

Slowing the Flow at Pickering

PROGRAMME DELIVERY GROUP MEETING

The Beckett Room, Memorial Hall Pickering

15th December 2010

11.00 - 12.30

MINUTES

Present: Simon Marrington, Tom Nisbet, Jeremy Dick, Jeff Pacey (chair), Rachel Pickering, Justine Clark, Mike Potter, Mark Young, Neil Hugill, Don Davies, Howard Keal, Liz Newbronner.

Apologies received: Vince Carter, Lucy Huckson, Stuart Lane, Mick Hoban, David Steel, Faye Gonzalez, David Rees, Jon Bates, Nick Odoni, Gordon Clitheroe, Linda Cowling, Mark Antcliff, Paul Harris

1. Progress on Delivery Timetable and Key Tasks/Milestones - TN gave the group and update on progress with the work programme (7 measures stated in the Defra Project Submission) and Progress against the 18 Project Milestones. Ref milestone 7. Instrumentation TN confirmed that this had been delayed due to bad weather and that plans were in place to complete this as soon as conditions allow. Ref milestone 10. Implementation by March 2011 TN confirmed that progress had been made on all strands and that if not completed by the stated date firm plans would be in place. Ref milestone 14. Outreach various presentations, articles and papers had been completed and more are planned beyond the two-year project timescale (Cardiff University, Cumbria Flood Group, Regional RFS). The project is on track to complete milestones 15-18 by concluding a series of final meetings and a final dissemination event by March 2011. Future plans including monitoring, additional measures and communication exercises have been presented to Defra as a funding/project extension bid as previously discussed. This remains unconfirmed.

(general discussion)

JP - is a Programme Board meeting required?

TN - the Board meeting in December was cancelled. Commitment is to hold one more.

ACTION POINT: SM to arrange a date for Board meeting with JW in the New Year.

JP - is SM's post to continue on a part-time basis? When will we know if funding is available?

MP - And do we know the likelihood of this and the impact of other possible funding restrictions? I would like to ensure continuity of representation from partner bodies beyond the initial project period.

ACTION POINT: SM to coordinate continuity of individual representatives from partner bodies and any handovers of STF responsibility as appropriate.

HK - can we please confirm that the overall reduction in flood risk we are heading for in Pickering is one third?

TN - as previously discussed it is difficult to predict. It depends on the type of flood event. There will be enhanced protection against low-order events.

2. Land Management Update - SM/RP gave the group an update on plans and progress with land management measures. SM confirmed that approximately 50 LWD dams are now in place in Cropton East (Pickering Beck catchment). A further 50 proposed for Pickering Beck and 50 for River Seven should be completed by spring 2011. A further build with FC labour squads is scheduled for w/c 14th February 2011. CRIM modelling from Durham University has been transferred to GIS and this can now be used to guide the location of dam construction in the River Seven catchment. Regarding progress on tree planting it is unfortunate that Yorkshire Forward funding has been withdrawn. This is currently partially replaced by additional £2k/ha Forestry and Flooding contribution from FC Yorks and Humber Capital Programme. The picture for 2011/12 looks uncertain. (JD confirms). Indications are that the 30ha of floodplain woodland in the River Seven catchment is unachievable, primarily due to landowner interest within the area with Lidar data coverage and also existing land-use constraints. One partially beneficial scheme looks likely to proceed during the 10/11 planting season, with remaining interest from two further landowners yet to be confirmed/progressed. RP highlighted plans for measures to be adopted on Levisham Estate. This included 4.1ha of potential STF tree planting and 11.5ha of wider tree planting within the Pickering Beck catchment (incorporating work in the vicinity of Levisham Griffs).

3. Bunded Storage Update - JP confirmed that planning permission for the enabling works (importing materials) for bund construction had been granted. Hope to commence with this in January/February depending on weather conditions. Detailed discussions are currently being completed with the reservoir engineer to confirm the design of the bunds. This is part of a legal process by which we must adhere - the bunds are classified as a Category A (high risk) reservoir. Discussion is taking place between the modellers, designers and reservoir engineer and more detailed information should be available early in the new year.

(general discussion)

HK - what is the likelihood of cost overrun on bunds? Are we on track for the timeline originally stated?

JP - we are hopeful of meeting the original dates. We will have further details early in the new year (January).

4. Sinnington Update - AH summarised progress to date and plans for further works around the village aimed at improving conveyance. Clearing/improving the flood arches is complete, unfortunately some proposed works are subject to Highways/landowner agreement and as such it may not be possible to progress them.

(general discussion)

LN - EA/FC have agreed to provide residents with an update via the Parish Council meeting on January 10th, good timing as it is almost a year since the village flooding workshop.

5. Community Engagement Event - SM reported on the success of the second public event held on 11th November. 71 members of the public signed the attendance register and verbal feedback was extremely positive on the day. From feedback forms received 92% of respondents said that they found the event very useful and 59% said that they received useful and practical information about flood resilience measures.

6. Defra Ecosystems Services Analysis - TN indicated that the project was committed to providing Defra with an Ecosystem Services assessment of the measures being adopted by STF. The initial exercise is to score project related activity against 'likelihood of impact' criteria, with possible further valuation exercise. TN proposed a meeting date in January to carry out the assessment, this was agreed by the group.

ACTION POINT: Date agreed Friday 21st January 2010. TN/SM to confirm and circulate further information prior to the meeting.

7. AOB

(general discussion)

8. Confirm Dates/Locations for Future Meetings

Next meeting scheduled for 11am Friday 21st January @ FC office Pickering, tbc via email nearer the time.