate depth at present and should serve the district for at least 15 more years before consideration will need to be given to major modifications of the station or its total replacement.

One of the pumps has a gearbox installed to allow for the unit to be coupled to a Power Take Off (PTO) in the event of electricity failure.

The station is not fitted with telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

The pumping station is accessed off the Sixteen Foot Bank (B1098) and the unmade access road runs parallel to the Sixteen Foot River. In view of the poor access to this installation at certain times of the year it is recommended that the Board review this as it should be suitable for use by heavy mobile cranes and emergency service vehicles at all times of year.

The compound is protected by a 1.8 metre high galvanised palisade fence that is in good condition with a further 20 years life.

Inlets/Outlets



The pumping station inlet is constructed of reinforced concrete, which is in good condition and should last a further 30 years. The inlet wingwalls are constructed of sheet steel piles with a concrete capping, the piles show signs of corrosion but are in a fair condition and should last a further 25 years. The inlet is protected by a 1.2 metre high galvanised 'Kee Klamp' type railing which is in good condition and will last a further 20 years.

The outlet is constructed of reinforced concrete and is in good condition with no major signs of deterioration and should last a further 40 years. The flap valve is below the water level but thought to be in a reasonable condition as it was inspected and repaired around 2014.



Pumping Station Valuations-March East IDB

The following is an estimate of the maximum expected cost of rebuilding or replacing the pumping station on the same or an adjacent site following a catastrophic failure, eg a fire, a collapse or an explosion.

Site Name	March East -Bedlam Pumping Station
Site Data	
No. Pumps	2
Station Capacity	0.9 cumecs
Station built	1971 (pumps overhauled 2011/12)
Description of Station	2 no. Allen Gwynnes 15"/18" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow No. C4/80606/1&2 and Brooks Crompton Parkinson SC TEFV 30kW @ 965 rpm. 1 no Newbrook Dual drive gearbox. Control equipment BHI Direct-on-line, Bosker weedscreen cleaner (2003). Pumps refurbished 2011/12. Brick control building with felt covered flat roof
Valuation	
Civils Works	£413,010.00
M&E	£278,205.00
Other	£43,000.00
Total	£734,215.00
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sumps/pipework	£317,700.00
Hard standing	
Fencing	£10,590.00
Outfall	£52,950.00
Pumphouse	£21,180.00
Other	£10,590.00
M&E	
Pumps/gearbox	£109,100.00
Control Equipment, cabling	£32,730.00
Power Supply	inc in public liability
Motors	£16,365.00
Installation	£32,730.00
Weedscreen raker/screen	£87,280.00
Other	
Approvals	£10,750.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,375.00
Design	£16,125.00
Supervision	£10,750.00

Binnimoor Fen



Station Details

Drainage Board	March East
Commissioned	1976
Pump Replaced	2018
Pumps	Bedford Type SAF45.05.06
Duty	570 l/s @ 3.6m TGH
Drive Motor	40kW 6 pole
Gearbox	None
Control Equipment	DOL starter by Lawtronic Ltd
Automatic Level Control	Pulsar Ultra 3
Weedscreen Cleaner	Bosker Bandit (2000)
Control Building	Brick with tile effect metal sheet roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	1.8 metre high galvanised palisade

General Comments

Binnimoor is one of three pumping stations in the March East IDB catchment. It serves an area of the drainage district to the east of March and it discharges into the River Nene.

The original station was constructed in 1976 and was then rebuilt in 1999. Later in 2018 the controls were replaced and a new pump and weedscreen fitted. The station has a single submersible pump which discharges via an inverted siphon into the River Nene.

Weedscreen

The weedscreen consists of 12mm thick rectangular section bars at 60mm centres, installed in 2018 it should therefore last for many years if not damaged.



The station was fitted with an automatic weedscreen cleaner in 2000. It is a Bosker Bandit model manufactured by Brackett Green and has a telescopic arm and rotating main body which houses the hydraulic unit and terminal box. It should have a further 10-15 years life, subject to ongoing maintenance.

Control House



The existing brick building constructed in 1976 was demolished and replaced with another building in 1999. The new building was constructed off the existing concrete foundations. The structure is in very good condition and should last a further 40 years.

The timber eaves were replaced with plastic and should last a further 30 years.

The steel door is in good condition and will last a further 30 years if maintained and not damaged by vandalism.

There are no windows in the building and lighting is artificial by means of a twin fluorescent light.

Control Equipment/Pumps



The control equipment was replaced along with the pump in 2018 and incorporates a Pulsar ultrasonic level controller. The panel has a design life of 25 years but with care and proper maintenance it should last for the remaining life of the station.

The control panel for the automatic weedscreen is located in the control building adjacent to the pump control equipment. At 17 years old it is likely to

need some form of repairs/replacement in the next 10-15 years.

The pump is new and operates well and should do so for the next 15-20 years without intervention.

Lowland in the Binnimoor catchment area is approximately at a level of 98.30 ODN; the minimum freeboard provided to the lowest land level in the winter is in the order of 0.9–1.1 metres at current winter operating levels. The pump's minimum operating level is 95.50 metres; the current winter operating level is approximately 1.8 metres above this level and, therefore, gives scope for future lowering of the district water levels. The sump and pump submergence, therefore, appears to be of adequate depth at present to serve the district for at least 20 more years before consideration needs to be given to modifying or replacing the station.

The station is fitted with telemetry by Oriel Systems and can be remotely monitored.

Fencing/Compound

Access to the site is via a stone track which has a galvanised metal gate some 200 metres from the compound. The compound is enclosed by a 1.8 metre high galvanised metal palisade fence that is in very good condition and should last a further 20 years but it is noted that unfortunately it does not prevent fairly frequent acts of vandalism. The fencing incorporates a vehicular and pedestrian access gate.

The compound is generally laid to stone and is in reasonable condition with no major works envisaged as being required for the next 20 years.

Inlets/Outlets



The reinforced concrete inlet sump is in very good condition with no major signs of deterioration and should last a further 30 years. The inlet wingwalls are constructed of sheet steel piles and are concrete capped. The steel is showing signs of corrosion but should last a further 25 years.

The outlet bay is of brick constructed on a reinforced concrete base. It is in good condition and should last a further 30 years or more with repointing and repairs. Due to the vandalism issue the outlet is protected by a 1.8 metre high metal palisade fence.



Pumping Station Valuations-March East IDB

The following is an estimate of the maximum expected cost of rebuilding or replacing the pumping station on the same or an adjacent site following a catastrophic failure, eg a fire, a collapse or an explosion.

Site Name	March East -Binnimoor Pumping Station
Site Data	
No. Pumps	1
Station Capacity	564 l/s @ 4.2m TGH
Station built	1976
Description of Station	1 no. British Pleuger S483P submersible Axial Flow No.B5116 intergral BP submersible wet type 41kW @ 965 rpm. Control equipment Lawtronic Direct-on-line, Bosker Bandit weedscreen cleaner (2001). Brick control building with tile effect metal sheet roof (1999)
Valuation	
Civils Works	£338,880.00
M&E	£152,740.00
Other	£43,000.00
Total	£534,620.00
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sumps/pipework	£264,750.00
Hard standing	
Fencing	£10,590.00
Outfall	£31,770.00
Pumphouse	£21,180.00
Other	£10,590.00
M&E	
Pump	£54,550.00
Control Equipment, cabling	£16,365.00
Power Supply	inc in public liability
Motors	inc subm
Installation	£16,365.00
Weedscreen raker/screen	£65,460.00
Other	
Approvals	£10,750.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,375.00
Design	£16,125.00
Supervision	£10,750.00

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station **Binnimoor Fen**
 Internal Drainage Board **March East**

Function Category	Description	Year 1 2020/21	Year 2 2021/22	Year 3 2022/23	Year 4 2023/24	Year 5 2024/25	Year 6 - 10 2025 - 2030	Year 11 - 15 2030 - 2035	Year 16 - 20 2035 - 2040
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment									
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment				10K					
Control Building									
Compound and Surroundings									
Telemetry									
Need									
	10K Repairs to weedscreen cleaner								

Note - Costs are based on value of works at 2020 prices.
 - These are estimated capital replacement figures and do not include routine maintenance costs.

