

MANEA AND WELNEY DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

At a Meeting of the Manea and Welney District Drainage Commissioners
hosted at the Lamb & Flag, Welney on Thursday 8th June 2023

PRESENT

J E Heading Esq (Chairman)	P D Hawes Esq
R M C Sears Esq (Vice Chairman)	M E Heading Esq
N Cook Esq	Cllr C Marks Esq
Cllr C J Crofts Esq	Mrs A J Morris
M D R Fairey Esq	
J H Hawes Esq	

Mr Robert Hill (representing the Clerk to the Commissioners) and Mrs Nicola Oldfield (Chief Engineer) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from, C M Barnes Esq, R Gladwin Esq, N V M Walker Esq and C W Sears Esq.

C.992 Declarations of Interest

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

The Chairman and Mr M Heading declared an interest in the planning applications (MLC refs. 573,579 & 594) received from A & E G heading.

Mr R Sears declared an interest in the planning application (MLC ref. 663) received from Sear's Brothers Ltd 1978 RBS.

The Chairman, Mr M Heading and Cllr Crofts declared interests (as members of Middle Level Board) in the payments made to and any matters concerning the Middle Level Commissioners.

The Chairman declared an interest (as a Director) in the payments made to and any matters concerning the Association of Drainage Authorities.

Cllr Crofts declared interests (as a member of Upwell IDB) in the payments made to and any matters concerning Upwell IDB.

C.993 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Commissioners held on 8th February 2023 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed

C.994 Member Training Update

Mr Hill reported on the training undertaken by Members in the past year.

RESOLVED

The link for training to be re-sent for those members who had not yet completed the training.

C.995 Joint Maintenance of the Old Croft River – Upwell IDB - Overhanging Trees – Copes Hill Farm

Further to minute C.965, Mr Hill referred to the works carried out last year and that the further tree clearance works and slubbing had now been completed and the final costs had been included in the year-end accounts as had been previously agreed.

The Chairman reported that there had been a long-standing arrangement to split the costs for the maintenance of the Old Croft River 50/50 with Upwell IDB and that he considered that it was important that a formal agreement be drawn up to clearly set out both parties responsibilities concerning the maintenance of the river.

Mr Hill reported that following the initial draft agreement raised, the Clerk had now refined this further and was in the process of liaising with the Chairmen of both Boards to finalise the agreement.

The Chairman reported that he also considered it important to formally agree the apportionment of development contributions for those discharging directly to the watercourse and the contribution should be payable to the Board which the development area is within.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to discuss these matters further with the Chairman of Upwell IDB and the Clerk to finalise a formal agreement between Manea & Welney DDC and Upwell IDB for the Joint Maintenance of the Old Croft River and to clearly define how development contributions discharging into the Old Croft River would be apportioned.

C.996 Ouse Washes - Section 10 Newsletter & Ouse Washes Update

Further to minute C.966, Mr Hill referred to the Newsletter from the Environment Agency dated March 2023, viz;

Ouse Washes Flood Storage Reservoir

Update

March 2023

Middle Level Barrier Bank

Following our update in January 2023.

During the autumn reservoir inspection, our engineers identified cracks in the embankment between Welney and the A142 Mepal, following the prolonged period of hot, dry weather.

We undertook repair work throughout January and February and has now been complete. We will continue monitoring of the repaired cracks monthly until December 2023.

Our contractor Jackson Civil Engineering will start demobilising from the site and compound area in Welney from Monday 6 March, this will take approximately 1 week.

We will continue to carry out regular inspections and maintenance of the bank and monitor the grass growth for the next 2 years until the reservoir engineer gives a final sign-off in autumn 2024. This will include regular grass cuts, surveys and repairs to damage that may happen over the winter months.

Public footpath

The Middle Level Barrier Bank will remain open.

Please continue to be careful when accessing and walking on the bank and stay away from the patches of grass that haven't grown fully yet.

Keeping your community up to date

We would like to thank you for your co-operation and patience, and we will continue to work with you and the community to minimise disruption.

Our Public Liaison Officers will continue to keep you updated during the maintenance period of the project. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Public Liaison Officers: Monica Stonham or Yazmin Parry via email ousewashesprojectea@gmail.com



The Clerk advised:-

i) Annual Flood & Water Conference 2023

Invitation to ADA Flood & Water Conference 2023

Tuesday 21 November 2023 | 11:00 – 17:00 | One Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AA

ADA is delighted to invite you to join them for the ADA Flood & Water Conference on Tuesday 21 November 2023, as the conference returns to the magnificent venue of One Great George Street, Westminster, London. ADA will bring together a leading line-up of prominent political, policy, and technical speakers from across the United Kingdom to discuss key policy topics of the moment during the main conference session.

Following feedback from members, the format of this year's Conference has been developed to:

- maximise the time available for networking between delegates and suppliers to the sector,
- invite a greater variety of guest speakers, and
- provide more convenient timing for those travelling to and from London.

The Conference will open at 11.00 for networking with delegates and an expanded Exhibition of ADA's Associate Members in the Great Hall. A buffet lunch will be served from 12.00 before the conference presentations commence at 13.20 in the Thomas Telford Theatre. The Conference will close at 17.00.

Discussion forum

A discussion forum will form part of the day where delegates will be able to pose topical questions to the speakers/panellists via the conference chair. ADA wish to receive delegates questions in advance, which can be submitted as part of the ticket booking process on Eventbrite. Their aim is to consolidating key subjects for discussion and questioning and to maximise the value of this session.

Book your place

ADA has launched bookings for this year's conference early to give everyone plenty of advance notice of the revised date of Tuesday 21 November 2023 to make travel arrangements. They invite you to secure your place now via Eventbrite, via the link below. Tickets are non-refundable but can be transferred.

[ADA Flood & Water Conference 2023 Tickets, Tue 21 Nov 2023 at 11:00 | Eventbrite](#)

ii) Insurance

Historically the number of insurance companies willing to quote for the insurance requirements of the Middle Level Commissioners and administered Boards is limited.

Our insurance portfolio is complex and includes a range of policies that includes Commercial Combined (largest component), Motor Fleet, Engineering & Construction, Terrorism, Management Liability, Marine Craft and Professional Indemnity.

The overall cost of our insurance portfolio for 2023/24 will be £192,275 (£152,373 in 2022/23) a 26% increase, although increases will differ Board by Board depending on

their individual insurance needs.

Key factors and changes are highlighted below:

- For Commercial Combined insurance, 2022/23 was the last year in our previous five-year agreement with AXA which included a 7% price reduction woven into the deal. For 2023/24 Towergate, our brokers, approached several companies and all bar AXA were not willing to quote given the size and complexity of our portfolio. Independently we also approached the NFU who declined to quote for the same reason.
- There has been an increase in fleet, property and marine assets included within our cover.
- In view of rising inflation most Boards agreed to index link their insured sums from 1st April 2023. AXA have increased insured sums by 15%, which has resulted in an increase within the overall premium.
- AXA have offered a 2-year stability deal, where any premium increases, subject to claims not exceeding 50% of the written premium, will be capped for 2024/25 at 2.5%. This excludes any increases in sums insured.
- AXA will not extend the stability deal as they plan a review of their whole IDB scheme in 2025.
- Commercial combined policy excess has increased from £350 to £2,500. None of our four 2022/23 claim values were above this new excess.
- Excesses are dictated by AXA's overall scheme for all IDBs and this is apparently now standard and has been imposed due to the number of lower value claims across the whole IDB industry. As other IDB/IDB Groups come out of their previous agreement with AXA the above will apply.

For future years Boards ought to consider index linking their valuations of properties and pumping stations every 3-5 years rather than annually, to mitigate annual premium increases and balancing having suitable cover without being over-insured.

It should also be noted that personal accident and sickness cover only covers employees or members up to 80 years of age. Boards may need to consider the implications of this.

ii) Delegation of signatory on consents

The Board was asked to note that under the Board's scheme of delegation, the Chief Executive has delegated the authority to sign consent on behalf of the Board to the Chief Engineer. As well as the Chief Engineer being better placed to technically assure individual consents, this will enable them to effectively take ownership over the whole planning and consenting service. This also creates a mechanism for escalation in case of any issues or complaints.

iv) Service Delivery Frameworks

The Board were asked to resolve that the Clerk, on their behalf, be authorised to enter into user and/or access agreements for public sector delivery frameworks (For example,

Environment Agency Delivery Frameworks and SCAPE). This will open up access to the fees, terms and conditions of these Frameworks so our Consulting Engineers can compare and choose the most suitable procurement route for delivery of the Boards future needs. This does not tie the Board to using any Framework they then have a user/access agreement with, and Frameworks are not the only procurement route for delivery that will be considered. Having this resolution from all the Boards we administer is key if we are to package work across Boards to exploit economies of scale and become more efficient and effective in the delivery of services.

v) Local Government Support - Special Levies

Thanks to lobbying by the Association of Drainage Authorities and Local Authorities, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities announced an additional financial support package totalling £3m for 2023/24 to support the 15 Local Authorities most impacted by increases in special levies from Internal Drainage Boards driven by unprecedented increases in energy costs. We provided ADA with information to support this case and Fenland District Council have secured £177,281 and King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council £205,451. The Ministerial Statement is available [here](#). Disappointingly it is explicit that this is a one-off exceptional payment and clear that the government will not provide additional grant to Local Authorities to cover special levies on an ongoing basis.

Cllr Crofts updated that he was disappointed that these payments were a one-off exceptional payment as he considered there to be longer term implications. The Chairman referred to over 2/3 of the Manea & Welney District being funded from the agricultural sector and that the additional support had been given to that sector.

RESOLVED

- i) Insurance - Members considered it important to get a range of quotes to ensure the best value for money is obtained in delivery the insurance requirements of the Commissioners.
- ii) Delegation – The Commissioners noted the Chief Executive has authority to sign consent on behalf of the board.
- iii) Service Delivery Frameworks – The Commissioners approved that the Clerk be authorised to enter into user and/or access agreements for public sector frameworks.

