

## Arun Valley Vision Group

The White Swan, Arundel 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 2-4pm

### Present:

Jeremy Burgess (JB, SDNPA), Nick Heasman (NH, SDNPA), Tania Hunt (TH, SDNPA Minute Taker), John Archer (JA, ARRT), Derek Waller (DW, Arundel TC), Matt Jackson (MJ, WSCC), Adrian Waller (AW, Amberley landowners), Henri Brocklebank (HB, Sussex WT), Tom Ormesher (TO, NFU), David Robinson (DR, EA), Gareth Williams (GW, EA) Julianne Evans (JE, RSPB), Kate Rice (KR, SW), Pete Currell (PC, EA)

### Apologies:

Peter Knight, Sue Beale (NE), Roger Spencer (Arun DC), Fran Southgate (SWT)

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. Introduction:

- Items for A.O.B: None at this stage
- Notes from the last meeting:

Nick Herbert has confirmed that the Arun Vision Report has been passed to the Minister. Letter for wider communication of the report still needs to be drafted  
**ACTION: JB** To discuss draft letter with Roger Spencer.

An Update on SU3 will be given by Emily (EA) in the next meeting. **Action DR** to arrange.

Next meeting of RFCC – John Godfrey has indicated that he would be happy to address and update next meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>, JB offered to attend.

**ACTION: JB** To attend the RFCC meeting and update on the groups progress.

The issue of representation from Horsham DC was raised again and it was agreed that we should continue to try and engage following local elections.

**ACTION: JB** will discuss with new NP member **HB** to approach through LNP work.

#### 2. Updates:

The passing of the Bill for the River Authority has been delayed.

MJ – Everything is delayed at the moment. The Parliamentary website states October. However, this bill is probably aimed at the Somerset Levels and may have limited application for AV.

EA consultation on coast and flood management currently on line EA and DEFRA currently refining the National Flood Strategy EA gave an update on the IDB, still awaiting news from DEFRA.

LTRAS – SU1 Pallingham – Pulborough EA to withdraw maintenance and starting to engage to raise awareness of this.

The Arundel tidal defences have pushed the consultation for SU4 back by one year. EA looking to scale back maintenance by April 2021. Need to go to RFCC.

The group requested more information on SU3 work at next meeting and AW asked if it is possible to have the SU3 report in writing? **ACTION DR** To report back to the group after discussing with EA colleagues.

There was also discussion as to how SU3 investigation links to and Natura 2000 work.

**ACTION: JB** to request Sue Beale for a report to the next meeting.

HB – Highlighted to the group a job advertised with Somerset WT for an Officer to look at Climate Change, community engagement and adaptation. This might present an interesting model to work on.

### 3. Taking forward adaptive management:

Following on from the discussions at the previous meeting and the circulation of the spreadsheet template with the 12 recommendations the group continued the discussion on adaptive management.

Wider communication of the report was seen as an urgent task. TO – discussed the issue that queries from landowners are not seeing progress. There was considerable discussion about how this would happen including suggestions that farming communities and people who live in the valley complete a test questionnaire/ survey for the community to put forward their ideas.

TO - one page of A4 with information to the local Parish Councils to put on their agendas for upcoming meetings and newsletters

Online information including FAQs and questionnaire link to be considered.

**ACTION:** Information for Parishes needs to be broken down into summary page

**ACTION: JB** – to source contacts for parish councils in the area. All to consider landowner contacts. **AW** happy to be contact for Ambley landowners.

It was discussed the difficulty of communicating with the wider community as this is a major task and we all have limited capacity and very little funding for this.

An engagement officer post was discussed, however the question of funding was raised.

All members agreed that additional resource was necessary and that we should look at funding for a dedicated post to lead on communications with landowners and communities and also development of strategic partnership and adaptive management.

**ACTION: TO/ JB/ HB** – to develop a proposal that can be used for potential funding bids to SDNPA and others.

NH – Discussed the need for a Communication Plan, as different audiences need to be communicated with differently.

HB – Discussed the need to communicate in one voice with FAQ. A strategy and process need to be put in place. How to deal with questions and how do we respond?

Website – this is now being managed by JB – please get in touch with more information

HB – would like to see more information on the website, as well as FAQ's and surveys.

**ACTION: JB-** to investigate capabilities of website

The name of the group was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the name should stay as the Arun Valley Vision Group.

**ACTION: JB** –Update terms of reference and circulate

**4. AOB:**

DR – Engagement is important– change is happening – nothing is replacing EA management in April 2021. How do we go forward?

Three key themes.

- 1) Communication
- 2) Strategic Partnership
- 3) Adaptive Management

**Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 10am-12pm, White Swan, Arundel