Latches Fen



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	March East
Commissioned	1956
Refurbished	Diesel 1995, Electric 2010
Pumps	1 no. Sulzer BAP 70Sn (Diesel) and 1 no. Sulzer BS 40NI (Electric)
Duty	1530 l/s @ 6.3m @TGH (Diesel), 550 l/s @ 6.3m TGH
Drive Motor	Perkins 1300TG (Diesel) and Brooks Crompton Parkinson Pipe Cage 55kW @ 960 rpm
Gearbox	Newbrook RV 280 4:1 gearbox (Diesel)
Control Equipment	Lawtronic (Diesel) and Newark Controls Direct-on-line (Electric)
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Multiranger
Weedscreen Cleaner	Heron model by EJ Lord
Control Building	Brick with flat concrete roof
Telemetry	Dynamic Logic DL1235
Fencing	1.8 metre high galvanised palisade

General Comments

Latches Fen is one of three pumping stations in the March East IDB catchment. The station serves a large area of the district to the south east of the town of March. The pumping station lifts the incoming flow and discharges into Harding's drain, which in turn discharges via gravity to the Sixteen Foot drain. The station was constructed in 1955 and the vertical spindle single pump is driven by a diesel engine through a gearbox. In 1986 an additional wet well was constructed and an electric pump installed with a control panel located in the control building. The electric pump became the duty pumping unit. The purpose of the installation was twofold, to provide electrification and to serve a changing catchment. In 1995 the existing Ruston diesel engine was replaced with a new Perkins engine and a new panel installed to provide automatic operation of the engine and the automatic weedscreen cleaner.



Weedscreen The galvanised weedscreens for the two pumped inlets consist of 12mm thick bars at 50mm centres. The weedscreens were installed when the cleaning process was automated in 1995 and are in a good condition for their age and should last a further 15 years.

The automatic weedscreen cleaner consists of a single galvanised monorail, motorised hoist drum and hydraulic grab mechanism.

At 25 years old the weedscreen cleaner is, in general, in a good condition however it will need ongoing maintenance/refurbishment over the next 15 years.



Control House



The brick constructed building is in good condition for its age with no major signs of cracking or subsidence. However, the brickwork has various areas where spalling is occurring and this is more noticeable at the corners of the building. Most of the windows in the main building have been bricked up and the only remaining window is of metal construction and located in the outbuilding which houses the electric control panel.

The building is 64 years old and would have been constructed on piles, the likely reason why it has stood the test of time so well.

The flat roof is of reinforced concrete construction and covered with felt. The felt was replaced in 2002, it has not been inspected but must be in need of replacement soon.

The building contains a 7.5 ton manually operated crane manufactured by the Vaughn Crane Co Ltd and is still in commission.

The double metal access door to the building is in good condition and if maintained should last a further 20 years.

Control Equipment/Pumps



Control panel diesel engine/pump



Perkins Engine

The diesel-powered Sulzer pump was originally operated manually. In 1995 the existing Ruston diesel engine was replaced with a Perkins unit and operation changed to automatic via use of the control panel built by Lawtronics Ltd in 1998. The Sulzer pump was totally refurbished at this time. The diesel engine unit should have a further 10 years or more life particularly as it operates very few hours a year. The pump is the original and should be towards the end of its design life, it was overhauled in conjunction with the engine installation but has done very few hours. The concern is that the pump may be suffering heavy corrosion and hence needs to be inspected to ascertain its condition. Sulzer pumps are still in operation, which should make getting spare parts possible.

The diesel bulk tank serving the diesel engine is located outside the control building. The tank is over 60 years old and the bunding is known not to be watertight.

The single electrically operated Sulzer vertical spindle semi axial flow pump is 34 years old and was refurbished in 2010 and is probably two thirds through its design life. It operates in a satisfactory manner and gives little indication of major mechanical or electrical faults. It will need a further and last overhaul in 5-10 years due the high number of running hours.



The control panel, as manufactured by Lawtronics Ltd, is the original and is 34 years old, with the exception of the new ultrasonic level controller fitted in 2016. Although it has provided little trouble it is nevertheless nearing the end of its design life. The casing however is in a reasonable condition and it may be possible to fit a new back board to prolong its life for another 15-20 years.

The pump's impeller is at a level of 94.50 metres, which is equivalent to the manufacturer's specified minimum automatic pumping level. At the current winter operating level there is approximately 2.5 metres impeller submergence which should give scope for lowering of the district water levels that may be required due to sinking ground levels. The sump and pump submergence should, therefore, serve the district for at least 25 years before consideration needs to be given to replacing the station which will then be over 80 years old.

Fencing/Compound

Access to the site is directly off the concrete access road. The compound is laid to grass and stone and is generally in a good state of repair and no major expenditure is required in the next 20 years.

The fencing surrounding the compound consists of a 1.8 metre high galvanised palisade fence incorporating a pedestrian and vehicular access gate. The fence is likely to have been installed during the weedscreen cleaning automation and should last a further 15–20 years.

Inlets/Outlets



The inlet wingwalls are constructed of sheet steel piles and are concrete capped. The piles are showing signs of corrosion but should last a further 20–30 years. The 1.2 metre high galvanised ‘Kee Klamp’ style handrailing around the inlet is in good condition and should last a further 20 years.



The outlet is of reinforced concrete and is in good condition. An additional reinforced concrete outlet structure was built as part of the electrified pump installation works and incorporated a metal flap valve.

Pumping Station Valuations-March East IDB

The following is an estimate of the maximum expected cost of rebuilding or replacing the pumping station on the same or an adjacent site following a catastrophic failure, eg a fire, a collapse or an explosion.

Site Name	March East -Latches Fen Pumping Station	
Site Data		
No. Pumps	2	
Station Capacity	2.1 cumecs	
Station built	1956 (new diesel installed & pump overhauled 1995) 1986 (electric)	
Description of Station	1 no. Sulzer BAP 70Sn vertical spindle mixed flow (Diesel) and 1 no. Sulzer BS 40NI vertical spindle mixed flow driven by Perkins 1300TG (Diesel) and Brooks Crompton Parkinson Pipe Cage 55kW motor @ 960 rpm. Newbrook RV 280 4:1 gearbox Control equipment Lawtronic (Diesel) and Newark Controls Direct-on-line, Lord Heron weedscreen cleaner. Pumps refurbished electric-2010, diesel -1995	
Valuation		
Civils Works	£736,005.00	
M&E	£430,945.00	
Other	£43,000.00	
Total	£1,209,950.00	
Breakdown of valuation		
Civils Works		
Pump sumps/pipework	£529,500.00	
Hard standing	£10,590.00	
Fencing	£10,590.00	
Outfall	£79,425.00	
Pumphouse	£84,720.00	
Other weedscreens	£21,180.00	
M&E		
Pumps/gearbox	£174,560.00	
Control Equipment, cabling	£38,185.00	
Power Supply	incl in public liability	
Diesel powerpack fuel tank/systems, Motor	£87,280.00	
Installation	£32,730.00	
Weedscreen raker	£98,190.00	
Other		
Approvals	£10,750.00	
Liaison and consultation	£5,375.00	
Design	£16,125.00	
Supervision	£10,750.00	

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	Latches Fen
Internal Drainage Board	March East

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 10	Year 11 - 15	Year 16 - 20
Function Category	Description	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025 - 2030	2030 - 2035	2035 - 2040
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment		2K				40K		15K	
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment				15K					
Control Building			10K						
Compound and Surroundings									

Need

2K Inspect Diesel pump and make recommendations
40K Electric pump overhaul and panel upgarde
15K Diesel engine replacement
15K Weedscreen cleaner refurbishment
10K General repairs to building

**Note - Costs are based on value of works at 2020 prices.
 - These are capital replacement figures and do not include routine maintenance costs**

Planning Procedures Update

Further to the last meeting the Clerk to the Commissioners has received invitations and attended meetings held by both Fenland District and King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough (KL&WN) Councils' Developers Forum and the latter's Inter-Agency Flood Group.

The use of Infiltration Devices

At the last Inter-Agency Working on Flood & Water Group meeting the issue of minor developments (less than 10 houses) not having adequate safeguards in place where infiltration (soakaway) drainage is proposed was raised, as no authorities are prepared to accept responsibility for checking the adequacy of designs or to police their effective implementation. This matter has now been added to the agenda for future meetings.