C.998 Consulting Engineers Report

- a) The Board considered the Consulting Engineers Report, viz;

Manea & Welney D.D.C.

Consulting Engineers Report – June 2023

Pumping Stations

Only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant at each of the Stations is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

Glenhouse

Preliminary details have been collected regarding electrification of the pumping station and costs to inform the project appraisal. The tactical plans have been checked to confirm sufficient grant is possible to support the scheme. A business case is programmed for development in 2023, funded via FDGiA.

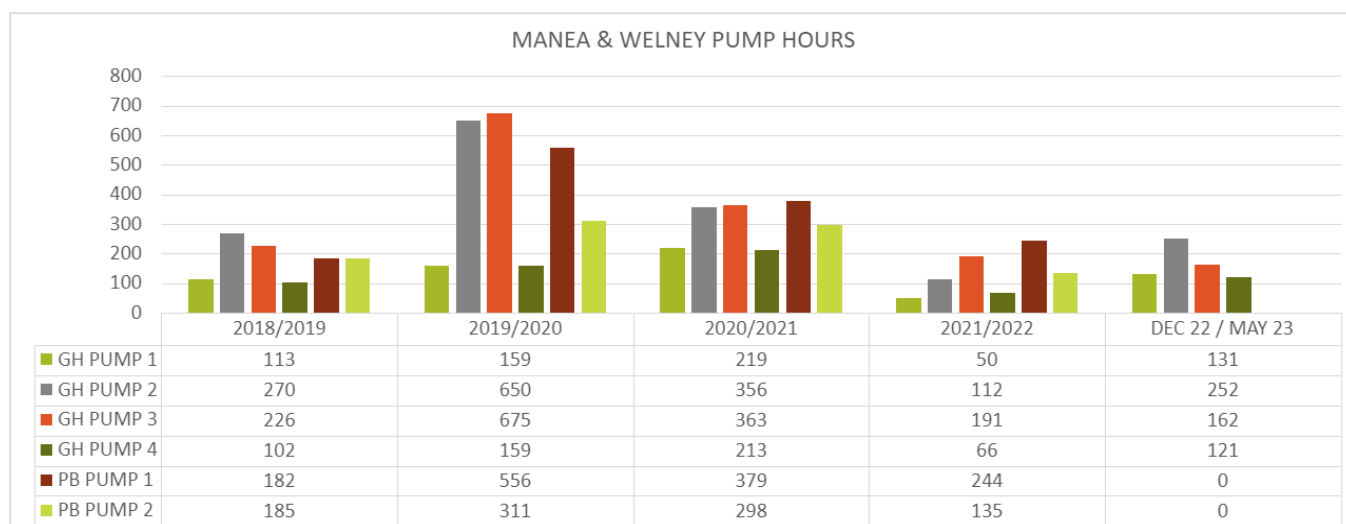
Careful consideration needs to be given to the choice of pumps and energy source for pumping stations to ensure there is a balance between versatility, reliability, cost and environmental impact. The current volatility in the energy markets and the development of new power sources makes it a very difficult time to make choices on which sources of power to use for a project such as Glenhouse. This project needs to look at the available options now and those that may be emerging. The project should be considered as overhaul and repowering of Glenhouse pumping station rather than solely electrification.

The Commissioners are asked to note the Supplementary Report - Improving Capital Delivery 2023. As a part of this process, it is recommended that a full catchment study be undertaken prior to any non-urgent works being undertaken. This may mean that some of the works identified will be assessed as part of the study rather than being delivered separately. This will have the benefit of maximising available Grant in Aid. A Project Brief is currently being prepared by the Chief Engineer and will be shared with the Commissioners in due course.

Purls Bridge

The insulation resistance of pump 1 has deteriorated, this pump should be set to duty and given a long run and the insulation resistance checked. If the readings do not improve then the pump should be overhauled or replaced to ensure its reliability.

Pumping Hours



Cranbrook/Counter Drain (CCD) Flood Risk Management (FRM) Strategy

The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer continues to represent the Board/Commissioners on the Stakeholder Group and associated engagement with the relevant interested parties.

Ouse Washes Counter Drain Water Resources

A final proposal for operation of the Old Bedford Sluice for the 2023 irrigation season has recently been received from the Environment Agency (EA) and is currently being reviewed on behalf of the Middle Level Commissioners. Copies have also been provided to the relevant IDBs for their comments. In summary the proposal is that the Lock-keeper at Salter's Lode will resume his transfer duties with back-up provided by:

- 1 Carl Nunn, Upwell IDB
- 2 Andy Maddams, Manea & Welney IDB
- 3 Dave Stimson, Sutton & Mepal IDB
- 4 Dan Pollard, EA

The Capacity of Manea-Town Lots Water Recycling Centre (WRC)

During an internal consultation the Commissioners' Chairman advised that the Commissioners are "...concerned that the current AW water/sewage treatment plant is currently overwhelmed in storm conditions..." and are "...anxious about additional developments in the area of the Manea village."

If it is considered appropriate a meeting with those parties can be organised to enable the Commissioners' views to be known and further discussion to occur, as required. See the entry on AWSL's Drainage and Water Management Plan (DWMP) later in this report.

Planning Applications

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

MLC Ref.	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
662	F/YR22/1203/CERTP	Mr M Law	Garage (Extension)	Westfield Road, Manea
663	F/YR23/0072/O	Sear's Brothers Ltd (1978) Retirement Benefit Scheme	Residential (Up to 5 plots)	Fodder Fen Road, Manea
664	F/YR23/0036/F	Mr & Mrs Lecomber	Residence (Extension)	Station Road, Manea
665	23/00362/RM	Mr P King (Trustee to Mr A Chapman)	Residence (Replacement)	Back Drove, Welney
666	F/YR23/0342/F	Manea Parish Council	Leisure (Replacement Pavilion with function room)	Park Road, Manea

***Planning applications ending 'CERTP' relate to Certificate of Lawful Use (Proposed)
Planning applications ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters***

From the information provided it is understood that all the developments propose to discharge surface water to soakaways, infiltration devices and/or other Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The applicants have been notified of the Commissioners' requirements.

Some of the above are likely to discharge treated foul effluent water into the Commissioners' system either via private treatment plants or Manea Town Lots Water Recycling Centre (WRC). See the entry on AWSL's Drainage and Water Management Plan (DWMP) later in this report.

No applications for Infiltration Device Self Certification or the Checking Service have been received since the last meeting report.

The Commissioners will recall that at the last meeting it was decided that specific detailed entries would not be made in future reports unless requested to do so, with the exception of questions raised at the last Board Meeting. In the absence of any instruction no detailed entries have been made.

Manea

Erection of an Anaerobic Digestion Plant, associated infrastructure, lagoon and feedstock clamps at land south west of Crane Farm (Colony Farm), Fifty Road, Manea – A & E G Heading Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 573, 579 & 594)

The appropriate documentation, in respect of the formation of the access culvert, has yet to be received.

Welney

Residential development to the north west of The Grange and south east of New Road (Old Croft Place), Welney - Client of JPP Consulting (MLC Ref No 559) & Mr R Boyd (Lincoln Jack Ltd/Loyd Homes/Client of SEA Structural Engineers Ltd) (MLC Ref No 567)

It is understood that the extent of the highway responsibility is delineated by a line at the junction but this is currently being clarified with the applicant.

Planning Updates & Consultations

The “Strategic Planning Consultation Responses” document can be found on www.middlelevel.gov.uk via the following link [Strategic Planning Consultation](#). Please note that this document was prepared for the previous reporting period; an update is currently being prepared and will be available on the website at some point after the meeting.

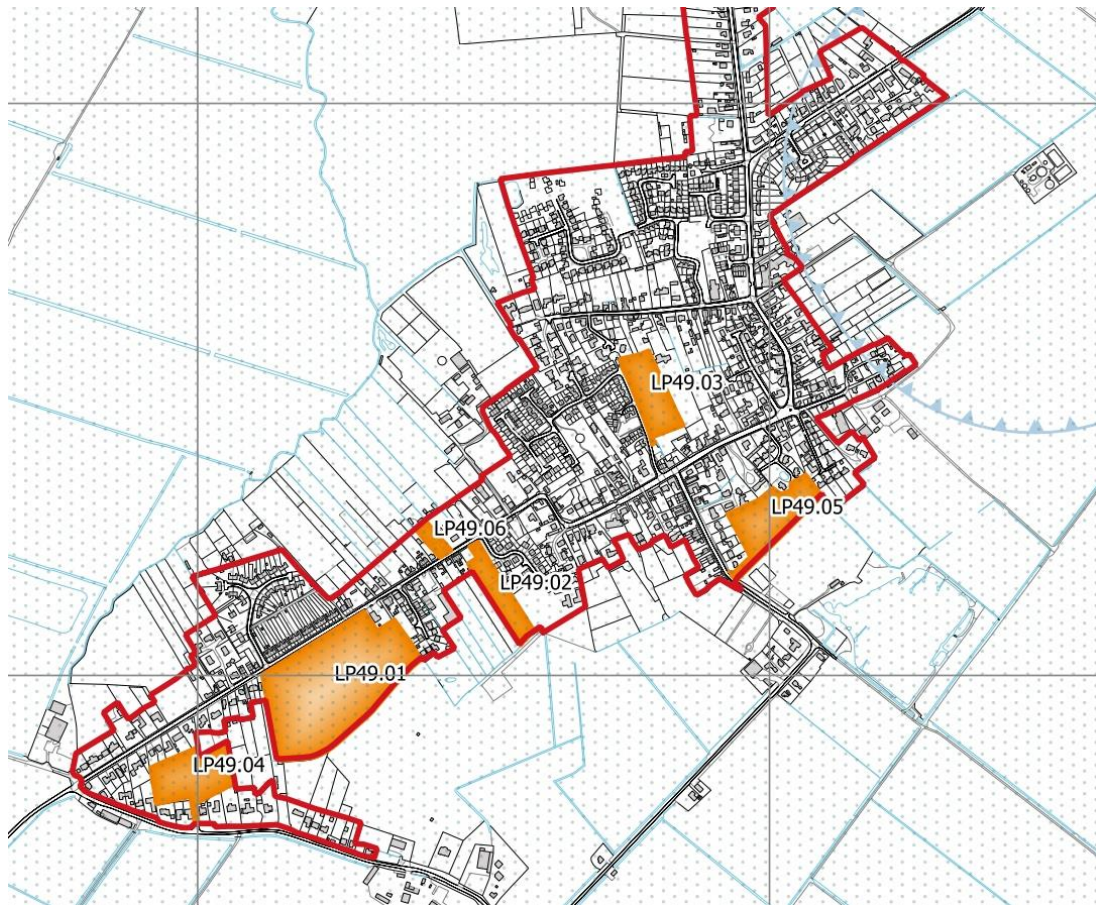
All responses to consultation documents were made on behalf of both the Middle Level Commissioners and its associated Boards.

