

Natural Cambridgeshire Partnership Forum 14.12.22 – Chat

09:59:49 From Sue James : We had an interesting Trees and Design Action Group seminar on soil – you can see the presentations and recording here: <https://www.tdag.org.uk/past-events.html>

10:04:08 From Wendy Blythe : @Richard Astle Will the Q & A Chat be available to the public and not redacted? Or summarised. It seems to vary. Sometimes it is made available and sometimes not! The Q& A for the meeting about the bats was not made available but had links in it that were useful and the public might appreciate today's Q & A discussion.

10:07:15 From Sue James : @Wendy - everyone can save the chat...bottom right ... will let you do that

10:07:47 From Richard Astle : Thank you @Sue James.

10:12:17 From Sue James : Question for Daniel...how does the reduction requirements relate to public water use per person and how are you bringing the public along with the change?

10:12:21 From Wendy Blythe : Thank you . Indeed I had saved Q& A for that previous meeting but it came through as 'deleted'. If you saved it I would appreciate a copy please, but unfortunately that won't include the contact addresses people had messaged to me . If they are here today I would love to hear from them!

10:14:57 From Helen Dye : Hi Wendy, If we have the chat saved from the last Forum with the bat links, I will send this to you after this meeting.

10:15:05 From Nigel Cooper : How does WRE handle the fact that there will be a shortage of energy supply for desalination by 2040 to meet the carbon emissions targets?

10:15:25 From Wendy Blythe : Can Daniel Johns also please give us an update on Ofwat's investigation into Anglian Water's non-compliance at wastewater treatment works? As this issue also concerns people. Many thanks.

10:15:53 From Sue James : Does the water transfer work on gravity? if not, what is the anticipated energy requirement?

10:17:00 From Daniel Pullan : I note most demand mgmt. gains will be achieved in the next 8 years - what will the water companies be doing differently to achieve this, as I think this has had limited effectiveness in the past.

10:18:03 From Sue Wells : I would also like to hear about how the public can be brought along with the changes. When Cambridge Water was asked about the lack of hosepipe bans earlier this year, they replied that they had consulted their users about these and they said they didn't want them, so no TUBs were put in during the drought this year.

10:18:17 From Wendy Blythe : Feargal Sharkey has highlighted that there is a conflict of interest in a director of Anglian Water being the trustee of a nature charity advising the Cambridge Nature Fund.
Please can Anglian water provide information about nature partners and consultants who they fund? landowners, ngos, farmers, river groups?
What is Anglian involvement with the consultants McKinseys and Vivid Economics ?

10:18:24 From Richard Kay (ECDC) : The Victorians simply built more reservoirs - why are we 'only' planning on building two? why not 3 or 4 or...? And use the reservoirs for other benefits as well. Energy hungry desalination just doesn't feel right, to the novice like me.

10:18:27 From Stephen Tomkins - Cam Valley Forum : We, in Cam valley Forum, heartily welcome the Reservoir plans. But for our Chalk streams, 'no deterioration' is often given as an ambition. Does Daniel accept that this is now totally unacceptable both in the short and longer term. They have grossly deteriorated already because of our past and present unsustainable operations.

10:19:27 From Pippa Heylings : Is there any doubt or barriers about the time-limited water transfer from Grafham Water through Anglian Water to Cambridge Water before 2025?

10:19:29 From Elizabeth May : Yes agree with Steve of CVF, need to restore the Cam rather than just stop further deterioration

10:19:48 From Roger Mitchell : New reservoirs, inter-catchment/district transfers, and a desalination plant at Felixstowe were flagged up as necessary by the then Water Resources Board in the 1970s but not taken forward. How can you be sure that present plans are ambitious enough?

10:20:55 From Mariana Garcia - Cambs Chamber : Hi Daniel, my name is Mariana Garcia and I'm from the Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce. I was wondering if it would be possible for you to share your email with me and a link to the consultation? So we can share it with our members. Many thanks, Mariana

10:21:35 From Matthew Bullock : Dear Daniel, two questions: on what basis are you forecasting population - ?ONS or CPIER bases? Secondly, have you taken note of the Land Use changes in management of fenland agriculture - see Megan Hudson's SOILS Project? Matthew

10:23:56 From Pippa Heylings : Daniel, is there any way in which the major infrastructure projects such as Reservoir and Lincs pipeline can be accelerated? Is the late 2030s timeline an issue of finance available for investment or is this how long it takes to deliver this type of infrastructure?