Local Land Charges Register (LLCR)

A challenge to the legality of the requests by the Middle Level Commissioners to place notes on the Land Charges Registry was raised. This has resulted in KL&WN Council ceasing adding any such notes. Interestingly the stance being taken by Fenland District Council differs from this and it has advised that it holds notes on file which are passed on whenever a Land Charges Registry enquiry is made. In this way it can rightly assert that the notes are not on the Registry but are held separately.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 40 new development related matters have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

<i>MLC Ref.</i>	<i>Council Ref.</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Type of Development</i>	<i>Location</i>
870	F/YR19/2005/CCC	Recyplas Ltd	Storage	Hook Lane, Wimblington*
871	F/YR19/0291/F	Mr & Mrs T Bester	Residence	Jobs Lane, March
872	F/YR19/0335/F	Miss T Abel	Residence (Extension)	Apple Tree Close, March
873	F/YR19/0428/F	Mr & Mrs J Barnes	Residence (Extension)	Rodham Road, March
874	F/YR19/0415/F	Mr & Mrs Band	Residence (Extension)	Fleetwood Close, March
875	F/YR19/0397/F	Mrs L Bower	Gypsy and traveller residential site (part retrospective)	Coleseed Road, March
876	F/YR19/0406/F	James Development Company Ltd	Residential (2 plots)	Jobs Lane, March
877	F/YR19/0497/F	Mr A Connors	Equine	Horsemoor Road, Wimblington
878	F/YR19/0539/F	Ms S Fink	Residence	Mill Hill Lane, March
879	F/YR19/0581/F	Mr & Mrs T Bester	Residence	Jobs Lane, March
880	F/YR19/0563/RM	Nor Cambs Homes Ltd	Residential (2 plots)	Mill Hill, March*
881	F/YR19/0550/O	Mr P Jolley	Residential (up to 3 plots)	Eastwood End, Wimblington
882	F/YR19/0588/F	Mr R Smith & Mr M Groves	Containers and caravan storage (part retrospective)	Upwell Road, March
883	F/YR19/0614/F	Mr & Mrs Barnett	Residence (Extension)	Upwell Road, March
884	F/YR19/0617/F	Mr N Bowers	Residence	Bridge Lane, Wimblington

885	F/YR19/0642/F	Mr & Mrs Beech	Residence	Bridge Lane fronting March Road, Wimblington*
886	F/YR19/0665/F	Mr L Russell	Residence	Clayfields Drive, Wimblington*
887	F/YR19/0686/F	Teresa Mitchel	Residence (Extension)	Fenland Close, Wimblington
888	F/YR19/0740/F	Mr A Smith	Builders Storage Yard	Horsemoor Road, Wimblington
889	F/YR19/0798/F	Mrs L Bower	Gypsy and traveller residential site (part retrospective)	Coleseed Road, March
890	F/YR19/0809/F	Mr N Bowers	Residence	Bridge Lane, Wimblington
891	F/YR19/0789/PNC04	Mr D Pashler	Residence	Hook Road, Wimblington
892	F/YR19/0879/F	Mr K Harris	Residence (Extension)	Mallett Close, March
893	F/YR19/3111/COND	Mr & Mrs R Jones	Residence	March Road, Wimblington
894	F/YR19/0886/F	Mrs L Bower	Gypsy and traveller residential site (part retrospective) including the erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling	Coleseed Road, March
895	F/YR19/0943/F	Mr C Watson	Residence (Extension)	Orchard Road, March
896	F/YR19/0938/F	Mr & Mrs Monk	Residence (Extension)	Swift Close, March
897	F/YR19/0931/O	Mr & Mrs Gray + Mr & Mrs Rankin	Residential (9 plots)	Upwell Road, March
898	F/YR19/0957/F	Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd	Residence	Eastwood Avenue, March
899	F/YR19/0945/O	P Jolly & J S Harvey	Residential (up to 30 plots)	Easton Estate, Wimblington*
900	F/YR19/0972/FDC	FDC	Residence	Upwell Road, March
901	F/YR19/1060/F	Ms L Wadsworth	Residence	Norman Way fronting Fullers Lane, Wimblington
902	F/YR19/1089/F	Mr N Bowers	Residence	Bridge Lane, Wimblington
903	Enquiry	James Development Company Ltd	Residential	Eastwood End, Wimblington
904	F/YR19/1006/F	Mr P Benson	Residence (Extension)	Fairfax Way, March
905	Enquiry/Pre-app	MJS Construction (March) Ltd	Residential (16 plots)	Bridge Lane, Wimblington*
906	F/YR20/0024/O	Mr & Mrs A Clark	Residence	Bridge Lane, Wimblington
907	F/YR20/0078/F	Mr & Mrs Band	Residence (Extension)	Fleetwood Close, March
908	F/YR20/0188/F	Mr & Mrs King	Residence	Eastwood End, Wimblington
909	F/YR20/0234/O	MJS Acquisitions (March) Ltd	Residential (16 plots)	Bridge Lane, Wimblington

Planning applications ending 'CCC' relate to Cambridgeshire County Council
Planning applications ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters
Planning applications ending 'PNC0' relate to prior notification change of use issues
Planning applications ending 'COND' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions
Planning application ending 'FDC' relate to Fenland District Council

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

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

- a. Mr & Mrs T Bester – Residence at Jobs Lane, March (MLC Ref No 871 & 879)
- b. Mr C Garrett – Residence (Extension) at Mallard Way, March (MLC Ref No 853)
- c. Mr & Mrs Barnett – Residence (Extension) at Upwell Road, March (MLC Ref No 883)
- d. Mr & Mrs J Barnes – Residence (Extension) Rodham Road, March (MLC Ref No 873)
- e. Mr & Mrs Monk - Residence (Extension) at Swift Close, March (MLC Ref No 896)

Further to Minute B.1270 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters (iii) the current position is being ascertained in respect of the following developments:

- *Proposed development to the southeast of Barkers Lane – Cannon Kirk Developments (MLC Ref 385) & Cannon Kirk Homes (MLC Ref No 509), Mr & Mrs Hopkins & Mrs Mitcham (MLC Ref No 585) & Cannon Kirk (UK) Ltd (MLC Ref No 742)*
- *Erection of 22 dwellings involving demolition of 2 no existing dwellings on land south east of 93-113 Grounds Avenue (Cygnet Crescent), March - Fenland District Council (MLC Ref No 552), Client of URS Scott Wilson (MLC Ref No 576) & Lovell Partnership (MLC Ref Nos 579 & 629)*
- *Development at land east of 20 Eastwood Industrial Estate, Eastwood End, Wimblington – Law Fertilisers (MLC Ref Nos 588, 608 & 739)*
- *Erection of 10 no single storey affordable dwellings comprising of 5 x 1-bed and 5 x 2-bed and 2.1 metre high fencing with associated parking involving demolition of 27 no garages – Roddons Housing Association (MLC Ref No 618) & Details reserved by conditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, of planning permission F/YR13/0010/F (Erection of 5 x single-storey 1-bed dwellings with associated parking involving demolition of 30 garages) at land south-east of 13 Smiths Drive, March – Foster Property Maintenance Ltd (MLC Ref No 651)*
- *Erection of 7 dwellings involving demolition of existing stables and outbuildings on land east of 54-62 March Road, Wimblington – Mr & Mrs P Salter (MLC Ref Nos 655, 677 & 810)*
- *Proposed extension to Cavalry Primary School, Cavalry Drive, March - Client of Pick Everard (MLC Ref No 659) & Cambridgeshire County Council (MLC Ref No 673)*
- *Residential development at 2A Bridge Lane, Wimblington - Ms K Grange (MLC Ref Nos 663, 691 & 818)*
- *Anaerobic Digestion Facility on land east of Fengrain, Hook Lane, Wimblington – G P Planning Ltd (MLC Ref No 676) & Fengrain Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 681, 684, 686 & 711)*
- *Proposed residential development at Kings Street, Wimblington – Construct Reason Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 716 & 797)*
- *Two storey office building and associated parking including packaged sewage treatment plant at land north of Mill Hill Garage, Wimblington Road, March – Whiting*

& Partners (MLC Ref No 717, 721 & 726) & Client of MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd (MLC Ref No 861)

- *Erection of 4no dwellings comprising of 2 x 2-storey 4-bed with integral double garages; 1 x 2-storey 4-bed with 1-bed annexe and detached double garage and 1 x 2-storey 4-bed with detached garage and workshop involving demolition of outbuildings at land north and south of 35 King Street, Wimblington – Mr J Wilson (MLC Ref Nos 766 & 823)*
- *Erection of a 2-storey extension to existing building and additional parking area including temporary portacabin during works - Fengrain Ltd (MLC Ref No 780)*

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.