Emerging Fenland Local Plan

The draft Local Plan which sets out the emerging policies and proposals for growth and regeneration, and the “proposed sites” to deliver this growth, was the subject of a Public Participation Consultation during September and October.

Proposed sites within the Commissioners' catchment

The "proposed sites", are shown on the following extract from the Draft Policies Map (August 2022) Manea (Inset 15)



Extract from the Draft Policies Map (August 2022) Manea (Inset 15) showing the proposed sites in the Commissioners' catchment

These sites are:

- A. Policy Reference LP49.01 Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) Site reference 40223) – West Field Site

This site should provide:

- Footway/cycleway connections along the Westfield Road frontage;
- Connections to Manea Public Footpath No 6 at eastern boundary of site;
- Archaeological investigation and mitigation, where required;
- An assessment of Flood Risk, which reflects the recommendations of the SFRA Level 2 assessment;
- Landscaping and screen planting along the south-east boundary of the site; and
- Proposals will be required to mitigate any evidenced recreational impacts on the Ouse Washes SPA. To demonstrate no adverse effect on the Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar,

planning applications must include a non-breeding bird survey to assess whether the land affected by the proposed development is regularly used by qualifying bird species (especially foraging and roosting swans).

If the land is identified to be functionally linked to the SPA and Ramsar, avoidance measures and mitigation will be required, and the planning application will need to be assessed through a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure that the development does not result in adverse effects on site integrity.

B. Policy Reference LP49.02 (SHELAA Site reference 40223) – Land to rear of No 15 Westfield Road

This development should provide:

- Suitable access from Valentine's Close;
- Retention of the existing detached dwelling on the road frontage;
- Archaeological investigation and mitigation works, as required;
- A pedestrian/cycle link to the residential development to the north-east should this be feasible following investigation;
- An assessment of Flood Risk, which reflects the recommendations of the SFRA Level 2 assessment;
- Significant mitigation and compensation will be required to achieve biodiversity net gain; and
- Proposals will be required to mitigate any evidenced recreational impacts on the Ouse Washes SPA. Sites for housing development with extant planning permission

The following sites had extant planning permission at the time of preparing this Local Plan. These sites are allocated for the purpose of providing clarity on the nature and scale of development, and to secure the principle of development over the plan period. No specific policy requirements are set as it is expected that sites will be developed in accordance with their planning permission.

- A. Policy Reference LP49.03 (SHELAA Site reference 40223) – Land north of 28-30 High Street
- B. Policy Reference LP49.04 (SHELAA Site reference 40048) - 29 Lavender Mill Bungalow 145
- C. Policy Reference LP49.05 (SHELAA Site reference 40076) - 13 Land east of 11 - 21 Park Road
- D. Policy Reference LP49.06 (SHELAA Site reference 40522) - 5 18 Westfield Road

Response to the Consultation

A response was submitted to FDC on behalf of both the MLC and the associated Boards with catchments within the Council's area and included comments on:

The Settlement Hierarchy and the Countryside – Frontage Infill Development

Growth Strategy – Neighbourhood Areas;

Health and Well-being; Renewable Energy – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure

Design and Amenity – Policy LP 7: Design – Nature, Public Spaces, Homes and Buildings +

Policy LP 11: Community Safety

Housing – Policy LP 12: Meeting Housing Needs - Homes for Permanent Caravan Dwellers/Park Homes and Boat Dwellers

Town Centres – Policy LP 17: Culture, Leisure, Tourism and Community Facilities - Community Facilities

Transport and Infrastructure – Strategic Infrastructure, Transport Infrastructure, Community Infrastructure, Wisbech Rail, Wisbech Access Strategy, Whittlesey Relief Road, Local Projects, Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

Natural Environment – Policy LP 24: Natural Environment_- Designated Sites, Local Sites, Habitats and Species of Principal Importance, Biodiversity and Geodiversity in development, Mitigation of Potential Adverse Impacts of Development

Policy LP 25: Biodiversity Net Gain + Policy LP 26: Carbon Sinks and Carbon Sequestration - Trees & Hedgerows + Table 8: Landscape Character Areas + Policy LP 29: Green Infrastructure

Flood and Water Management - Policy LP 32: Flood and Water Management

Specific comments included:

Disappointment was expressed that most of the contents of Part (B) Flood Risk and Drainage of Policy LP14 – Responding to Climate Change and Managing the Risk of Flooding in Fenland within the current Local Plan have not been included in this policy contained within the draft Local Plan 2021-2040. As a result, it is considered that the new policy is much weaker which is disappointing given the special water level and flood risk management requirements within the Fens.

Concerns were raised about the piecemeal development encountered within the Council's area, for example, along Upwell Road in March or the Bridge Lane area in Wimblington, which is resulting in many small and isolated attenuation systems which will be difficult to maintain and will be a future liability for the parties concerned, the failure of which could potentially increase flood risk. The Council was advised that the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards would prefer more holistic solutions to be utilised such as the pond excavated by Hutchinson's in conjunction with the Hundred of Wisbech IDB which will serve several developments in the area close to the A47/Cromwell Road junction.

Policies for Sites and Settlements

When responding to similar documents it has been noted that having prepared detailed responses to specific site allocations, which has taken a significant amount of officer time and expense, the responses made are ignored.

Therefore, as a result, with a few exceptions detailed responses on individual sites were not prepared but a list of minimum requirements that need to be considered was provided when determining the suitability of a proposed site.

Specific responses

Specific responses were made on the following sites:

Policy LP 6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure – Site Allocations LP06.01
SHELAA Site reference 40468 - 98.79 ha at Coldham Wind Farm, Elm + LP06.02
SHELAA Site reference 40469 174.29 ha at land adjacent to Graysmoor Drove,
Elm.

Policy LP36: Residential site allocations for Wisbech (Page 118) (Map 28 Wisbech (Inset))

Policy LP46: Residential site allocations in Chatteris (Page 137) (Map 02 Chatteris (Inset))

Next Steps

All comments received during the consultation period are being reviewed with any changes arising being made to the draft Local Plan.

A Proposed Submission version is due to be published in summer 2023 for public consultation. This version of the plan will then be submitted together with any responses to the Secretary of State who will appoint an independent Planning Inspector to carry out a public examination into the document.

High Rainfall Event and Flooding Incident – December 2020

When attending meetings of the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Flood and Water (FloW) Partnership, the Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer has raised concerns about the issues experienced within Cambridgeshire during or following high rainfall and/or exceptional circumstance type events and has enquired of other partners whether given the time that has elapsed any progress is being made to resolve some of the issues. To date the response has been limited.

In view of the above it is considered appropriate to advise the appropriate RMA, where relevant, on areas which experience problems, particularly within the urban environment, and requires protection, intervention and/or investment.

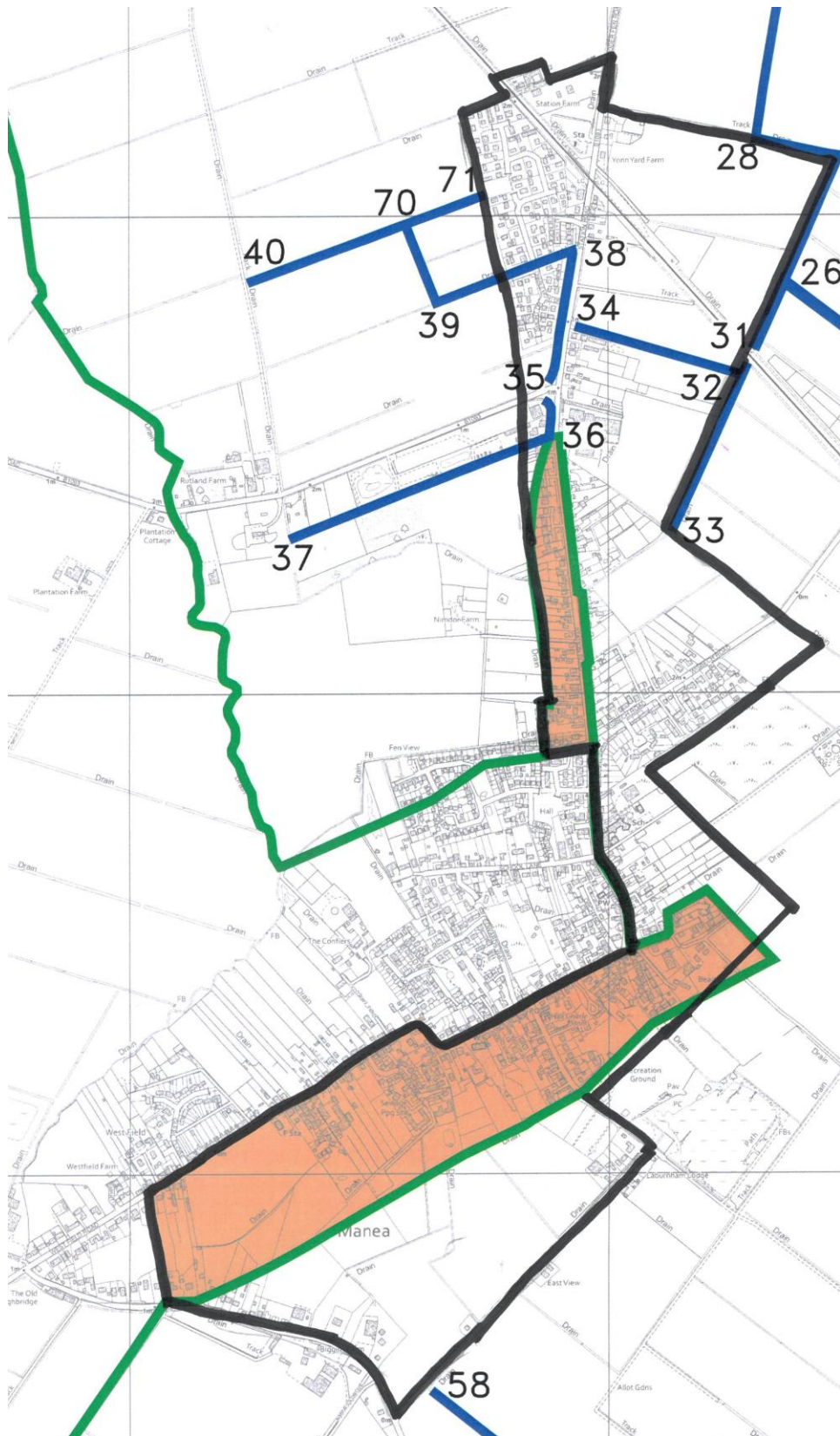
Initially, three areas of designation are proposed:

