

## Arun Valley Vision Group

The White Swan, Arundel 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

### Present:

Jeremy Burgess (JB, 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), David Robinson (DR, EA), Julianne Evans (JE, RSPB), Kate Rice (KR, SW), Pete Currell (PC, EA), Sue Beale (NE), Peter Knight PK

### Apologies:

Nick Heasman (NH, SDNPA), Henri Brocklebank (HB, Sussex WT), Tom Ormesher (TO, NFU), Sebastian Anstruther (SA, CLA/ARRT), John Spence (JS, AWSCP)

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. Introduction:

- Items for A.O.B:
- DR – Wanted to let the room know that he had brought a presentation for an update on SU3. However, the room did not have the facilities to project the presentation and therefore he invited the group to view on his laptop, or he could send a link to the presentation to anyone within the group at a later date.
  
- Notes from the last meeting:
- RFCC meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> July **ACTION: JB** to attend and report back to the group. DR will also be attend the meeting.
- New member for Horsham District at SDNPA. **ACTION: JB** to approach and try and arrange a meeting.
- JB – requested to the room a decision on how wide does the group want to go in terms of communicating with the parish councils. The map inside the front cover of the Arun Valley document states 22 parish councils.
- JB – taking proposal to SDNPA regarding funding for resources.
- JB – Continuing to look into the capabilities of the website.
- JB – Terms of Reference – lots to change. The Terms of Reference need to be redrafted as the new stage of the group needs to be reflected and other key people need to be added. **ACTION: JB** to complete and circulate with the group.
- MJ- Rivers Bill at House of Lords are very Somerset Levels specific – nothing to shift until October 31<sup>st</sup>. Will feed back as and when we get information.

## 2. Updates:

DR – EA briefing note (as circulated to the group) currently internal and reflects current thinking regarding the discussion with NE in regard to SU1 & SU4 – no significant activity yet – briefing has only been seen by the group and there has been no engagement yet.

SU4 – A way off. No further progress at this time. SB commented on the need for HRA for this area.

SU1 – formal process – little impact on the ground at this time. EA only responsible for incident response and the landowner maintains the single structure. DW suggested that we make contact with Sir Brian Barttelot (owner of land in SU1) to brief him and invite him to join the group **ACTION JB**

SU3 – DR- Access to information commitment to sustain for 10 years. An investigation was undertaken to access the flood risk in SU3. Atkins have done an investigation and the information is on the website. However, this has not been formally presented.

DR – EA have created an interactive report showing the different layers – water quality, different species. The EA are looking to sustain until the investigation is complete. The next stage of the investigation will need to be designed with NE. The output will be freely available to view. DR illustrated the interactive report to group members and will share the link (see below).

<https://atkinsgeospatial.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=dacf6ef332e746c794d8d6a3411a05ed>

There was a general discussion with the group regarding data collection for the report. It was unclear where and when the data was being collected and it was felt that there were potential huge holes in the data collected not showing a true picture. It was felt amongst the group the stakeholders could work together to collect and collate data.

AW – There are 27 water monitoring sites on the river. How often these sites are monitored and where are the sites?

JE – Would like to see the report sent out to the group for comments and felt that there should have been notification regarding the report, communication with land managers with an opportunity to make comments.

**ACTION: DR** to take the following points back to EA and discuss.

- What WQ monitoring is still happening? How long was the additional monitoring in place for?
- The information on the species surveys is incomplete and out of date
- There has been no consultation or opportunity to comment on what has been done so far or how it has been done
- Feedback from RSPB and Amberley Landowner Group was that the resources deployed weren't sufficient. Landowners need confidence in the data being presented and at present they do not have that confidence.
- There is no interpretation, just data
- Are we monitoring in the right place? Who decided where?
- Is there any funding for additional WQ monitoring?

JE – There are potential sources of funding if the right project was put forward. The potential to get people who would possibly work on the project for nothing. E.g.: PHD students? Is it worth having another group for data and evidence? Should we have a sub group to

JB – NE/EA need to agree this internally and then share with the group for an opportunity to contribute.

**ACTION: Group** – To forward written comments back to DR

DW raised the issue of progress and monitoring of the Site improvement plan for the Natura 2000 sites (a national asset) Feedback from NE/EA is that lack of resources meant little progress had been made. A discussion with the group took place regarding Natura 2000 and it was requested that a written update be given to the group and a plan of action going forward. If EA/ NE cannot resource this work then other mechanisms should be put in place to ensure the future integrity of these sites.

**ACTION: Natural England** to give a written update and consideration of meeting the site improvement plan going forward

DW asked about the impact of the Southern Water prosecution on the Water quality of the Arun. KR responded that she was unable to comment due to ongoing legal case and did not currently have information on specific locations affected. PK commented that Southern Water's work with farmers, especially the cluster groups is very proactive and welcomed the initiative.

### 3. Taking forward adaptive management:

- Communicating the report, Parishes, communities and land managers  
Need to agree a process to communicate with all stakeholders and communities and this may well need a Communications plan. It was agreed that the Parish Councils could be a quick win.

**ACTION: JB** – To draft a letter to PCs and circulate

In terms of landowners and wider communities It was agreed with the group that having an initial pilot area might be work and to use this method as a model for moving forward and see what feedback there is. There would need to be a list of FAQ's in preparation for queries and send out document on the vision of the Arun Valley.

**ACTION: JB** – To circulate ideas with a mini plan.

### 4. AOB

**Date of next meeting:**

**Future meeting dates: all at the White Swan**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 10am-12**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 10am-12**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 10am - 12**