Development at Unit 1, Eastwood Industrial Estate, Eastwood End, Wimblington - Plasgran Ltd (MLC Ref No 274) & Recyplas Ltd (MLC Ref No 870)

A planning application (MLC Ref No 870) was submitted to the County Council, in its role as the Waste Planning Authority (WPA), for the erection of an extension to an existing store.

It is understood that there is no increase in the impermeable area created by this proposal.

The Decision Notice includes the following under the Advisory Notes:

“20. Drainage and Pollution Control

Surface water at the site shall be discharged into the adjoining riparian drain and into March East Internal Drainage Board, and not soakaways, in accordance with the approval from the Waste Planning Authority dated 30 July 2009.

Reason: *To ensure the satisfactory drainage of the site, to protect the groundwater and minimise the risk to flooding in accordance with policy CS39 of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals & Waste Core Strategy (July 2011) and policy LP14 of Fenland Local Plan (May 2014).”*

and informatives:

“1. Environment Agency Permit

The applicant’s attention is drawn to the advice from the Environment Agency that the Environmental Permit may need to be varied to extend the permit boundary should the proposed changes go ahead. The applicant should seek advice from Ely_Waste_Team@environment-agency.gov.uk. The granting of planning permission does not mean that a permit variation will automatically be made.

2. IDB Consent

Part or all of your proposed development area falls within the Middle Level Commissioners (MLC) catchment. All increased discharges proposed to enter watercourses directly or

indirectly or any works affecting watercourses or access to or along them for maintenance if the site is within the Board's district will require MLC / IDB consent. It is therefore recommended that you contact the MLC to discuss their requirements. Further information is available at: <https://middlelevel.gov.uk/>

3. Pollution control

Surface water and groundwater bodies are highly vulnerable to pollution and the impact of construction activities. It is essential that the risk of pollution (particularly during the construction phase) is considered and mitigated appropriately. It is important to remember that flow within the watercourse is likely to vary by season and it could be dry at certain times throughout the year. Dry watercourses should not be overlooked as these watercourses may flow or even flood following heavy rainfall."

No subsequent contact with the Board has occurred.

Erection of 3 x 2-storey 3-bed dwellings with detached single garages, 6 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings with detached double garages and 1 x 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with attached double garage at land south east of Orchard Lodge, Jobs Lane, March – Mr H Fisher (MLC Ref Nos 558 & 587) & James Development Co Ltd (MLC Ref No 703 & 767 & 842)

Assistance was given to a resident of Saxon Way concerning the piping and filling of an adjacent watercourse. We received an enquiry from Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd acting on behalf of the resident of number 15 Saxon Way regarding potential options to infill a small section of private watercourse next to their property as the car port was experiencing subsidence. A site meeting was held with the owners to confirm the issues and discuss their proposals.

It was noted from the site visit that the section of the private drain downstream of Saxon Way, which forms the boundary to the Orchard Lodge, Jobs Lane development had been infilled. It was later confirmed that consent for this infilling had been applied for by the developer, James Development Co Ltd, and has been granted. Given this infilling and that the drain no longer flows it is considered there would be no objections to the small section next to number 15 being infilled to address the issues of subsidence. The owner has been advised that consent is required for this work and at the time of writing we are waiting for the appropriate consent application to be submitted.

Residential development involving the demolition of 5 Bridge Lane and existing commercial buildings at land north of 3A-9 Bridge Lane, Wimblington – Messrs K & D Clark (MLC Ref Nos 705, 723 & 834) & MJS Construction (March) Ltd (MLC Ref No 905)

Further to the last Board Meeting Report initial discussions have occurred with a representative from MJS Construction (March) Ltd and its engineering consultant,

Ellingham Consulting Ltd, as part of a pre-application consultation for a residential development potentially for sixteen properties.

As a result of the meeting it was confirmed “in principle” that:

- The Board would prefer any discharge into its Bridge Lane Drain to be downstream of the culvert at The Paddocks (Points 78-79) with any connection preferably above normal water levels.
- In view of the potential development upstream of the site and the potential lack of capacity in the Bridge Lane Drain any discharge from the site must be unattenuated.
- Given that the existing site included some impermeable areas, reducing the discharge to the existing brownfield site would be acceptable to the Board.
- The shallow watercourse forming the eastern boundary of the site is not a Board's Drain.

It is understood that a planning application is currently being prepared for this site.

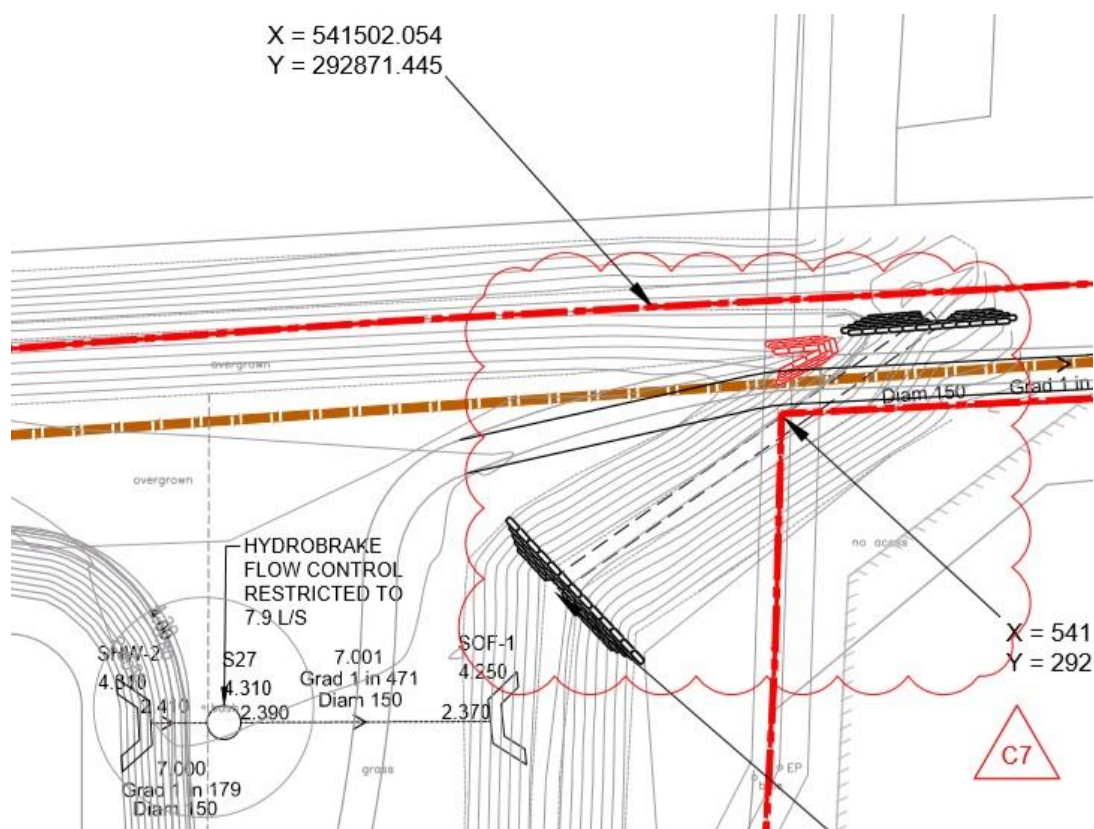


Extract from MJS Construction (March) Ltd 007 - Bridge Lane 001 Rev. – showing an indicative site layout

Erection of 80 dwellings (max) at land east of 38 March Road, Wimblington – G Scarborough Ltd (MLC Ref No 665) & Matthew Homes Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 743, 775, 776, 808, 817, 832 & 864)

Further to last year's Meeting Report further discussion with the applicant, its engineering consultant, Conisbee, and the Commissioners' Assistant Operations Engineer has enabled the provision and installation of a 600mm diameter access

culvert within the Board's Bridge Lane Drain at the "dog leg" at the north eastern corner of the applicant's site.



Extract from Conisbees Drawing No 170918-X-00-DR-C-1315 Rev. C7 showing the arrangement of the culvert and the location of the outfall from the balancing pond that serves the site.