- A. Business as usual - Areas where there are no known problems with the local water level and flood risk management systems that cannot be solved through the Board's "day-to-day activities".
- B. Areas of concern - An area served by a water level and flood risk management system that can approach capacity during rainfall events which has been the subject of or is at an increased risk of flooding that is unlikely to be solved through the Board's "day-to-day activities" and may require protection, intervention and/or investment by the relevant RMA(s).
- C. Acute drainage areas – A geographical area with multiple or interlinked sources of flood risk where there is a need for a higher standard of water level and flood risk management than normal to ensure that any new development will not increase flood risk that affects people, properties and local infrastructure and may require protection, intervention and/or investment by the relevant RMA(s).

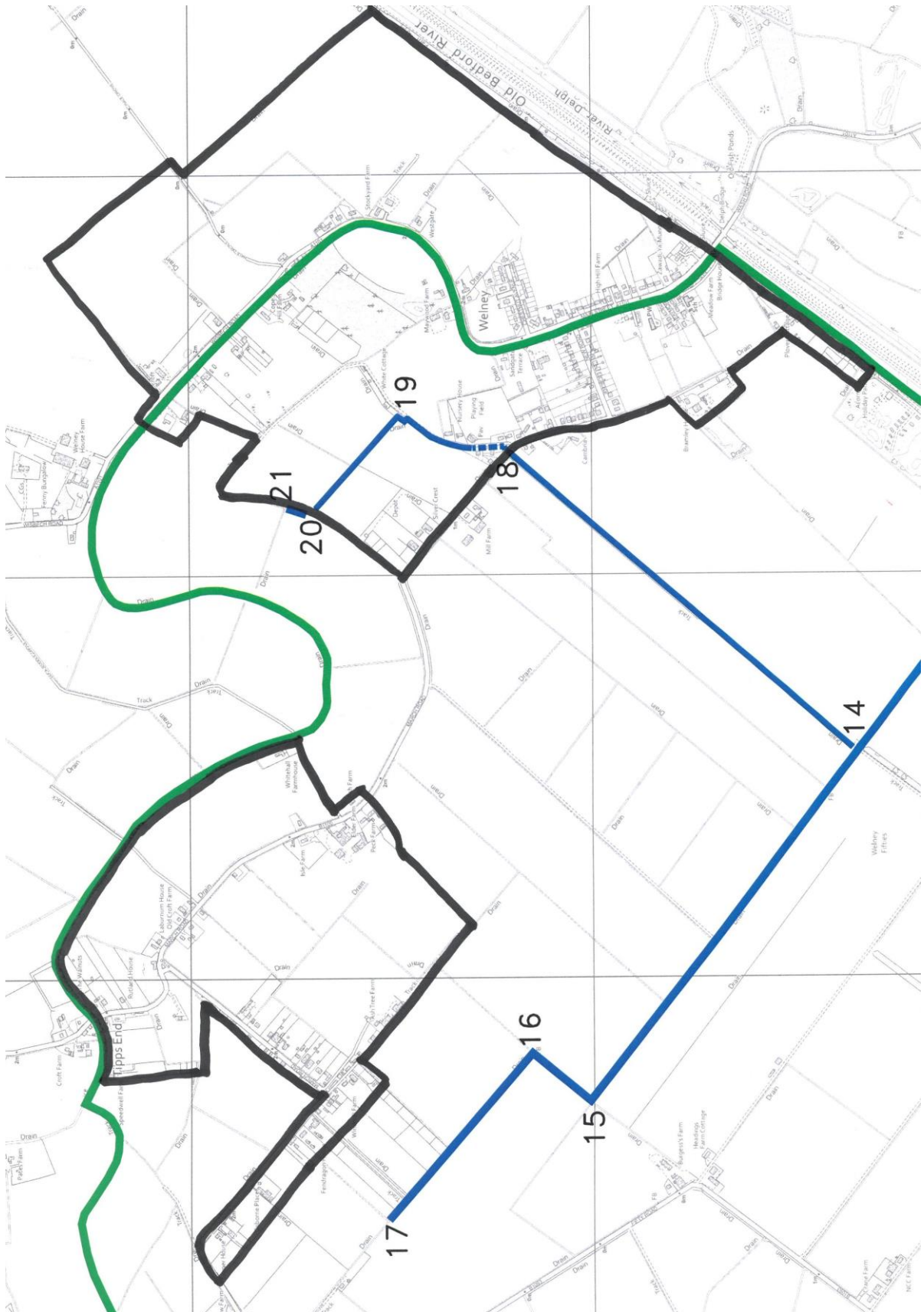
Neither items B nor C are the same as a "critical drainage area" which has a specific meaning in flood risk terms i.e., "A Critical Drainage Area (CDA) is an area that has critical drainage problems and which has been notified to the local planning authority as such by the Environment Agency in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)."

A review of the potential extents of an "area of concern", edged in black has been undertaken and are shown on the following extracts.

The intention is to highlight this area to the relevant RMA e.g., planning authorities, LLFA, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency etc., as an area which requires more involved management and will assist in protecting the local flood and water management systems including the Board's system.



Plan extract showing the areas of concern for Manea



Plan extract showing the areas of concern for Welney and Tipps End

As a result, apart from in the most exceptional circumstances, an initial request is that all water discharges within this area must be attenuated to current volumes and/or greenfield rates of run off, where practicable.

Following discussions, colleagues within the Middle Level Commissioners' Works Department advise that following the December 2020 event the MLC system took up to ten days and IDB systems up to five days to return to normal.

It is also considered that current surface water design practices do not allow for the weather conditions experienced prior to the December 2020 event or the complex network of water level and flood risk management systems within the Fens. Therefore, consideration is being given to requiring designs to:

- A. Incorporate a higher Standard of Protection (SoP), possibly up to 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) event
- B. Include a greater allowance for Climate Change, in excess of 40%, and
- C. Be able to "store" water on site for several days until the peak flows have passed.

Strategic Drainage and Wastewater consultation and issues

A. The Right to Connect

Members will recall that during the passage of the Environment Act through the House of Lords an amendment was sought which aimed to minimise the impact of new housing development on levels of local flood risk and the likelihood of storm discharges of untreated sewerage effluent into the water environment. It aimed to ensure housing developers design systems according to a hierarchy of drainage options that seek to reduce to a minimum the volume of rainwater entering combined sewerage systems removing the current "right to connect" to public sewers.

On the basis that the various RMA involved could have been asked to consider taking the opportunity to write to the government and voice their concerns over the right to connect for new developments the views of the Boards administered by the Middle Level Commissioners were sought.

The amendment was not moved and the House of Lords were not invited to take a decision on it. The Environment Act received Royal Assent in November 2021.

However, the results of the Boards who provided a positive response is as follows:

For the removal of the Right to Connect	54%
Against the removal of the Right to Connect	23%
Neither for or against the Right to Connect	18%
Not an issue for the Board	5%

The discharge from sewers can cause several challenges including increased flood risk, pollution and water quality issues, the solution to which is often at the rate payers' expense. Unsurprisingly the majority, but not all, of the Boards supporting the removal of the right either served or were detrimentally affected by areas of urban development.

Of those Boards against the removal some only served small urban areas with a limited number of sewers. Others served urban areas but only one received significant "benefit".

The Board that neither opposes nor supports the removal served a significant urban area but the remainder served a limited number of, or have no, adopted sewers within their catchments.

Other comments received expressed:

- A. Concerns about the lack of investment and the need for improvement to the existing adopted infrastructure and;
- B. Suggested that the permission to connect should be on an approval basis so that it can be controlled and any impacts managed and;
- C. Required the Clerk to promote and lobby the Board's position.

Some Boards are more rural whilst others feature a larger urban area. Similarly, a larger individual Board may be predominantly rural but include a sub-catchment(s) which is largely, and increasingly, an urban environment which has to accommodate the resultant flows.

Therefore, it is considered that it would be difficult to have a simple yes/no solution within a complex system such as The Fens.

B. Anglian Water Drainage & Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP)

Draft DWMP

A more detailed review of the DWMP will be included in the updated version of the Strategic Planning Consultation Responses document currently being prepared. However, it is considered appropriate to include specific entries for the relevant WRCs of interest in the local area.

1. Draft DWMP Consultation

The draft DWMP document has been the subject of a consultation which provided an opportunity to comment on the document and included the following specific points:

Groundwater infiltration & surface water removal

The problems associated with groundwater infiltration and surface water within the sewer system, particularly within combined systems, are known and are a problem for all RMAs involved. Particularly when the water table is high and/or during the winter months.

The removal of groundwater infiltration and surface water from the sewerage system, to reduce the number of flood events, pollutions and storm overflow spills is considered to be an appropriate option in the correct circumstances and location.