10:26:10 From Sue James : Does the future need a different approach in terms of crop selection, improved soil and water requirements?

10:26:31 From Wendy Blythe : I note Fiona Reynolds is here. Will the update that she gave Nat Cambs trustees on the Cam Land Use pilot project be made available to the public?

10:30:57 From Sue James : Question for Chris - tree planting...are you also ensuring an ongoing management and maintenance plan? At the Trees and Design Action Group we now talk about 'tree establishment' (i.e. trees becoming independent in the landscape, rather than 'tree planting' - lots of trees are planted, far fewer survive to deliver that carbon capture...according to Grantham Institute this is 1 tonne of carbon over 100 year life...so tree survival and long term maturing is vital

10:31:23 From Nigel Cooper : For tree planting, please consider the Miyawaki method. <https://www.creatingtomorrowforests.co.uk/blog/the-miyawaki-method-for-creating-forests>

10:31:52 From Sue James : @Nigel...Miyawaki in the right locations???

10:31:59 From Daniel Johns : WRE's draft Regional Plan and supporting documents can be found here: <https://wre.org.uk/the-draft-regional-plan/>

10:32:38 From Wendy Blythe : Good question Sue. Is there any assessment of survival? A14 trees died!

10:33:07 From Daniel Johns : The online form for responses to WREs draft Regional Plan is here (deadline 20 Feb 2023):

<https://forms.office.com/r/pqs60UFUgQ?embed>

10:33:21 From Clara Todd (Cam Valley Forum) : There were plans to do put a wetland near the sewage plant near Coton, is that no longer going ahead? I could not see it on the map

10:33:30 From Sue James : The 'performance gap' is the biggest issue for trees! You also need to identify the right trees for future climate as they will see change over their 100 years++ lifetimes

10:33:36 From Katie Thornburrow : Fen Reservoir consultation state 2039-2041 for reservoir opening. Draft WRE docs show 2035-2037. Is Fen Reservoir wrong?

10:35:23 From Richard Kay (ECDC) : It still seems to me that AW haven't got the comms with the public right yet. The urgency / issues are not widely known in the community. And why AW sells identical waterbutts at 20% more than Amazon is beyond me - they should be sold by AW at cost!

10:35:29 From Pippa Heylings : Chris, are there plans for achieving nutrient neutrality through Nature Based Solutions?

10:35:40 From Wendy Blythe : Update on Ofwat investigation please @Daniel Johns as Paul Leinster said 'wastewater was one of the biggest issues re growth. Also what's happening about addressing leaks and ancient pipes!

10:35:46 From Roger Mitchell : What are examples of nature based solutions for storm overflows, please?

10:36:27 From Sean Traverse-Healy : When will WRE undertake chalk stream study of Cam headwater for abstraction.

10:36:54 From Clara Todd (Cam Valley Forum) : Storm overflows - not just about managing flash flooding, its about recharging groundwater and getting water back n the environment. Should be key for water resources @WRE

10:37:21 From Chris Gerrard - Anglian Water : cgerrard2@anglianwater.co.uk

10:38:05 From Sue Wells : I'm also interested in water neutrality. In Sussex, Natural England as issued a statement of water neutrality in relation to future development. Should Natural England not do similar in the Cambridge area.

10:38:51 From Chris Gerrard - Anglian Water : @Pippa Heylings - Nutrient Neutrality affects the Broads catchment and yes, for small water recycling centres we should be able to use treatment wetlands for help achieve NN

10:40:04 From Chris Gerrard - Anglian Water : @Richard Kay - thanks for the feedback - I will pass this back to our comms team

10:45:16 From Chris Gerrard - Anglian Water : @Clara Todd, yes we're still looking at Coton.

10:45:20 From Elizabeth May : Updating pipes?

10:45:34 From Stephen Tomkins - Cam Valley Forum : Cambridge Water Company usage went up 25% during last summer and up 35% in the heat waves . The messaging so far is clearly not there. Bring on the TUBS to get the message across. Nothing else will work.

10:46:25 From Clara Todd (Cam Valley Forum) : Thanks @Chris, good to know

10:47:15 From Elizabeth May : CSMG standards

10:48:06 From Daniel Johns : Thanks @Elizabeth - that's right

10:48:49 From Matthew Bullock : Are we going to see Cambridge Water more closely involved with Anglian Water's plans - it is an obvious gap in performance for such an important part of the county.

10:50:38 From Pippa Heylings : Daniel, thank you for replying on acceleration of investment. Which project have you submitted in response to the Defra call regarding drought?