On-going discussion has also occurred in respect of potential consent applications associated with the provision of a cycleway beside March Road.

Erect up to 9no dwellings at land south of 137 Upwell Road, March – Mr & Mrs Gray and Mr & Mrs Rankin (MLC Ref No 897)

This outline planning application was submitted to the District Council in mid-October for the brownfield site to the east of Upwell Park. The planning application form advises that surface water disposal will be to soakaways.

Despite concerns about the visual and potential harm to biodiversity as a result of the proposal, the Planning Committee went against its Officer's recommendation and granted permission subject to the imposition of planning conditions. These included the provision of a Phase 1 Habitat survey, surface and foul water drainage schemes including future management and maintenance arrangements.

Residential development (up to 30 dwellings) at land north of Stoneleigh, 22A Easton Estate, Wimblington – P Jolley & J S Harvey (MLC Ref No 899)

Subsequent to the issuing of a “standard” response letter to this outline planning application, a request was received from the applicant to enter into a post-application consultation requiring the Middle Level Commissioners to advise on the Board’s requirements.

Following an internal consultation with the Commissioners’ Assistant Operations Engineer, to discuss access to the upstream end of the Board’s Bridge Land Drain, a letter was sent to the District Council and included the following:

“The Board’s requirements concerning the development of this site are currently as follows:

- a) That no dwellings, garages, workshops or other “material” buildings are placed within 9.0m of the brink of the Board’s Drain.
- b) That no boundary treatments, other buildings, or other structures are placed within 6.0m of the brink of the Board’s Drain.
- c) The respective water level and flood risk management systems serving the site must be:
 - Designed for the worst case 1% AEP (Annual Exceedence Probability), a 1 in 100 year storm, and must consider a range of durations to determine the maximum volume required. Allowances for the impact of climate change and siltation must be included within the calculations and subsequent design.
 - Provided with protected maintenance access strips, say at least 9.0m wide, to enable ready access to it to undertake maintenance and spoil disposal.
 - Provided with a suitably sized loading/off-loading area together with access routes for the maintenance machinery required.
 - Completed to its maximum dimensions and the necessary flow regulation and other structures installed, operational, consented and approved by the respective Board before work on the roads/dwellings commences on-site.
- d) Adequate evidence should be provided to prove that a viable system for appropriate water level and flood risk management that meets current design standards exists. This should include, when relevant, appropriate detailed engineering plans to a recognised engineering scale; appropriate supporting calculations, or additional outstanding information and documents, such as but not limited to:

- Survey drawings of the site and/or receiving watercourses including longitudinal and cross sections.
 - Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment (Flood Risk/Drainage Strategy/Assessment), including hydraulic calculations and modelling of watercourses, an allowance for exceedance flows and the effects of climate change and must advise on any mitigation works that are required.
 - Construction water level and flood risk management plan, including a Works Programme/Schedule, Site Layout/General Arrangement/Plan, Construction Details and Method Statements.
 - Water Level and Flood Risk Management Maintenance and Action Plan (Maintenance Schedule/Plan).
 - Habitats and Species Risk Assessment & Action Plan (Environmental Assessment/Statement).
- e) It is a requirement that the Water Level and Flood Risk Management Maintenance and Action Plan includes:
- i. Appropriate detailed plans, to an engineering scale, of the surface water system, including any balancing/attenuation features, together with:
 - Appropriate supporting Calculations, Construction Details, Method Statements, Risk Assessments, Operating Instructions etc.
 - Details of land ownership and responsibility including maintenance arrangements and funding mechanisms.
 - A description of the system.
 - Identification of individual assets and activities.
 - Maintenance Schedules.
 - Drawings of assets.
 - Relevant information and data sheets.
 - Utilities Plans.
 - ii. Further details concerning the adoption by an appropriate public authority or statutory undertaker and any other arrangements to secure the operation of the scheme including ownership, funding and maintenance throughout its lifetime **must** be provided.

This can include correspondence from and/or legal agreements with the appropriate body confirming the adoption of both the proposed foul and surface water systems and, if appropriate, a commitment from the developer acknowledging that it will be responsible for the whole life funding, management and maintenance of the on-site drainage system by forming a management company.

- iii. Preparation of a regular maintenance programme, to be undertaken and agreed upon by all relevant parties to ensure its long-term integrity and efficiency.
- f) Any application for the disposal of increased rates of surface water run-off discharging either directly or indirectly into the Board's System must be supported by a suitable hydraulic model that proves that flood risk as a result of the development is not increased or advise on any mitigation works that are required."

No further correspondence has been received concerning this site. It is understood from the relevant page on the District Council's Public Access webpage that a decision is pending.



Extract from Peter Humphrey Ltd's Drawing No. 5905-PL01B showing an indicative site layout

Development Contributions

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

Fenland District Council (FDC)

FDC Liaison Meeting

A meeting was held at the end of March 2019. Issues discussed included navigation related matters, notes on the LLCR, the Wisbech Garden Town, the FRM for The Fens project, the Future High Street Fund bid for March etc.

Another meeting is currently being organised but will have to be delayed until the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) working restrictions are lifted.

Emerging Local Plan 2019-2040

‘Live’ Timetable for Production of the Fenland Local Plan (October 2019)

No.	Stage	Description	LDS Target	Actual dates
1	Consult on a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) scoping report	The SA scoping report sets out the sustainability objectives proposed to be used to appraise the economic, social and environmental effects of the emerging Local Plan policies. The SA scoping report is subject to consultation.	N/a	Consultation 11 th October to 21 st November 2019
2	Public participation (Regulation 18)	Opportunity for interested parties and statutory consultees to consider the options for the plan before the final document is produced. This stage may involve one or more public consultation rounds. We intend two rounds for the new Local Plan.	October 2019 & May 2020	Issues and Options Consultation Document Cabinet 18th September Consultation 11 th October to 21 st November 2019
3	Pre-Submission Publication (Regulation 19)	The Council publishes the Local Plan which is followed by a 6 week period when formal representations can be made on the Local Plan.	February 2021	
4	Submission (Regulation 22)	The Council submits the Local Plan to the Secretary of State together with the representations received at Regulation 19 stage.	May 2021	
5	Independent Examination Hearing	Held by a Planning Inspector into objections raised on the Local Plan.	From the day it is ‘submitted’	
6	Inspector’s Report	This will report whether if the Plan is ‘Sound’ or ‘Not Sound’. The Inspector may make recommendations to make the plan ‘Sound’.	January 2022 (estimate – could be earlier or later, and subject to the examination)	
7	Adoption of DPD (Local Plan)	Final stage, the Council will formally need to adopt the Local Plan and it will then be used in making planning decisions.	February 2022 (estimate - could be earlier or later, and subject to the examination)	

Fenland District Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the period 2019-2040 which, when adopted, will replace the current Fenland Local Plan (May 2014). The Local Plan is an important document which will “determine what the district will look like in the future and how it will become an even better place to live, work and visit.”

Issues & Options Consultation

Between 11 October and 21 November 2019, the Council undertook a Public Issues & Options Consultation, held a 'Call for Sites' exercise, requested nominations for Local Green Spaces, and invited views on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

The consultation was in a questionnaire type format most of the content of which did not directly relate to navigation, water level and flood risk management matters or questions are not relevant to our duties and functions.

Where the questions raised were not specifically relevant to us but may be related to issues upon which we would like to make a remark we made a "comment".

Question 8: Renewable Energy

A comment was made concerning the location of the nearest appropriate grid connection and the potential detrimental effect that the export cable/main connecting into it may cause 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 the impacts of which are not generally considered as part of the planning process.

Question 11: Minimise Carbon Losses from Wider Activities

Should the Local Plan:

11a) Set out a specific policy on the loss of peat-based soils, and the carbon impacts of it?

Guidance was given concerning the Lowland Agricultural Peat Taskforce when launched by Defra and the East Anglian Fens peat pilot managed by Natural England.

Question 12: Other Proposals to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Question 22: Transport

12b) Should the Local Plan make provision of cycle and footways, which are designed in a way so that they become the natural choice to use for short journeys, rather than the car?

The response advised that, where possible, footpaths, cycleways, street lighting, and/or other street furniture should be positioned outside of any protected watercourse and the associated maintenance access strip.

Question 13: Design and Amenity

13c) Are there any specific local issues which need to be addressed through design policies?