The question that will need to be resolved in these situations is where will the surface water go instead? Most other surface water systems are approaching their finite capacity and will require the installation of significant infrastructure to deal with the flows. Who will pay and be responsible for this? Care will also need to be taken to ensure that flood risk is not being increased elsewhere within the WRCs catchment for another RMA to deal with as a result.

As the approval and consent of other RMAs may also be required, prior detailed consultation with the parties involved **MUST** be undertaken and agreed **BEFORE** work commences.

(NB: In respect of this document, infiltration refers to groundwater entering the sewer system which **increases hydraulic loadings and threatens wastewater treatment efficiency.**)

Water level Management Solutions

The use of SuDS, wetlands and other green structures is considered to be an appropriate option in the correct circumstances and location.

The management of SuDS and other water level management systems is an ongoing challenge for many RMAs. Without suitable arrangements being imposed these could simply become potential liabilities for the various rate/bill payers. Therefore, adequate arrangements **MUST** be made to ensure that the long-term ownership funding, management and maintenance for the upkeep of any green infrastructure, whether on or off site, in perpetuity is achieved.

Consideration also needs to be given to any restrictions upon maintenance of the drainage “facility” due to the presence of protected habitats and species.

As the approval and consent of other RMAs may also be required, prior detailed consultation with the parties involved MUST be undertaken and agreed BEFORE work commences.

Partnership Working

The Commissioners and associated Boards are prepared to work in partnership with the local community, private and public partners to contribute to and deliver schemes for conservation, navigation, water resources, water level & flood risk management where there is a mutual benefit to the partners concerned.

However, to what extent they are prepared to contribute would be the subject of a decision for the respective authority and this may vary dependent upon their views.

2. Storm Overflow Consultation

A consultation exercise on Storm Overflow Discharges was held during February. In view of the concerns discussed above it was considered appropriate to consult all the administered Boards even though many would not be directly affected.

The main means of providing a response was to provide answers to five specific questions and, whilst responses were provided, in view of the nature of the matter; the responses received from the Boards consulted and given that the issue is rising up the political agenda it was considered that a more detailed and focused response was required.

The following are the headlines or a brief resume of the response:

A. Existing sewer systems and problems

1. The Right to Connect – As discussed elsewhere in this Report
2. Other issues – On going pollution problems, the surcharging of or high discharges during or following high rainfall events, the lack of capacity within WRCs.

B. General

It is considered that all the current targets are too vague and will take too long to achieve any meaningful results and that the consultation was not open and transparent as the locations of the points of discharge are not readily identified within the document, therefore making it difficult to provide a meaningful comment.

Advice was given that:

Most of our systems are pumped often remaining stationary for extended periods thus dilution may not occur as expected; water is abstracted for various purposes – see High Priority Sites – Public Health below; the adverse impact on areas of interest including

designated environmental sites; and that no “compensation” is provided for having to receive, transfer and dispose of the discharges from the overflows.

C. Storm Flow Technical Overview

High Priority Sites

1. Ecology

a. *Environment targets*

It is considered that these targets should apply to **all** sites not just high priority ones, with solutions implemented much sooner than identified if the Government’s target of halting biodiversity decline is to be achieved and the goals of the Water Framework Directive and the 25 year environment plan are to be achieved.

b. *Sensitive Inland Water*

Reference was made to the proximity of trigger points.

2. Public Health

The document refers to Designated Shellfish Water and Designated Bathing Water as trigger points which is understood, but it is not appreciated that vast quantities of water are abstracted from Fenland water level management systems for agricultural use, whether this is washing or irrigating crops for consumption within the food chain.

It was suggested that it would be prudent for the trigger points to be reviewed to include those other items which could affect public health on a wider scale.

Potable Water

Reference was made concerning the use of excess water from both the Commissioners’ and surrounding systems to fill the proposed Fens Reservoir and the potential benefits of improving water quality from the discharges into these watercourses.

3. Amenity

Emphasis is given to bathing waters but no reference is made to other wider but perhaps smaller benefits on the Commissioners’ largely navigable systems and the disposal of sewage into these watercourses may have an adverse impact on wider issues, for example, tourism, angling etc or if these wider “costs” are considered when assessing the adverse impacts of overflows on the local area.

4. Assessing spill frequency

Event data Monitors

- a. From a closer review it was identified that some of the discharges of interest including Doddington, Nightlayers and Ramsey WRCs are not fitted with Event Data Monitors. Therefore, it is not known how the number of spills can be fully assessed.

Event Duration Monitors will be installed on all of Anglian Water's overflows during Asset Management Plan (AMP) period 7 (2020-2025) and this will, hopefully, reduce the level of uncertainty during AMP 8 (2025-2030) and AMP 9 (2030-2035) by producing "real" data.

- b. Rainfall target: Storm overflows will not be permitted to discharge above an average of 10 rainfall events per year by 2050 but this target should be more defined including restriction on the duration of spills and the volume discharged. This may be difficult to achieve. The Standard of Protection (SoP) provided, the use of "typical" rather than excessive rainfall events and modelling of the various systems to identify potential problem overflows rather than actual data – the number of spills, duration of the spills etc was questioned.

Growth

The growth that has occurred in the last fifty years has contributed to the increased number and length of spills and this will only become more severe as further growth continues unless adequate steps are taken now to resolve these as a matter of urgency.

Climate Change

It would be appropriate for all RMAs to prepare for the worst-case scenario and there is an aspiration to achieve this but this could be expensive, may prove unnecessary and wasteful leading to criticism. It was suggested that the most economic and environmentally acceptable standard should be achieved.

Screening

It would be beneficial to know where these initial overflows are located.

D. Storm Overflow Consultation

Performance Guide

It appears that priority is given to the number of spills rather than the length of time of the discharge, the volume of flow being discharged or the cumulative effects of the overflows due to their close proximity to each other.

Preferred Plan

It would be beneficial if the “headlines” from assessments and guidance on suggested solutions could be provided to identify and instigate any early engagement with the parties concerned, for example, land owners, developers etc.

Customer Support

Reference was made in the document to continual engagement with customers but there appears to be limited engagement with those RMA who have to receive the flows from the storm overflows.

It was suggested that such engagement commences and both the Commissioners and associated Boards look forward to continual engagement and transparency on storm overflows and networks in the future.

E. Consultation Questionnaire

The answers to the questionnaire were generally included in the response, but in reply to the question *How confident are you that this strategy aligns with our Purpose?* A very low confidence comment was provided adding that some of the systems cannot be managed without significant investment and improvement works being required on several networks.

F. Summary

Whilst it is pleasing that the issue of sewage overflows is being progressed this appears to be primarily due to political pressure rather than at the instigation of the water industry.

There are concerns that priority will be given to resolving issues associated with storm overflows rather than those existing problems associated with WRCs and associated systems.

Greater transparency, early engagement and further discussions should be undertaken to any issues related to adoptable sewer systems and storm overflows if the current problems are to be resolved.

The final DWMP document is currently being prepared and is due to be published this spring.

C. Review for implementation of Schedule 3 to The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (F&WMA)

The Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) details the provision of comprehensive flood management to protect people, homes, and businesses. It is written to protect water supplies to the consumer and helps safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges. The Act introduces into law the concept of flood risk management as the

preferred approach rather than reliance on flood defences (existing or proposed) for protection of sites.

1. Schedule 3

Schedule 3 of the FWMA was introduced to establish a SuDS approving body (SAB) at the county/unitary level for the regulation of new development and compliance with The Act. It was intended that this Schedule would be introduced into law around 2015/2016, following the original Act that achieved royal ascent in 2010 but this did not happen and Schedule 3 did not achieve approval due to concerns that it would restrict housing delivery and growth.

Instead, the government made amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and associated Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) to stipulate those decisions on planning applications relating to major developments (over 10 dwellings, or equivalent non-residential developments) should ensure that SuDS are put in place, unless demonstrated to be inappropriate. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) currently need to approve drainage schemes and ensure they are appropriately maintained.

Currently the maintenance of a development typically falls under the responsibility of a Private Maintenance Company (PMC) which is usually paid for using service charge agreements with the owners of the new properties and often selling residential properties as leasehold rather than freehold.

2. Review

In early December industry experts sent an open letter to the Prime Minister which “strongly urged” the implementation of Schedule 3.

Following a review, DEFRA announced in January 2023, the government’s decision to implement Schedule 3 which will provide a framework for the approval and adoption of high quality SuDS and is expected to occur at a yet to be determined date in 2024. As a result, the Government is giving consideration to how this will be implemented subject to final decisions on scope, threshold and process whilst being mindful of the cumulative impact of new regulatory burdens on the development sector and water industry. Defra recently undertook a consultation survey with LPAs and LLFAs but not with IDBs and other relevant parties. However, there are several issues and challenges that require resolution before progressing further.

3. Changes to existing laws

The implementation of Schedule 3 will introduce some small changes to three existing laws.

a) Building Act 1984

Section 59 which gives local authorities the power to request that sustainable drainage systems in an unsatisfactory condition be renewed, repaired or cleansed is to be amended.

Section 84 which stipulates that local authorities withhold the right to request that impermeable surfaces around a building which do not allow for the satisfactory drainage of its surface or subsoil be remedied requires amendment to specify that surfaces need to remove water in a satisfactory manner.

b) New Roads and Street Works Act 1991

Section 63 will include a small change should Schedule 3 be enacted.

c) Water Industry Act 1991

Section 106 to remove the right to connect. Following Schedule 3's commencement, a person may only exercise this right if their drainage system was approved by an SAB before construction and if a proposal for their drainage system to communicate with a sewer was included in their application for approval.

The NPPF and the associated PPG will require amending to reflect any changes.

4. Implementation

Whilst there will be some changes to current procedures it is considered that there are several potential benefits including better working practices, better integration with other RMA, the removal of the automatic right to connect, potential revenue streams etc but there are several potential problems that need to be resolved including funding mechanisms; potential increased costs on the rate payer; lack of resources, skills and capabilities; the need for more timely responses possibly taking staff members from other work.

