

# Arun Valley Vision Steering Group - Meeting Notes

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – 14.00 to 16.30  
White Swan, 16 Chichester Road, Arundel, BN18 0AD

## Attendees

Dr John Godfrey (Chair)  
Gill Farquharson (Chair)  
Sara Denton (AVVG Project Officer) – Environment Agency  
Dave Robinson – Environment Agency  
John Archer – Arun and Rother Rivers Trust  
Mat Jackson - WSCC  
Adrian Waller – Amberley Landowners  
Claire Kerr – South Downs National Park Authority  
Steve Gilbert – RSPB  
Henri Brocklebank - SWT  
Peter Knight – Duke of Norfolk Estate  
Derek Waller – Arundel Town Council  
Kate Rice – Southern Water  
Louise Bardsley – Natural England

## Apologies

Martin Brightwell – Horsham District Council  
Mark Maclaughlin – Horsham District Council  
Matthew Woodcock – Forestry Services  
Robin Edwards – CLA  
Roger Spencer – Arun District Council  
Andy Townsend – Environment Agency  
Tom Ormesher - NFU  
Jeremy Burgess – South Downs National Park Authority  
Fran Southgate – SWT

## Welcome and Introduction to the Meeting

1. Introduction and welcome to all members of the steering group (See attendee list above).
2. Minutes and actions from the previous meeting were agreed by members of the steering group.

## Update on Scenario Development - Sara Denton, Environment Agency

3. Sara Denton updated the group that the scenarios have been through several iterations over the summer and the latest version will be sent out to AVVG members for comment. SDNPA have potentially identified an illustrator, Rachel Hudson who may be able to help us turn the scenarios into a series of visuals/infographics. Sara Denton has a meeting scheduled with Rachel Hudson to discuss producing 4 illustrated scenarios. See examples of her work at [www.rachelhudsonillustration.com](http://www.rachelhudsonillustration.com)

Actions	Deadline
Sara Denton to send out revised scenarios to AVVG Steering group members for comments. Comment to be sent back by Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 18	28 <sup>th</sup> Sept 18

**Water Quality Presentation - Kate Rice, Southern Water**

See attached presentation

4. Louise Bardsley suggested sending the group links to the WINEP and WISER Documents

The Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) has now been made publically available online via the data.gov.uk website

The link to the WINEP and WISER docs is here:

<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/a1b25bcb-9d42-4227-9b3a-34782763f0c0/water-industry-national-environment-programme>

We have also included a link to the Defra press release

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/5-billion-investment-by-water-companies-to-benefit-the-natural-environment>

5. Adrian Waller asked if Southern Water have any monitoring points in the River Arun.

Kate Rice said that Southern Water do carry out monitoring in the River Arun. New Monitoring points tend to be at Hardham. It is expensive to have extensive targeted monitoring.

6. There is currently a monitoring review being undertaken by the Environment Agency.

Louise Bardsley added that there are 3 types of monitoring:

- Fixed monitoring
- Operational monitoring
- Agile monitoring

7. Derek Waller asked what Southern Water are doing about the pollution they put into the River Arun.

Kate Rice responded by saying that Southern Water comply with all of their permits and that monitoring is underway to understand everything that comes into and out of their works

8. Derek Waller asked what happened with regards the Blue/Green Algae issue?

Kate Rice responded by saying the EA had refused a permit to allow this to be release into the River but didn't have any further information.

9. Derek Waller asked about the CSO discharges into the River.

Kate Rice said monitoring is underway on CSO's to understand the levels of pollution.

Dave Robinson added that there is an investment programme for water companies over a 5 year period. Ideally no sewage would enter the river in an ideal world but this is just not feasible.

Louise Bardsley added that she had requested the latest SAGIS modelling for the Arun which gives a graphical breakdown of the proportion of pollution from landuse/sewage works.

10. Adrian Waller said that education of the community with regards there issues is really important.

Kate Rice said that Southern Water have a lot of information on what should and shouldn't be put down the toilet. Claire Kerr added that we need to insure this information is easily accessible for people and that maybe comms needs to readdressed in light of the recommendation from government that they want localism. Communities need support and funding to be able to deliver this.

Steve Gilbert informed the group that Catchment Partnerships are looking at communication material for people with septic tanks and Southern Water will have some grant funding available.

11. Peter Knight said that cross compliance regulations are strict for impacting water quality and that Southern Water are working with farmers to look at cover cropping field in winter to reduce runoff.

### **Arun Vision Report Structure**

12. John Godfrey updated the group that there are officially 2 more meeting for the Arun Valley Vision Group and that the intention is to agree the final report at our final meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018. He added that views on the draft report can be submitted outside of the official meetings. The AVVG is not an executive group and has no decision making powers but what the final report will do is make a series of recommendations.

### **Section 1 - Introduction**

13. Henri Brocklebank felt that the introduction lacked the overarching ambition of the group and that this needs to be brought back to the original Term of Reference that were developed by the group.

### **Section 2 - Significance of the Arun Valley**

14. Henri Brocklebank felt that there should be further reference made to natural capital.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Henri Brocklebank to send Sara Denton information on the work the LNP are doing on natural capital.	Next Meeting

### **Section 3 - The Local and National Policy Context**

15. Claire Kerr added that maps are needed to provide clarity in terms of the project boundary.
16. Louise Bardsley added that assets need to be looked at in terms of their economic and natural capital.
17. Matt Jackson informed the group that the Agricultural Bill 2018 had been published.

Peter Knight added that the move is to phase out current subsidies. By 2027 there will be no single farm payment. Smart money is on agri-environment with allocations for flooding proposals.

Derek Waller added that the bill sets out how landowners will get paid for delivering public good.