Issues specifically referred to were the retention of on-site open watercourses and the provision of adequate maintenance strips beside water level and flood risk management systems, including protected watercourses, within the development's design.

Question 14: Optional Standards

14a) Do you think the Local Plan should include any of the following optional standards (subject to need and viability testing)? If so why?

ii) Water efficiency of new homes

The implementation and management, including enforcement, of water efficiency measures for residential, business and other users of potable water. Proposals should include suitable schemes which minimise the need to abstract water from the Main River system to ensure that it is available for other potential water resource uses ie agricultural irrigation, biodiversity, navigation, leisure and tourism etc.

Question 16: Gypsy and Travellers & Question 17: Park Homes and Houseboats

16b) What other suitable locations for Gypsy and Traveller pitches are there?

17) Is there a need for moorings for houseboats or sites for caravans in Fenland? Any evidence to support your comments would be welcome, or suggestions as to how such need could be identified in Fenland

In respect of the Middle Level Commissioners' interests, comment was made that in addition to the normal caravans and "bricks and mortar" sites, suitable locations may need to be considered for "house boats".

Question 24: Natural Environment

How do you think the Local Plan should protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment?

The Conservation Officer advised that the Plan should include recreational and wildlife spaces being created as part of new residential developments and the incorporation of relevant biodiversity measures.

Question 26: Flood & Water Management

Do you have any views on how new development could reduce flood risk?

Our comments included but were not limited to the following:

- The extent of the Environment Agency's (EA) Indicative Floodplain and the constraint that this imposes on "growth" in the District.
- All relevant development proposals must be discussed with the relevant RMA including the appropriate Internal Drainage Board at the earliest opportunity, preferably at the pre-application stage.
- In addition to the requirements of the NPPF and associated technical guide, all applications for relevant developments must include a drainage strategy to demonstrate that:
 - (a) Suitable consideration has been given to the disposal of both surface and treated waste water flows and should detail any mitigation required;
 - (b) Appropriate arrangements have been made for developments adjacent to watercourses; and
 - (c) Issues of long-term ownership, funding and maintenance of the water level and flood risk management system are addressed.
- All proposals should have regard to the guidance and byelaws of the relevant RMA including the Internal Drainage Boards. Where appropriate the contents of hydraulic models and studies, such as the Middle Level Strategic Study must be considered.

Question 27: Any Other Issues

Is there anything else you would like to raise – has anything been missed, or are there any general comments you would like to make?

It was suggested that the retention and improvement of the rivers, their settings and associated corridors in the District for navigation, environmental, leisure and tourism through the provision of related facilities together with the provision of a Water Space Strategy should be considered.

Question 28: Your Priorities

28b) Please identify any other top priorities.

The response advised that the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards'/Commissioners' priorities were:

- To fund, maintain, protect and improve existing and make further provision of viable and appropriate water level and flood risk management infrastructure and systems to reduce the likelihood of harm to people and damage to the economy, environment and society.
- The implementation and management including enforcement of water efficiency measures for residential, business and other users of potable water.
- The retention and improvement of the rivers, their settings and associated corridors in the District for navigation, environmental, leisure and tourism through the provision of related facilities.
- To maintain, protect and improve the existing and make further provision of net gains to achieve environmental benefits to the waterways in the district.

Question 29: Neighbourhood Planning

The Council was advised that the “Neighbourhood Area” designation should not unduly affect the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards/Commissioners adding that even though a neighbourhood area may have been designated, compliance with the provisions of the appropriate Acts and the relevant RMA's byelaws would still be required.

Level 1 SFRA & WCS documents

Royal Haskoning DHV has been appointed to update the Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study (WCS) for Fenland District Council as part of the evidence for the new Local Plan.

An Inception Meeting has been held and an information request is currently being processed.

Response to 2020 Revision of Local Validation Guidance

During February comments were sought on its Local Validation List which details the documents that are required to 'validate' planning applications.

A similar response to that sent to Cambridgeshire County Council in April 2019, see below, was issued to the District Council for consideration. However, rather than the more promising response received from the County Council the District Council simply advised that:

“The project group have met to consider your comments, and concluded that they relate to the quality of information submitted, and therefore sits with the decision making process rather than the validation process.”

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)

Cambridgeshire Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) document

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

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 report detailing the proposed revisions and the public responses which included responses from various interested parties including the Commissioners, several Parish and Town Councils, and various County Council departments went before the County Council on 16 May.

A copy of the report can be found on the Council's webpage by using the following link and searching for "Review of the Local Information Requirements for the Validation of Planning Applications":

https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/232/Committee/8/Default.aspx

However, the relevant items, as far as the Commissioners and relevant associated Boards/Commissioners are concerned, are summarised below.

"3.0 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

3.10 Middle Level Commissioners – Middle Level Commissioners have made a number of comments:

1. The contents of the Middle Level Commissioner's response of 2017 remain relevant.
2. The Commissioners are pleased to note that the reference in the introduction on page 2 of the 2019 LVL Guidance notes to the use of relevant and competent technical specialists and encourage this.
3. The commissioners and associated boards promote meaningful preapplication advice and work with CCC colleagues to ensure that any issues concerning flood risk, water level management, navigation and environmental issues are dealt with prior to the planning application process, which offers more certainty in the decision making process. The Middle Level Commissioners would be pleased if applicants and/or agents could be advised to contact the Middle Level Commissioners for advice within their jurisdiction. A web site link is given to their pre- and post-application procedure: <https://middlelevel.gov.uk/consents/>.
4. The Commissioners request that applicants and/or agents are reminded that should planning approval be given by Cambridgeshire County Council, to remind the applicant(s) agent(s) that any matters requiring consent under the requirements of the Land Drainage Act, the Highways Act, the Water Industry Act, the Flood and Water Management Act and/or the Middle Level Act 2018, which relates to navigation related issues, must be complied with before any work is commenced on site.
5. It is requested that any drawings that are submitted to County Council be to a recognised engineering scale including a scale bar and advice on what size of paper the drawing should be printed on.
6. The Commissioners are pleased to note that the reference in the introduction on page 2 of the 2019 LVL Guidance notes to the use of relevant and competent technical specialists and encourage this.
7. The Biodiversity Survey and Report (Paragraph 4) includes reference to the Middle Level Biodiversity Manual (2016), on page 5 - this remains current on 10 April 2019.
8. The Statement of Sustainable Design and Construction (Paragraph 5) includes or the provision of both a foul drainage strategy and water conservation strategy, on pages 6 and 7. This is supported but it is suggested that the latter should be applied County wide and not just applied to the South Cambridgeshire District Council's area.
9. The Flood Risk Assessment (Paragraph 7) gives a list of application types that is appropriate to provide a Flood Risk Assessment for. The last bullet point (on page 8) refers to developments of: "Less than 1 hectare within flood zone 1 which has critical drainage problems as notified by the Environment Agency." Unless the area is identified within a Preliminary Flood Risk

Assessment) the Environment Agency are unlikely to be involved. Drainage is the responsibility of several stakeholders, including Internal Drainage Boards and your Council's Flood Risk and Biodiversity Team. The latter are more likely to be aware of and have to resolve "critical drainage problems". It is reassuring to note and we applaud the inclusion of a reference and a link to our "Planning Advice and Consent Documents" webpage on page 9.

10. Additional Plans and Drawings (including cross-sections where required). (Paragraph 22), the inclusion of the section detailing other plans and drawings and suggesting suitable scales for these is noted and supported."

"4.0 Consideration of the Consultation responses

4.10 Middle Level Commissioners –

1. Noted with thanks. No changes required.
2. Pre application advice - References to Middle Level guidance will be retained, so no changes required.
3. References to Middle Level guidance are retained and it is recommended that the Middle Level Commissioners are added to the list of other bodies who provide pre-application advice.
4. Consent under the requirements of the Land Drainage Act is covered when necessary by informative at decision stage.
5. Drawings - This is covered by national guidance, so no changes required.
6. Technical specialists' reference - Noted with thanks. No changes required.
7. Biodiversity survey - Noted with thanks. No changes required.
8. Statement of Sustainable Design and Construction - This is already covered across all districts based on the relevant adopted policy guidance. The reference to South Cambridgeshire is only made as their requirements are stricter through adopted policy. Therefore no changes are required.
9. Flood Risk Assessment - Officers acknowledge that drainage is the responsibility of several stakeholders and have noted the acceptance to the Middle Level Commissioners planning advice pages. This will be retained on the new guidance and therefore no further changes are required.
10. Additional Plans and drawings - Noted with thanks. No changes required."