The proposal is the subject of on-going discussions and a meeting with the LLFAs and other partners has been requested to discuss the issues in order to maximise any

opportunities and minimise any adverse impacts on both the Middle Level Commissioners and the Boards to whom it provides a planning consultancy service.

These discussions will include, as a minimum:

- a) The suggested change in surface water design practice, as discussed elsewhere in this report.
- b) Ensuring that adequate arrangements are made for long term ownership funding, management and maintenance arrangements for the upkeep of any water level and flood risk management system, whether on or off site, in perpetuity including details of the works to be carried out by the occupier/land owner, adopting authority, the Management Company or other responsible person/authority, together with the costs attached, are included in the "Homeowners Pack" and the Deed of Sale.
- c) The right to connect needs to be on an approval basis to ensure that it can be controlled and any adverse impacts managed.
- d) That any incurred costs on the rate payer are kept to a minimum.

Norfolk Water Management Partnership [Norfolk County Council (LLFA)]

No further correspondence has been received and no further action has been taken on the Board's behalf.

Norfolk Water Strategy Programme (NWSP)

The current position is being ascertained.



Consulting Engineer

5 June 2023

- b) The Board considered the Supplementary Report Improving Capital Delivery, viz;

Manea & Welney DDC

Consulting Engineers' Supplementary Report - April 2023

Improving Capital Delivery

Introduction

Since being in post I have been getting to grips with a number of things in the Engineering/Technical Services Department. I've made a number of observations: officers are knowledgeable, dedicated and committed to delivering a service to the Commissioners and IDBs; working in partnership with the Environment Agency and local planning authorities/LLFAs is clearly evident; the operations team do an excellent job managing water resources in an extremely complex system; our capital delivery programme is growing as assets come to the end of design life; we have some significant changes and challenges ahead (biodiversity net gain requirements, the climate emergency and Fens Reservoir amongst others) which need careful planning and resourcing if we are to properly represent members and local communities and secure the best outcomes for the catchment.

We have an increasing capital delivery programme, with a number of ongoing projects and many identified for future delivery. I have identified areas where improvements are needed to deliver these projects better and to improve communications between the consulting engineer and the Boards.

Resources

Staff in MLC's Technical Services are currently stretched in terms of capacity and capability. There is a significant lack of suitable people across the engineering and project delivery profession generally, which impacts not only MLC's ability to recruit, but also the availability of consultant and contractor resources.

As well as our services to IDBs, and the Bank Raising Scheme over the next 4-5 years, and delivery of the pumping station refurbishment programme, there is an immediate need to provide resources to support MLC input to developing plans for Anglian Water's Fens Reservoir. This will have a significant and profound impact on water management in the catchment, and MLC officers need to ensure we secure the very best outcomes for our Board members, ratepayers, customers and the environment. We will be working very hard over the next 6 months to achieve this before the project passes its next 'gate'.

Now that MLC receives revenue through navigation licences, we have to ensure that we deliver on the requirements set out in the Navigation Byelaws 2020. This is a work in progress, but again sets additional demands on our internal resources and our ability to be proactive.

MLC were unsuccessful in recruiting a new planning engineer in 2022 and the existing team is under continued pressure to resolve ongoing and new applications, let alone adequately accommodate new demands. We are now looking at alternative resource solutions to support the wider engineering department.

IDB Projects

I am already aware of a number of projects that have been in progress for some time. There is lack of a clear programme of delivery and/project management discipline for these; there are no specific timescales and other agreed tolerances with the IDB as 'client', and this makes it difficult to plan and prioritise resources and workloads.

I am compiling a programme of all the projects being delivered by MLC and determining the resources needed to complete them. I will work with the Boards in question to progress delivery as quickly and efficiently as possible.

For new project requests, I am implementing a simple process with a 'Project Initiation Form' to capture key information and undertake an initial assessment of the project. I will prioritise work requested based on urgency and availability of resources. Unless otherwise instructed by an IDB, our default approach will be to seek to maximise FCRM Grant in Aid funding for eligible projects. I will implement a process of reporting progress regularly to the Boards/key contacts. As part of this process, I'll be asking each Board to agree how they delegate decision making, as projects can't be effectively delivered when governed through annual meetings, and how we manage better, more frequent, communications between the Boards' delegates and officers in Technical Services.

I am looking at the possibility of 'packaging' some works together for delivery by consultants, e.g. Pumping Station Refurbishment Projects rather than delivering each one individually. This has the advantage of securing a team of suitable resources who can focus on the work and deliver it as efficiently as possible (economies of scale). This will be a change of approach for individual IDBs and will need further work to determine how we manage this approach practically when each Board is its own individual entity with maybe a once per annum meeting. I hope to provide you with more detail about this, and the benefits it will give the Boards, in the coming months.

It may take some time to deliver the backlog of projects, which in turn might delay the start of new projects. However, I'm hopeful my approach will eventually lead to a more effective and efficient delivery process.

MLC Bank Raising Scheme

This is currently the largest IDB led project in the national flood investment programme and gives us the opportunity to develop capacity and capability in the organisation and share best practice across all our work. The scheme will be under the spot-light and have a focus from the Environment Agency in terms of grant assurance.

Works are progressing on a number of fronts but were lacking leadership and direction and there was no delivery programme. I have implemented some standard project management tools to control, manage and deliver the project: An 'exception report' was raised to the Project Board/MLC Executive Board outlining the existing situation and mitigation measures being put in place; A project plan and outline programme is now in place; Clear project governance has been identified; A data management plan is being drafted; Risks and issues are being identified; Project and delivery manager resources have been appointed and they will start in April.

Most of the project work was being carried out by MLC staff putting a strain on their already stretched ability to delivery other commitments, especially to the IDBs. The Technical Services team does not currently have the capacity or capability to deliver major projects.

There was a lack of clarity around environmental impact and risk assessments for activities which are considerably more than 'business as usual.'

Resources are in place/are being identified to complete environmental impact assessment required before wholesale desilting works can be undertaken, including significant input from the MLC Environment Officer.

The Independent Technical Advisor has prepared a scope for tender to secure a consultant to develop outline design and prepare Full Business Case (for MLC Project Board approval). The consultant will provide all technical input needed for developing and planning the project and ensuring consents and approvals are identified and in place. MLC staff will continue to act in a lead client capacity, providing their specific technical expertise and knowledge of the catchment as necessary. I will lead the project as Project Executive, working closely with the Project and Delivery Managers and providing regular updates to the Project Sponsor (Chief Executive) and MLC Executive Committee.

MLC's H&S advisor, Cope, visited and assessed the provisions in place and provided advice on additional requirements. Risk assessments/methods statements are being developed for physical work activities alongside a full review of the MLC H&S policies.

A Communications & Engagement team is in place and is planning engagement in parallel with Chief Executive's proposed MLC engagement and branding improvements.

A robust forecast of project costs needs developing. It is likely that the total project costs will exceed the current approval limit of £23million from the Outline Business Case. There are also some risks to the delivery programme that need to be investigated further and mitigated as necessary. All of these will be considered in more detail over the next 6 months, appraised and included in the Full Business Case, before the end of the financial year 2023/24.

Contractors are currently being identified for the various work phases: desilting; material import; bank raising works and hard defences (including detailed design).



Consulting Engineer

5 April 2023

The Chairman reported that the Manea Town Lots WRC had not been upgraded and become overwhelmed in event conditions and that these problems will only become greater with increased development in the village. He considered it important for the Commissioners to raise this capacity issue at every opportunity with individual planning applications.

Cllr Marks reported that the problem was being addressed by Anglian Water to the extent of tankering from Manea to the Nightlayers WRC at Chatteris.

Mrs A Morris raised concerns over individual planning applications not being responded to concerning the Commissioners byelaws. The Chairman reported that it was an issue as drainage authorities were not statutory consultees and this was a long-standing issue being looked into by ADA.

Cllr Marks reported that FDC were looking into future changes that will allow matters being referred back to drainage authorities if they become highlighted as being a potential byelaw issue. In response to Mr M Fairey, Mrs Nicola Oldfield reported that the proposal for studies was that if works were likely to be required at pumping stations, the study would look at the whole system to ensure that the operation of the whole system was taken into account.

Mr M Fairey considered this to be important as there were issues in getting satisfactory flows through the culvert under the railway, and the system is reliant on both pumping stations working in tandem.

RESOLVED

- i) That the reports are approved
- ii) That the planning Engineer refers to the capacity issues at Manea Town Lots WRC when responding to planning applications.
- iii) That the Engineer write to Anglian Water to raise the Commissioners concerns over capacity issues at Manea Town Lots WRC.

C.999 District Superintendent's Report

The Commissioners considered and approved the Report of the District Superintendent, and the Chairman thanked the Superintendent for the quality of his work and also of his report, viz;

Manea & Welney District Drainage Commissioners

Superintendent's Report, Summer 2023

It has been an eventful year already, and it is only the end of May.

A dry(ish) January led to the pumps being switched off by February 7th. Memories of the previous summer were still vivid in our minds, so the levels were allowed to rise slowly to 97.8 which looked to be a good place to be if water was to be scarce for the summer. I busied myself servicing and exercising the pumps, clearing accumulated scrap and rubbish from the workshop and old engine house, walking the drains and generally keeping the district ticking over. All was to change on March 10th. The previous day I had caught a Mink at Glen House, the first for well over a year, and had arranged to take it to Tony Martin at Pymoor for dissection. The journey to Pymoor was enlivened by blizzard conditions. Horizontal snow lashed across the Fens, visibility was down to little more than 50 yards, the dog eyed me from the passenger seat as though I was mad to be out in such conditions. After some predator and conservation chat with Tony, I returned to Glen House under leaden but dry skies. The drain had risen by over 20cm! Discretion being the better part of valour, I switched the pumps on and one by one three fired up, the fourth decided that it was just the morning to announce a battery failure. Being of a mean bent, I had salvaged two batteries from previous failures and was able to fit them to the pump and off it went. The water flow into the District was immense, as is often the case with heavy falls of wet snow that melts almost immediately and several days passed before the pumps were able to settle to pumping once a day. The weather turned fairly wet from then on, and cold, and the drain levels were kept at winter levels with the pumps keeping things as they should be until May 22nd, when again they were switched off. Generally the pumps have stayed reliable, a coolant leak on one took some tracing but I was not to be defeated and a thermostat housing gasket was found to be the culprit. A failed water level sensor also needed replacing on another engine.