10:51:36 From Wendy Blythe : Re Camb Water involvement with Anglian Water what about the refusal of the Env Agency plea to Nat Drought Group for a hosepipe ban ? Why ?

10:51:39 From Sue James : Right reason then right place then right tree

10:52:03 From Daniel Johns : @Sue James: the east of England is so flat at all water (waste and drinking) needs to be pumped, and yes it does take a lot of energy. But carbon is part of our environmental assessment of options, so will be minimised, and all water companies have signed up to net zero operational emissions by 2030, so will be using renewable energy sources for pumping

10:52:24 From Sue James : natural regeneration is great, especially is it connects with green links...the trees know how to do it...

10:52:26 From Pippa Heylings : I'm also interested in supporting the call for change in regulations i.e. Water Framework Directive to enable preferential investment in chalk streams. Has anything been started to be supported and with whom?

10:53:40 From Sue James : So achieving water neutrality is presumably part of the land use framework?

10:54:09 From Kevin Hand : I've just started working on Newmarket's chalkstreams, which show very extreme seasonality, with mainly no water and sometimes floods. Any plans for helping these streams?

10:55:31 From Clara Todd (Cam Valley Forum) : Following on from storm water, just for general knowledge - there are some tactics for stormwater management in place -

10:55:38 From Daniel Johns : @Pippa: finance isn't the constraint on new infrastructure, but regulatory and planning approval (with appropriate public consultation), and then construction – which for reservoirs can take 5-10 years to build and fill

10:56:09 From Wendy Blythe : Re carbon assessment - will environmental assessment re East of England be done via the new Camb Univ Carbon Centre ? Whose academics are also Camb Landscape Regeneration Centre ?

10:57:46 From Clara Todd (Cam Valley Forum) : Rain gardens, Sheffield's Grey to Green, Sponge Cities, Water sensitive cities... many places have stormwater management built into retrofitting urban environment. New York have been very successful and restoring groundwater and managing stormwater better

10:57:52 From Wendy Blythe : Yes please ! Can I have update wendy.blythe.fecra@gmail.com

10:59:36 From Daniel Johns : @Matthew: our population (and housing) growth forecasts come from a range of sources and we plug a range of scenarios into our models rather than just pick one. Our plan is 'low regret' because it makes sense to pursue in the full range of different growth, climate and environmental scenarios

11:00:00 From Kevin Hand : kevinhand@tiscali.co.uk for anything on Newmarket chalk streams, thanks

11:00:07 From Chris Gerrard - Anglian Water : @kevin Hand. Please could you email me about the work you're doing on Newmarket's chalk streams? cgerrard2@anglianwater.co.uk

11:00:43 From Kevin Hand : Thanks Chris, will do

11:02:04 From Daniel Johns : @Sue James: hosepipe bans are important but only imposed if certain agreed thresholds (for ground water and reservoir levels etc) within drought plans are reached. Drought plans are agreed by the Defra Secretary of State.

11:02:56 From Chris Gerrard - Anglian Water : @Pippa Heylings, re chalk stream status, this is a recommendation in the CaBA chalk stream strategy. See page 7 here: <https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/CaBA-CSR-IMP-PLAN-FINAL-25.11.22.-V2.pdf>

11:05:33 From Daniel Johns : @Sue James: yes farmers will need to look at their future water resources very carefully, and this could mean changing rotations toward less water intensive crops and varieties, as well as regen farming, investing in drip irrigation, vertical/indoor farming, new winter storage reservoirs, and sharing water with their neighbours etc etc

11:08:28 From Daniel Johns : @Pippa Heylings: Cambridge Water and Anglian Water (rather than WRE) has submitted the Grafham to Cambridge Water interim transfer scheme to Defra for accelerated funding. There are also plans to accelerate the rollout of smart metering

11:09:33 From Sue Wells : Thanks @Daniel for response on TUBs. I was aware of this, but the implication is that the drought plan targets for TUBs etc may not be appropriate. Is there no flexibility in the regulatory arrangements for the extreme conditions that we are now seeing in relation to water availability?

11:09:43 From Wendy Blythe : @Daniel Johns but this request came from the Environment Agency .

Anglian Water REFUSED to take on board their plea for a hosepipe ban ? So who decided the “agreed threshold” ? RE “hosepipe bans are important but only imposed if certain agreed thresholds (for ground water and reservoir levels etc) within drought plans are reached’

11:12:38 From Daniel Johns : @Wendy Blyth: on leakage, Anglian Water and Cambridge Water already amongst best performing in UK, and through smart metering and network upgrades will drive this down further by ~29% by 2050. Around a quarter of leakage is within peoples' homes, which smart meters will help identify so that water co.s can contact customers.