A copy of the Planning Committee Minutes can be viewed via the following link by searching for "Minutes – 16th May 2019":

<https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccclive/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/232/Committee/8/Default.aspx>

The final published versions of both the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the Local Validation List and Guidance Notes can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/planning-applications/submitting-a-planning-application/>

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Flood and Water (C & P FloW) Partnership

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

Future Meetings

Following the successful “joint” approach future meetings will involve both the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP) and Peterborough Flood & Water Management Partnership (PFLoW). The MLC are stakeholders in both partnerships.

Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy for England

A public consultation on the draft FCERM Strategy for England document was held between May and June 2019.

Members of the partnership generally considered that amongst other matters the consultation could have been more ambitious; sought greater RMA involvement; and that surface water flooding should have been included.

Following the consideration of the responses it is intended to publish the final national FCERM strategy for England in 2020.

Local FRM Strategy

Both the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Strategies are due to be reviewed soon and may be a joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough response.

The Environment Agency’s Joint Assurance Group

This group provides support to the RMAs on the delivery of Grant-in-Aid (GiA) funded projects and meets on a monthly basis to discuss business cases.

Partnership members generally agreed that it would be beneficial to understand what the EA, in its role as the approval body, would like to see in business cases and requested suitable good examples that could be used as guidance.

The EA advised that:

- (i) The lack of sharing of suitable business case examples may be for GDPR/commercially sensitive/economic reasons and advised that whilst the EA cannot ‘circulate’ these, other RMAs can.
- (ii) Due to the specialist nature of projects within The Fens it may not be possible to find enough suitable projects.

Property Flood Resilience Pathfinder Project

A £700k grant bid was made by a consortium of LLFAs. Confirmation of a successful bid is awaited.

Further details on the project can be found in Flood Resilience Community Pathfinder Evaluation Final Evaluation Report October 2015.

Further information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/29-million-extra-funding-to-boost-action-on-making-homes-more-resilient-to-floods>

Riparian Responsibilities

In order to raise awareness of and instigate discussion on an issue that causes difficulties for RMAs, including the Boards/Commissioners, primarily due to increased workload and costs, the County Council's Flood Risk and Biodiversity Team prepared an "Issues and Options Briefing Note" seeking changes to current practices that are inefficient and create inconsistency across the county in the use of public resources to address the issues associated with riparian assets. The document is currently being considered by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

Cambs County Council Capitally Funded Highway Drainage Schemes

Schemes have been assessed and prioritised based upon level of flooding reported, ie high priority - is property flooding or risk to life, or low priority - is highway only flooding, and will be developed to provide estimated costs and prioritised to be delivered to available budget. There is an annual highway drainage budget of £1m, which needs to cover all staff, investigation, design and construction costs and, therefore, not all the schemes will be delivered in the current financial year.

The majority of investigation and design is delivered through Skanska or its supply chain, and managed by the County's Highways Projects team. Priority and funding are confirmed by its Asset Management team.

There are currently 22 schemes ongoing within the County, six of which are within the Fenland district but none are within the Boards' area.

District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) & Water Cycle Study (WCS) documents

Most of the SFRA and WCS documents are considered old and have not been updated as initially intended. All will require reviewing as supporting evidence when the respective District Council's Local Plans are updated.

A 'joint' County-wide document was suggested but was not considered possible due to the differing states of the various Local Plans across the County.

No reference was made to the funding arrangements for the provision of the updated documents.

Good Governance for Internal Drainage Board Members

In March and April 2019 ADA ran a series of five Good Governance Workshops for IDB Members. The recordings from these events are available as a series of training modules via the ADA website.

A copy of the slides used at the presentation can be found at the following link:

https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Good_Governance_Workshop_Slides_2019.pdf

Public Sector Co-operation Agreements (PSCA)

Following a problem encountered within North Level District IDB which required close liaison with Peterborough City Council, in its role as the Highway Authority, the possibility of arranging PSCAs with IDBs and Councils was raised but has not yet been concluded.

Updates on Highways England (HE) Scheme

The former areas 6 and 8 now form the East Region and the new term contractor is Ringway. The previous short-term Asset Support Contracts (ASC) have been replaced by a 15-year Road Investment Strategy (RIS) contract in order to ensure a consistent long-term approach.

Anglian Water Services Limited (AWSL) Price Review 2019 (PR19)

OFWAT like what is being proposed but not the associated costs. AWSL contends that it is trying to be “proactive and not reactive”. **Note: In order to reduce charges on its customers AWSL currently appears reluctant to incur any unnecessary additional costs beyond what it is obliged to accept.**

Requests have been made for suitable applications to be submitted to its project funding programme. It is hoped that a meeting with AWSL’s Flood Partnership Manager will be arranged soon.

Fenland Flooding Issues Sub-group

Meetings were held in April and October 2019. The next meeting was due to be held during April but was postponed until the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) working restrictions are lifted.

Further to Minute B.1270 Consulting Engineers’ Report, including planning and consenting matters (vi) on-going discussions have continued with some of the parties responsible for the poorly maintained watercourses in the vicinity of Rose Cottage, Silt Road, that serves Grounds Avenue. Unfortunately, this matter was due to be discussed at the cancelled meeting and as a combination of this and that established contacts for two of the parties involved have changed, due to retirement and changing workloads, a slight delay with this issue has been caused. However, the matter is being dealt with to ensure a co-ordinated and amicable resolution.

Balancing pond to the north of Barkers Lane, March

Concerns have been raised in respect of works that have been undertaken within the balancing pond adjacent to 20-22 & 28 Fairfax Way. Members will be aware that the pond, which is in the Board's rateable area, serves the southern part of the larger Cavalry Barn Estate, most of which is also within the Board's rateable area, protecting the immediate area from flooding and reducing the rate of flow entering the Board's system at Point 75.

It is understood that the pond is in private ownership and that a nearby resident has claimed the land and carried out works that may detrimentally affect the original design and operation by dividing the pond into two using dredged material.

A similar problem is currently being experienced with one of the balancing ponds to the south of Hostmoor Avenue, within the March West & White Fen IDB.

In view of the above and the historic concerns regarding "ownership" and long term the maintenance and operation of the pond, it may be appropriate for the Board to consider the pond's future both for the benefit of the Board and the development that it serves.

There are several alternatives including:

- (a) The designation of the pond using the powers within the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, thus making the pond part of the Board's system.

Discussions with the Clerk to the Board in respect of the Hostmoor pond have concurred that this is a potential solution.

- (b) The purchase of the pond and its associated infrastructure by the Board for a nominal sum.
- (c) Undertaking regular maintenance of the pond and associated infrastructure by the Board on behalf of the landowner.

When these matters were discussed with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of March West and White Fen IDB it was considered that the Board did not wish to increase its current liabilities, such as the impounding embankment which may require works to ensure that it is stable and meets current design requirements, or place further financial burden upon its ratepayers.

It was agreed by them that:

- (i) The ponds are in poor condition but once in a good condition will be easier to maintain.
- (ii) A phased approach may be required to achieve a good standard,
- (iii) The improvement of the condition of the pond to a good standard would be expensive, particularly if any spoil has to be disposed of to an off-site tip,
- (iv) All liability and expense should remain with AWSL with no additional liability or financial burdens placed on the Board or its rate payers.

It should be appreciated that the pond at Barkers Lane is much smaller, does not feature an embankment that impounds the pond and any agreement would be with the landowner and not AWSL.

Therefore, in order to resolve this matter and guide further discussions it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion and further instruction on the extent to which the Board would be prepared to:

- 1. Establish the ownership of the pond**
- 2. Ensure that the pond meets current design standards and the Board's requirements [as detailed above - Residential development (up to 30 dwellings) at land north of Stoneleigh, 22A Easton Estate, Wimblington – P Jolley & J S Harvey (MLC Ref No 899)]**
- 3. Consider the future of the pond and the Board's involvement in its long-term maintenance.**

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

The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer has represented both the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated Boards/Commissioners on the Technical Group since the last Board meeting.

An article detailing the project was included on page 16 of the Summer edition of the ADA Gazette. This can be found at <https://flickread.com/edition/html/index.php?pdf=5d1efbbc0a48b#16>

The project is further discussed under a separate Agenda item.