Other excitement in the District included finding Glen House surrounded by sheep on March 21st. They had broken down the bank fence by the discharge pipes, the grass around the pumping station being much more appealing than the poor grazing on the bank. I contacted the owner and secured the sheep on the bank beyond Glen House, but they were well on the way to the railway before Wayne got to them and he had a long walk back with the blighters to return them from whence they came. In the meantime, I made a temporary repair to the fence, which will keep them where they belong until the EA comes to repair it properly.

The van went to Masons for its annual service and MOT on February 23rd. This was the last time Masons would carry this out as Neil has decided to wind the business up and I will now be taking the van to LWVS at Welney. Indeed, LWVS have already replaced a tyre that suffered a shoulder puncture and have supplied an alternator drive belt.

Summer mowing started on April 5th, progressed steadily and by May 12th, I had mown everywhere where there was access. Late drilling of crops may have frustrated the farming community, but it was a benefit to me. I am now getting stuck into the second pass, which will be finished before you read this report.

As the Spring has progressed it has been good to see some interesting wildlife making the most of the habitat, they find along the District drains. Alongside the regular Kingfishers and Barn Owls which have hunted at Glen House all winter, I have seen Tufted duck, Gadwall, large numbers of Shoveler, Shelduck, Teal and the regular Mallard, Coot and Moorhen. I haven't come across any Little Grebe, which is unusual, but, 'spot of the year' was (and will probably remain) a pair of Garganey which is the only migrant duck to arrive in Europe. They appeared at Glen House on March 30th, stayed for a few days and then moved on to a breeding place, that I have yet to discover. A large grass snake swimming across a drain at Purls Bridge was a nice sight. With Swallows and Martins skimming across the water, Cuckoos calling from the usual places around the District, Reed and Sedge warblers going hammer and tongs on the uncut sections of drain, Hares boxing and Partridge and Pheasant running about the droves, I think it is fair to say Summer is upon us despite what the thermometer might say.

Andy Maddams

C.1000 Determination of annual value(s) for rating purposes

RESOLVED

That the Determination of annual values for rating purposes be approved.

C.1001 Rate arrears

RESOLVED

Tha Commissioners considered and approve the write-off of Rate Arrears.

C.1002 Health and Safety

Further to minute C.982, the Chairman reported on the visit from Cope Safety Management on 20th February 2023, and reported that most areas were now addressed but that the signage at pumping stations needed to be improve.

Cllr Marks considered it important to ensure the boards at pumping stations were large enough to accommodate any other notices that may be required, viz;



Site Safety Inspection Record

Manea and Welney DDC SSI 200223 Complete

Name of organisation:	Manea and Welney DDC
Date of site visit	20.02.2023 12:00 GMT
Address of inspected premises	Glenhouse Pumping Station Purl's Bridge Pumping Station
Name of Advisor	Simon Cross
Time of arrival at site:	20.02.2023 12:00 GMT
Audit Name	Manea and Welney DDC SSI 200223

Audit

An opening meeting was held with

John Heading and Andy Maddams

Have there been any accidents since our last visit?

No

Have there been any new starters since our last visit?

No

1

Introduction. Opening meeting held with John Heading and Andy Maddams, topics discussed included previous observations and any ongoing or resolved recommendations. It was reported that the new side tractor mounted flail arm was being used effectively. For lone working, a system is in place to notify family member at the start and end of work activities. In addition, a mobile phone is carried and What 3 Words app used if necessary to pinpoint location.

2

Glenhouse Pumping Station. The following observations were made:

* Tool storage. It was observed that a number of tools, including scythe, rake, etc are hung loosely from various areas around the depot building. There is a small possibility that these may be knocked or fall causing injury. It is recommended that where practical, tools are stored more appropriately, such as blade or sharp head lowermost.

* Spillages. It was noted that some sawdust had been used on the floor around the fuel dispenser to absorb a spill, it was reported that some of this was from water ingress through the wall and some from a connection on the fuel pipe. It is recommended that the causes of the leaks are investigated and remedied.

3

Purls Bridge Pumping Station. No new observations made.

4

Warning signage. It was noted that although signage is displayed at both locations indicating in wording about the hazard of automated machinery, there are no other hazards or precautions identified, such as electricity, deep water, no unauthorised persons, etc. See photo 1 below. It is recommended that appropriate signage, in pictorial form, is displayed indicating any hazards or precautions on site. This could be displayed collectively on signage at the entrance point on the buildings or security fences and also include name of the site, location details (grid ref, What 3 Words) and emergency contact details. See photo 2 below for an example of a similar type of sign.



Photo 1



Photo 2

Photographic Risk Assessment

Signature of person informed

Signature of person informed 1

Signature of person informed



Andy Maddams
20.02.2023 13:56 GMT

Advisor's signature



Simon Cross
21.02.2023 15:39 GMT

Departure time

20.02.2023 14:10 GMT

Number of outstanding Photographic Risk Assessments

0
From 0 to 99

Appendix



Photo 1



Photo 2

MANEA AND WELNEY DDC SUMMARY OF PHOTOGRAPHIC RISK ASSESSMENTS

NO OUTSTANDING PHOTOGRAPHIC RISK ASSESSMENTS

C.1003 Review of Internal Controls

RESOLVED

The Commissioners considered that they are satisfied with the current internal controls.

C.1004 Risk Management Assessment

RESOLVED

- a) The Commissioners gave consideration & approved the Board's Risk Management Policy.
- b) The Commissioners reviewed and approved the insured value of the Board's buildings, viz;

MANEA & WELNEY DDC **INSURED VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS**

PUMPING STATIONS

	As At 1st April 2023
PURLS BRIDGE PUMPING STATION	845,250.00
GLEN HOUSE PUMPING STATION	1,759,500.00
OLD GLENHOUSE PUMPING STATION	345,000.00
WELCHES DAM	5,750.00
	2,955,500.00

C.1005 Payments 2022/2023

RESOLVED

That the payments of £ 188,205.23 for the financial year 2022/2023 are approved, viz;

MANEA & WELNEY DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

Payments 2022/2023 (1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023)

Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, discussion regarding Glen House pumping station works, planning and development applications)	1,240.28
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	282.07
Paynes of Chatteris Ltd - Repairs to 2 cables to submersible pump	157.20
Ratatak - Pest control (April - June 2022)	88.20
Bank charges	3.00
Vodafone	12.15
Wave - Metered water supply	11.79
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	408.00
C.J. Mason - Repairs to AU15 XHB	84.27
Environment Agency - Precept	38,401.47
Vodafone	13.06
Ben Burgess Coates - 1500 hour service of John Deere Tractor - AO20 NWL	1,708.27
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	181.06
Vodafone	13.06
Ben Burgess Coates - Supply of fenders, fender pivot, grille, bolts and screws	1,435.82
Vodafone	13.06
Ratatak - Pest control (July - September 2022)	88.20
Wave - Metered water supply	12.03
N L Hydraulics - Hydraulic hose and cable ties	78.46
Vodafone	13.61
C.J. Mason - Repairs to AU15 XHB	269.16
Mr & Mrs P Hawthorne - Rates refund	25.82
Vodafone	13.06
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances	2,835.30
PKF Littlejohn LLP - Audit fee (2021-2022 accounts)	480.00
Vodafone	13.06
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	262.87
Environment Agency - Precept	38,401.47
FJS Services Ltd - 2 Hex bolts, washers and nuts	7.78
N L Hydraulics - 20 litres of hydraulic oil	63.60
Bank charges	3.00
Vodafone	13.06
Mr P Jolley - Rates refunded	117.11
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	750.07
Middle Level Commissioners - Internal audit fees (Whiting & Partners, 2021-2022 accounts)	930.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	508.70
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages and telephone charges	7,430.88
Middle Level Commissioners - Contribution (Environmental Officer)	467.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)	754.98
Wave - Metered water supply	12.16
Ratatak - Pest control (October - December 2022)	90.40
Cambridgeshire County Council - Annual rent (Right of access)	100.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (Purles Bridge Pumping Station)	167.24
FenFlow Ltd - Overhaul of inlet valve and repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (Glen House pumping station)	2,488.02
Bank charges	3.00
Vodafone	13.06
Fen Group - Drain maintenance	15,027.60
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Discussions and site inspections ahead of scheme progression and FDGiA appraisal, planning and development applications)	690.00
Association of Drainage Authorities (River Great Ouse branch) - Subscription 2022-2023	36.00
Ratatak - Pest control (January - March 2023)	90.40
Bank charges	3.00
Vodafone	13.06
Wave - Metered water supply	12.16
CJ Mason - Repairs to AU15 XHB	192.00
FJS Services Ltd - Hex set, speing washers, flat washers and nuts	5.97
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	270.31
Bank charges	3.00
Vodafone	13.06
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2023	814.80
Water Resources East - Contribution to operating costs 2021-2022	150.00
Water Resources East - Contribution to operating costs 2022-2023	150.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)	543.60
Adept Property Solutions Limited - Replace water heater at Glenhouse pumping station	420.00
Adept Property Solutions Limited - Repair toilet at Glenhouse pumping station	65.00
Information Commissioners - Data Protection Registration renewal	40.00
Bank charges	3.00
Vodafone	13.06
The Lamb & Flag - Expenses in connection with Board meeting	220.00
C J Mason - Repairs, service and MOT to AU15 XHB	490.70
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of highland water claims	24.80
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Supply - (Glenhouse pumping station)	2,595.24
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Supply - (Purles Bridge pumping station)	6,397.54
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (Purles Bridge pumping station)	209.70
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (Glenhouse pumping station)	133.49
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (Purles Bridge pumping station)	460.24
Anglia Farmers - Gas oil	16,864.04
Anglia Farmers - Diesel	762.25
Anglia farmers - Spares for repairs	1,026.30
District labour	35,678.55
NEST Pension Contributions	4,320.00
	188,205.23

(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)
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NB: Messers J & M Heading and Cllr Crofts declared an interest in this item as members of the Middle Level Board.