11:13:52 From Kevin Hand : Thanks Stephen. Laurie and others. in brief I am working with Newmarket Community Arts to raise awareness of Newmarket's 'lost rivers', and ultimately to develop improved management for them

11:15:52 From andrew.marriott : On LNRS, what plans are in place to ensure landowners are engaged in the development of any strategies and regarded as a key stakeholder in the process? The CLA proposes Land Management Advisory Boards consisting of farmers and landowners to provide technical advice; facilitate two-way engagement with the land management sector; and make recommendations to the Steering Group.

11:15:57 From Daniel Johns : @Pippa: on chalk streams, the CaBA Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy recommended that chalk streams be designated as SSSIs. Charles Rangeley Wilson is leading on this: <https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/chalk-stream-strategy-3/>

11:16:05 From Wendy Blythe : CPRE Chair said Haddenham was without water for 5 days because of leaky pipes. ‘Are you saying this is down to Anglian Water customers to fix re pipes in homes? And the question about Env Agency plea for hose pipe ban and your response “ agreed threshold” who decided?

11:16:53 From Wendy Blythe : Haddenham

11:18:13 From Elizabeth May : Leaakeag

11:19:56 From Richard Astle : @Andrew Marriot - very much part of the plan, and already started those discussions, crucial stakeholders in this, thank you.

11:20:17 From Elizabeth May : Leakage; said in chat aim reduce to 29% by 2050, 25% due to loss in homes. Surely 29% reduction INCREDIBLY unambitious

11:20:42 From Lisa Bulmer : For Megan Hudson, do you think landowners should be able to sell carbon credits generated from averted loss from ceasing cropping on the fens?

11:21:37 From Richard Astle : The population of Peterborough is over 200K!

11:21:52 From Clara Todd (Cam Valley Forum) : @Megan -Just wondering what the estimated figures for Methane and nitrous oxide emissions, emitted by degrading peat. methane is a far more serious greenhouse gas emission from degrading peat

11:22:20 From Clara Todd (Cam Valley Forum) : Oops that was sent before I finished editing! sorry

11:22:39 From Daniel Johns : @Sue @Wendy: All I know is that the Defra Secretary of State signed off the TUB thresholds in the agreed Drought Plan, and the thresholds weren't reached this summer. I'm sure they will be reviewed, and maybe EA/Defra will take a different stance next time in light of stakeholder feedback.

11:23:51 From Clara Todd (Cam Valley Forum) : (For benefit of others: Methane is 80 times the warming power of CO2)

11:25:26 From Daniel Johns : @Elizabeth May: That's a 29% reduction in leakage on top of already industry-leading performance, so is actually very ambitious indeed. Beyond that level you need to go for large-scale mains pipe replacement, which is disproportionately expensive and disruptive for communities. But if you think water companies should go further, do respond to our draft plan!

11:26:04 From Elizabeth May : thanks for reply

11:27:08 From VinceLea Countryside Regeneration Trust : Cambridgeshire's coat of arms features Great Bustards. Extinct in the county. The most recent bird extinct in the county was Willow Tit this century. There have been many others lost as breeding species - Ruff, Golden Oriole, Redpoll, Redstart to name a few. The next to go will be Lesser-spotted Woodpecker. Do Natural England have a plan to stop local extinctions and encourage recolonization by species that have been lost? Could this be part of our measurement for successful doubling nature?

11:27:15 From Chris Gerrard - Anglian Water : Hi all. I need to leave now. cgerrard2@anglianwater.co.uk if you want to follow up on anything.

11:28:36 From Daniel Johns : @Wendy: about Haddenham, that sounds like a network issue which is AW's responsibility to fix. Only leaks within the curtilage of properties are the responsibility of homeowners. Leakage will always happen to a degree, for example in or after cold snaps and heatwaves as the ground shrinks/swells. But AW/CW have strong regulatory (ie. financial) incentives to find and fix leaks as quickly as possible.

11:28:53 From Sue James : Question for Megan - is there going to be an impact of the amount of food produced if the peatlands are better cared for?

11:29:52 From Caroline Noble : Hi Andrew - on the LNRS landowners and farmers have been identified as being key to delivery. Although the rollout is scheduled for April there is a lot of preparatory work going on in the background. The Responsible Authority, the LNP and Natural England are looking at engagement and be assured that this sector's views will be fully considered. We welcome all input so please feel free to get in touch directly with myself / the LNP to discuss concerns or offer recommendations.