General Advice

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

- (a) Cambridgeshire County Council started strengthening works to Martin's Bridge in October 2019. Unfortunately, this coincided with a wet period and progressing the works proved challenging with particular problems arising from ground water, affecting foundations of the new works. Work was substantially complete before Christmas, however there are signs of bank slips which will require the contractors to revisit the site when ground conditions improve.

Consulting Engineer

22 May 2020

March East (312)\Reports\May 2020

Miss Ablett referred to the Asset Surveys and updated Pumping Station valuations contained within the Report, as requested by the Board at their last meeting, and to the comments regarding the diesel Sulzer pump at Latches Fen pumping station.

She enquired whether the Board wished for this to be inspected to ascertain its' condition and added that £2,000 for an inspection had been included in the proposed budget for 2020/2021, which would be discussed later in the agenda.

The Chairman advised that he considered it important to inspect the pump as soon as possible.

RESOLVED

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

ii) Weed control and drain maintenance

That the maintenance works contained in the Report be undertaken.

iii) That the diesel pump at Latches Fen Pumping Station be inspected

B.1310 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

RESOLVED

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

B.1311 District Officer's Report

The District Officer advised that during the wet winter it had been possible to keep the water levels down and although it was a challenge to keep the levels up during the current dry spell this was being managed.

He confirmed that most work had gone ahead as planned and as he had not been advised of any concerns from Members or other farmers within the District he assumed there were no issues requiring attention.

He advised that all pump attendants were working well and were happy to continue in their positions.

RESOLVED

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

B.1312 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss Ablett referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter, dated December 2019, previously circulated to Members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP Report and Miss Ablett enquired whether the Board would be willing to purchase any mink traps.

Members enquired whether there were any mink in the Board's District and how much work would be involved in monitoring the traps.

Mr Heading advised there were mink in the Middle Level area and as the Middle Level Commissioners had been able to reduce the number over time it was considered a good idea to eradicate them completely. He considered that, with a little extra effort, the Middle Level area could be cleared completely but agreed there was a lot of work involved in monitoring the traps.

The purchasing of mink traps was discussed and it was agreed that one should be requested as long as the Conservation Officer would monitor it on the Boards behalf.

RESOLVED

That the Board agree to fund one mink trap, which the Conservation Officer monitor on behalf of the Board.

B.1313 District Officer's Fee and Pumping Station duties

- a) The Board gave consideration to the District Officer's fee for 2020/2021.
- b) The Board gave consideration to the payment in respect of pumping station duties for 2020/2021.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Board agree that the sum of £946.00 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2020/2021.
- ii) That the Board agree that the sum of £2072.00 be allowed for the provision of pumping station duties for 2020/2021.

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

The Chairman resumed the Chair

B.1314 Latches Fen Pumping Station Tenancy Agreement and Contract for Services

Miss Ablett reported that in previous years when preparing P11d's the Middle Level Commissioners had taken instruction from the Boards, but following points raised by the HMRC, during an inspection visit and by the internal auditor, it was considered necessary to carry out a review of potential benefits and how these were to be dealt with as part of the end of year declarations so as to comply with relevant legislation. This review had highlighted a couple of points relating to Darren Storey, the pumping station attendant at Latches Fen pumping station.

Miss Ablett advised that Darren had been provided with living accommodation, for which he did not pay rent, as it was considered necessary to enable him to perform his pump attendant duties.

She also advised that the telephone landline, in the name of the Board, was being paid by the Board and that Darren had always been invoiced and paid for the private use element.

Miss Ablett reported that as Darren was a contractor and not an employee this was an area that needed reviewing to protect the Board and as these amendments were due to legislation and to safeguard the Board, a meeting was held with the Chairman and in turn discussed with Darren.

Miss Ablett reported that it had been agreed that a 6 month assured shorthold tenancy agreement be drawn up between the Board and Darren and his wife, at a rent of £650 per month and that Darren would arrange for the telephone landline to be changed to a residential line in his name, and he would pay the costs in full, but the Board would contribute £500 towards those costs for business use.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman's actions be approved

B.1315 State-aided Schemes

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

RESOLVED

That no proposals be formulated at the present time.

B.1316 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss Ablett reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2020/2021 in the sum of £12,048 00 (the precept for 2019/2020 being £11,754.63).

B.1317 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

Miss Ablett reported that the sum of £679.57 (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency (£715.37 representing 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2019/2020 less £35.80 overpaid in respect of the financial year 2018/2019).

B.1318 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

Miss Ablett reported that it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 2% in 2020, viz:- from £700 to £714.

RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2020.

B.1319 Infilling of drainage ditch at land south east of Orchard Lodge, Jobs Lane, March

Miss Ablett reported that Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd, acting on behalf of the resident of No. 15 Saxon Way, had made enquiries regarding the options available to infill a small section of private watercourse next to the property as the car port was subsiding. She added that at a site meeting with the owners to confirm the issues and discuss their proposals it was noted that a section of the private drain downstream had already been infilled by a Developer, for which consent had been granted. In view of this, it was considered there would not be any objections to the small section next to No. 15 being infilled to address the issues of subsidence. Miss Ablett advised that the owner had been informed that Byelaw consent was required for this work and the consent application was still awaited.

B.1320 Determination of annual value for rating purposes

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

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.

B.1321 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £30.40.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.1322 Contributions from Developers

With reference to minute B.294(ii), Miss Ablett reported that contributions towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume have been received.

B.1323 Health and Safety

- a) Further to minute B.1241(a), in light of the appointment of Cope Safety Management, Miss Ablett reported on the requirement to appoint a member to take on and report to the Board matters relating to Health and Safety.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman continue to deal with and report on Health and Safety matters.

b) Further to minute B.1283(b), the Chairman referred to the reports received from Cope Safety Management following their visits to the District on the 28th August 2019 and 11th February 2020.

He confirmed a few areas had been highlighted but these were considered low risk with most already having been dealt with by the Middle Level Commissioners and there were a couple of points that were in the process of being completed.

Miss Ablett reminded the Board that they are responsible for ensuring they are compliant with all Health and Safety legislation and are adequately insured. In view of this, all points for action raised by its' Health and Safety consultant must be implemented so as to avoid the Board's insurance policy from becoming invalid.

c) Miss Ablett referred to the ADA Internal Drainage Boards' Health, Safety & Welfare Survey 2018.

B.1324 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2018/2019

a) The Board considered the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2019.

RESOLVED

i) That, after fully considering the internal controls put in place by their appointed administrators and the checks carried out by their appointed internal auditors, the Board were satisfied that, in all significant respects, the internal control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the authority.

ii) That the present policies concerning risk management, budget monitoring and insured value of properties are adequate for the size of the business and that they be continued.

iii) That the Clerk and responsible financial officer review the internal audit strategy with the internal auditor to ensure the most appropriate method is in place to ensure the Board continue to comply with the Internal control objectives to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the authority.

b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2019.

B.1325 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss Ablett referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2018/2019 and to the letter from the Minister and Annual report summary and analysis received from Defra dated August 2019.

B.1326 Budgeting

Miss Ablett referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2020.

B.1327 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.1328 Risk Management Assessment

a) Miss Ablett reported that it was necessary every 4-5 years to consider the formal Risk Register and in between times to judge the risks when considering the Consulting Engineer's and other reports and when setting budgets and rates/special levies. She advised that these risks had been analysed by the use of the Risk Matrix and added that, although the risk registers for IDBs very rarely changed, they would/could change over time and it was important for Boards to consider formally and that consideration was due this year.

Members considered the Board's Risk Register.

RESOLVED

That the Risk Register be approved and kept under review and the policy to review risk between formal reviews be continued.

b) The Board considered the insured value of their buildings.

RESOLVED

That, as per the Engineer's valuation, the insured value of the Board's' buildings be increased from 1st April 2020.

B.1329 Exercise of Public Rights

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

B.1330 Annual Governance Statement

The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2020.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2020.

B.1331 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £95,685.99 which had been made during the financial year 2019/2020.

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

B.1332 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2019/2020

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2020 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 2020.

B.1333 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2020/2021

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2020/2021 and were informed by Miss Ablett that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 52.40% and 47.60%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £84,638 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 £44,354 and £40,284 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 10.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £40,284 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.1334 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.1335 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday the 3rd June 2021.