NB: Mr J Heading declared an interest in this item as a Director of ADA.

C.1006 Annual Governance Statement – 2022/2023

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the Chairman to sign the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/2023, viz;

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

We acknowledge as the members of:

MANEA & WELNEY DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023, that:

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

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

DD/MM/YYYY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

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

Chairman

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

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C.1007 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2022/2023

The Commissioners considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2023 as required in the Audit Regulations, viz;

MANEA AND WELNEY DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
GENERAL FUND

2023 Mar-31	Expenditure during the year:-		2022 Apr-01	Balance brought forward	377,106.59
	Precept	76,802.94	2023 Mar-31	Rate income & Special levy	205,551.91
	Rates, Insurances, Telephones	3,022.72		Interest on Deposit Accounts	0.50
	Repairs & Renewals	8,194.87		Highland Water Contributions	816.97
	Fuel	19,132.18		Water Transfer - EA	5245.30
	Drainworks	16,441.74		Consents	0.00
	District Labour	40,155.89		By Insurance Claim	1,031.92
	Administration	15,993.89		By Grant in Aid	4,625.83
	Technical Services	2,582.84			217,272.43
		105,524.13			
	<u>Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund</u>				
	Pump overhaul provision	15,000.00		By Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund	
				- Installation of telemetry	4,625.83
	<u>Improvement works</u>				
	Installation of telemetry	9,251.66			
	Depreciation Charge	31,328.68			
	Balance carried forward	361,097.44			
		599,004.85			599,004.85

BALANCE SHEET

<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Capital Section</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
				Pumping Stations	2,415,000.00
Capital Provisions	2,415,000.00			Plant Assets	100,867.60
					2,515,867.60
		<u>Revenue Section</u>			
General Fund				Ratepayers' Account - Arrears	12,098.56
Revenue	260,229.84			Stock	10,751.01
Capital	100,867.60	361,097.44		Value added tax - Refunds due	7,206.43
Sundry Creditors		66,720.77		Sundry Debtors	734.25
Development Contributions		50,732.28			
Contributions holding account		4,056.82		Balance in hand:-	
Capital Reserve Fund		131,877.69		Barclays Current Account	490,272.17
Grant Aid Received in Advance		7,445.02		Barclays Labour Account	0.00
		3,036,930.02			490,272.17
					3,036,930.02

MANEA & WELNEY DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS
MONITORING - ACCOUNTS-ESTIMATES 2022-2023

		<u>Approved Estimates</u> <u>2022/2023</u>	<u>Probable Actual</u> <u>2022/2023</u>	<u>Accounts</u> <u>2022/2023</u>
1	<u>CHANNEL MAINTENANCE</u>	13,500	17,500	16,442
2	<u>LABOUR</u>	38,000	41,000	40,156
3	<u>REPAIRS AND RENEWALS</u>	10,500	12,250	8,195
	Pump overhaul	15,000	0	0
4	<u>FUEL</u>	27,500	27,500	19,132
5	<u>RATES, INSURANCES & TELEPHONES</u>	3,750	3,250	3,023
6	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	17,775	16,500	15,994
7	<u>TECHNICAL SERVICES</u>	3,000	2,500	2,583
8	<u>E. A. PRECEPT</u>	77,297	76,803	76,803
9	<u>PLANT REPLACEMENT</u>	4,000	28,450	27,702
		210,322	225,753	210,029
	<u>INCOME</u>	4,887	19,512	19,796
	Net Expenditure 205,435	205,435	206,241	190,232
	Rate Requirement	0.4325		
	Increase on previous year budget			
	AV 477,147			
	Gen. Fund balance open		244,910	244,910
	Rates raised	Rate set - 41.00	205,577	205,552
	net expenditure		206,241	190,232
	closing balance		<u>244,246</u>	<u>260,230</u>

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Manea & Welney nternal Drainage Board

Summary of Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2023

Treasurers Account 2022/2023

1st April 2022		31st March 2023	
Balance brought forward	453,639.68	Payments made during the year	188,205.23
31st March 2023			
Receipts during the year			
Clerk's collection account	224,837.72		
Interest on deposit accounts	0.00		
	224,837.72	Balance carried forward	490,272.17
	<u>678,477.40</u>		<u>678,477.40</u>

Labour Account 2019/2020

1st April 2022		31st March 2023	
Balance brought forward	1,282.27	Transfer to Treasurers Account	1,283.00
31st March 2023			
Interest on deposit accounts	0.73	Balance carried forward	0.00
	<u>1,283.00</u>		<u>1,283.00</u>

ACCOUNT CLOSED

Summary of Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2023

Barclays Bank PLc

Clients Premium Account

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2023	490,272.17
Less unrepresented cheques	0.00
O/S lodgement	0.00
Balance per Trial Balance	<u>490,272.17</u>

Cash balances as at 31st March 2023

Barclays Bank PLc

Clients Premium Account	490,272.17
<u>Total reconciled cash balances per accounts</u>	<u>490,272.17</u>

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

MANEA & WELNEY DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	
1. Balances brought forward	417,132	419,586	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	194,563	205,552	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	3,384	13,338	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	34,013	40,156	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	161,480	151,423	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	419,586	446,897	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	454,922	490,272	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	2,611,078	2,611,078	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)				The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)				The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

27th May 2023

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Manea & Welney DDC**Reconciliation between statement of accounts and Annual Return****Financial year ended 31st March 2023****Per Annual
Return**

Line 1	Balances brought forward		
	General Fund	244,910.31	
	Development charges account	50,732.21	
	Capital reserve account	121,503.36	
	Contributions Holdings Account	2,440.24	
		419,586.12	419,586
Line 2	Rates and Special Levies		
	Agricultural rates	147,917.26	
	Special Levies	57,518.00	
	Penalty	116.65	
	Costs	0.00	
	Write-off	0.00	
		205,551.91	205,552
Line 3	Total other receipts		
	Interest		
	General fund	0.50	
	Development charges account	0.07	
	Capital reserve account	0.16	
	Highland Water	816.97	
	Discharge contributions	1,616.58	
	Consents	0.00	
	Water Transfer - EA	5,245.30	
	Grant in Aid	4,625.83	
	Insurance Claim	1,031.92	
		13,337.33	13,338
Line 4	Staff costs		
	Wages/salaries	34,108.13	
	National insurance contributions	3,647.76	
	Pension costs	2,400.00	
	Travelling expenses	0.00	
		40,155.89	40,156
Line 5	Loan repayments		
	PWLB - Principal	0.00	
	PWLB - Interest	0.00	
		0.00	0
Line 6	All other payments		
	Precept	76,802.94	
	Rates, insurances, telephones	3,022.72	
	Repairs and renewals	8,194.87	
	Fuel	19,132.18	
	Drainworks	16,441.74	
	Administration	15,993.89	
	Development charges fees	0.00	
	Planning fees	2,582.84	
	Purchase of Asset	0.00	
	Improvements	9,251.66	
		151,422.84	151,423

Manea & Welney DDC

Reconciliation between statement of accounts and Annual Return

Financial year ended 31st March 2023

Per Annual
Return

<u>Line 7</u>	Balances carried forward		
	General Fund	260,229.84	
	Development charges account	50,732.28	
	Capital reserve account	131,877.69	
	Contributions Holding Account	4,056.82	
		446,896.63	446,897

Reconciliation

Line 1 + Line 2 + Line 3 - Line 4 - Line 5 - Line 6 446,896.63

Rounding 0.00

Reconciliation to Accounts

Balances carried forward per Annual Return - As above 446,896.63

Add Back:-

Adjustments for Prior Years 132,196.28

Depreciation -31,328.68

Purchase of Asset 0.00

100,867.60

Balances carried forward per Accounts

General Fund 361,097.44

Development charges account 50,732.28

Capital reserve account 131,877.69

Contributions Holdings Account 4,056.82

547,764.23

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Return, on behalf of the Commissioners, for the financial year ending 31st March 2023.

C.1008 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Commissioners will be on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at The Lamb & Flag.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Members held an inspection:

C.1009 Inspection of Manea & Welney District.

i) Welney Bridge/ Middle Level Barrier work

Members were joined by Indu Kulasooriya from the Environment Agency's Asset Management Team.

Nicola outlined the works carried out to the Middle Level Barrier Bank following the report of the reservoir inspection in 2013 and the operation of the de-mountable barrier at the Welney bridge.

In response to queries concerning timing to get the barrier in place Indu confirmed that the trigger level for the use of the barrier is higher than for the road closure so there would be additional warning time.

Cllr Marks expressed concerns over damage to the road at Purls Bridge, caused by contractor traffic during the works.

ii) Stockdale Hide – Barrier Bank

Mike Birkdale (RSPB) joined the inspection and informed members on the current birds nesting on the washes and also on the nearby Pilot Project and how they appear to use both sites for nesting/feeding.

In response the Chairman, Indu reported on the current maintenance plan/works for the River Delph.

iii) Welches Dam Pumping Station (Environment Agency)

Nicola Oldfield reported that the current Environment Agency strategy was to utilise the pumping station for the next 20 years, at which point decisions concerning the future drainage requirements would need to be addressed, taking into account the costs associated with running plant/machinery, carbon reduction and environmental issues.

The Chairman reported that the pumping station was vitally important to the Commissioners, as was the maintenance of the Old Bedford River, which provided water intake at Salters Lode and evacuation at Welches Dam pumping station.

iv) Old Welches Dam Pumping Station (Manea & Welney DDC)

The Commissioners District Superintendent, who was carrying out reed/weed bucket work on the channel joined the inspection. He explained the benefits of the works being carried out and the overall value for money provided by the use of the weed bucket. He explained the improvement works carried out to the watercourse and the adjoining watercourses which had both improved the drainage of the adjacent field and provided a beneficial conservation feature within the watercourse.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date