11:31:25 From Pamela Abbott : Question for Megan, are the field based opportunity maps going to look at connectivity across the landscape between potential new wetlands and also connecting existing nature rich areas with new wetlands?

11:31:53 From Clara Todd (Cam Valley Forum) : @Megan this is really exciting, and looking forward to find out more

11:32:14 From Megan Hudson, Fenland SOIL : <https://www.fenlandsoil.org/>

11:32:34 From Megan Hudson, Fenland SOIL : Please do get in touch at m.hudson@fenlandsoil.org

11:34:05 From Daniel Johns : @Sean Traverse-Healy: the water companies are submitting plans to EA now for further groundwater modelling of aquifers to identify the necessary changes to licences to restore good ecological health (so called 'WINEP investigations'). Worth talking to Cambridge Water for when they plan to do those for the Cam.

11:34:13 From Wendy Blythe : @Daniel Johns thank you RE: Hose pipe bans key if you want people to change behaviour! But is there a mixed message here? ... What about Cpier and Cambridge Ahead's promotion of very high employment led growth for East Anglia? Some of Nat

Cambs trustees are founder members of Cambridge Ahead ? @Matthew Bullock is Nat Cambs treasurer @Peter Landshoff set up Nat Cambs Nat Env Planning and Policy Group . What do these key members of Cambridge Ahead say?

11:35:53 From Ian Hodge : Are there any plans to generate carbon credits for sale from GHG emissions reduction?

11:37:08 From Pamela Abbott : Great answer, thanks Megan!

11:38:07 From Hannah Phillips : There is an update to the IUCN Peatland Code to include lowland peat early next year.

11:38:18 From Megan Hudson, Fenland SOIL : To clarify Matthew's point the productivity on organo mineral/ skirt soils will increase for some crops but also become unsuitable for others

11:38:18 From Pamela Abbott : Kent Wildlife Trust are looking at this nationally but without a regulatory system it's pretty risky

11:38:27 From Daniel Johns : It's not just surface peat that needs to be preserved. Lincs WT and Broads Authority are finding layers of peat buried under other soil types that is also oxidising due to local drainage. That's why ground/roads is still subsiding even though surface peat has largely gone. So rewetting is not just for surface soils!

11:38:29 From Ian Hodge : Thanks!

11:39:13 From Jo Finlow : Thank you Daniel! Fens East Peat Partnership are in full agreement with you!

11:39:41 From Pamela Abbott : I thought that a lowland peat code was coming soon - anyone know any more?

11:41:43 From Chris Donnelly : Daniel - very important point - this issue about 'hidden peat' is potentially a major one in Cambs. We (Cambs Geological Society) are concerned that the peat underlying other deposits is at risk as it may not be recognised enough. It is a far larger area than the 'peat soils' concept.

11:42:29 From Catherine Weightman - Natural England : there is going to be a paludiculture grant launched next year, looking at marketing different crops, including food crops

11:44:35 From Megan Hudson, Fenland SOIL : <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/paludiculture-workshop-tickets-473427593677>

11:45:15 From Clara Todd (Cam Valley Forum) : Dropping off the call now, thanks so much everyone, really interesting

11:45:56 From Laurie Friday : Paludiculture Workshop 11-12 January 2023 in Cambridge
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/paludiculture-workshop-tickets-473427593677>

11:52:09 From Wendy Blythe : @Richard Astle Re funding does Natural Cambs have a statement about ethical supply chains, donors and investors given the heavy involvement of overseas investors in Cambridge?

11:53:28 From Cairo Robb : Many thanks to all the speakers and to everyone involved

11:53:52 From Wendy Blythe : Thank you Richard. Good to hear.

11:54:29 From Pamela Abbott : Thanks Richard for all that you do for Natural Cambridgeshire too

11:54:30 From Pippa Heylings : Excellent. Well done and thank you for all your work, Richard! Happy Christmas all

11:54:32 From Jo.Thomas : Thanks to everyone who has contributed today and to the Natural Cambridgeshire team.

11:54:36 From Daniel Pullan : excellent session thank you

11:54:37 From Mariana Garcia - Cambs Chamber : Thank you

11:54:50 From Helen Dye : Thank you everyone for your support

11:54:56 From Richard Astle : I should have thanked all our speakers, sorry, you were brilliant!

11:55:48 From ianmason : Thanks a very informative and optimistic