18. Henri Brocklebank informed the group that the SDNPA had submitted a proposal to DEFRA to pilot the cluster farm approach.

Claire Kerr added that she thought other catchments (Norfolk) would be progressed first but would circulate the proposal to the group.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Claire Kerr to send SDNPA proposal to Sara Denton for circulation to group.	Next Meeting

19. John Godfrey asked what plans partners have.

Louise Bardsley - Natural England have Conservation 21 (link to be sent to group)  
 Kate Rice – Southern Water have Water resources Management Plan and WINEP.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Kate Rice to send list of Southern Water plans to Sara Denton	Next Meeting

Claire Kerr – South Downs National Park Authority are currently reviewing their Partnership Management Plan which will be published late in 2019.

Matt Jackson – West Sussex County Council have no local plans but have a local flood risk management strategy.

#### **Section 4 - Other Relevant Factors**

20. Derek Waller asked what is the Natural England concept on the long term future of the RAMSAR.

Louise Bardsley responded by saying the rules apply until the treaty is changed. We must comply and this is not affected by Brexit.

21. Claire Kerr we need a more sustain approach but there is no steer on how this will be managed. The Arun Valley will evolve over time.

Louise Bardsley – Making Space for Water. Need to find solutions for more sustainable land management. It is not lawful to allow a plan or project to damage protected sites. New guidance does not allow for the designation of ditch habitats.

22. Matt Jackson – There is 18 months remaining of the current Medium Term Plan and a steering group is currently looking at developing a new programme.

Dave Robinson added that there is a greater partnership context with regards the next programme.

#### **Section 5 - Specific Issues of Concern**

23. Adrian Waller suggested that we need to add other communities who face a potential flood risk.

Kate Race also suggested that other infrastructure needs to be included such as Sothern Water assets, roads, power cables etc.

24. Derek Waller - In LTRAS in 20-50 years new flood defences need to be constructed at a cost of £10m. If the Arundel Bypass is constructed then this facilitates the construction of these defences.

Claire Kerr added that we should be thinking about mitigation and compensation as a future source of funding.

Dave Robinson said the Environment Agency have been involved in the Arundel Bypass discussion with Natural England.

#### **Section 6 – Our Vision**

25. Adrian Waller - what resources are currently available?

Claire Kerr responded by saying part of the vision is to secure funding and resources to deliver flood risk.

Dave Robinson added that LTRAS is about public funding.

Louise Bardley had tried to secure funding for the Arun Valley but failed as it was deemed to be too integrated with too many issues. Current funding mechanisms make it difficult to fund integrated solutions.

Matt Jackson suggested that we should lobby for change – will money be available if events lead to political interest for example?

#### **Section 8 – Working towards Adaptive Management**

26. Henri Brocklebank asked if the group should continue after January 2019 – loose structure and reconstituted.

27. Derek Waller identified the lack of involvement from 2 Local Authorities.

John Godfrey - Arun have been involved and have been looking at things within their own district. Horsham have not been interested in being involved. The SDNPA has and continues to have a strategic role in this process.

28. Louise Bardsley asked if the Norfolk Estate has an Estate Plan.

Peter Knight – Norfolk Estate is careful not to push its position. The farm cluster work we are involved in is significantly important but might not be the right vehicle for taking this work forward. We would support the SDNPA as the umbrella organisation for taking some of this work forward.

29. Claire Kerr said it is important to decide what mechanism we are looking for.

Adrian Waller – the problem is the overall co-ordination of the process.

Dave Robinson – it may need to be more than one group.

30. Peter Knight – we need to develop an approach for flooding which is a major issue. Need to be proactive to avoid another Dawlish incident.

Adrian Waller – We are unable to stop major flood events but we need to focus on the smaller more frequent events which impact communities.

Claire Kerr – need to take a landscape scale approach. The A27 mitigation/compensation funding could potentially deliver some solutions in the Valley.

Louise Bardsley – Highways England are having conversations regarding flooding and drainage with EA and NE. The vision and financial security are linked.

Dave Robinson – EA cannot continue putting money into SU4. However, the partnership is not constrained by what the EA does and can continue to deliver maintenance. Need to explore other options to deliver and fund ongoing maintenance.

31. Adrian Waller – the main issue with the loss of an IDB is the loss of ability raise a precept. Where money is spent could be decided by the local community. A structure would enable co-ordination and the ability to secure additional funding.

Louise Bardsley - an IDB not only raises a precept but is an S28g body and has legal duties in relation to protected sites.

32. Steve Gilbert – will a new IDB have the same responsibilities?

Dave Robinson suggested that the group should lobby the councils and suggested that it could look different.

Louise Bardsley – need to understand its powers with regards protected sites.

Claire Kerr asked if the EA would be willing to support partners going back to the Local Authorities to discuss this.

Dave Robinson – the EA have a good relationship with the local authorities involved and would help facilitate this. He added that the decision regarding the current Arun IDB has not yet reached its conclusion.

33. Matt Jackson suggested revisiting the Rural Business District model that has previous been suggested.

Louise Bardsley suggested that it needs to be a credible board and would need to be an IDB as water level management is critical.

### **Section 9 – Conclusions**

34. Dave Robinson - the EA are happy to support a new structure being set up but we need to get on and do it. Funding for maintenance is on the down. Funding is getting tighter and harder to justify.

Matt Jackson – WSCC agree with the EA that time is best spent developing the best approach for landowners and working on securing partnership funding.

35. Derek Waller – not had a debate about SU4 – Norfolk Estate offer of 130 acres and £15k partnership contribution.

Dave Robinson – not quite true as the EA has continued to fund maintenance and suggested the Norfolk Estate pocket that funding for future use when the EA can no longer fund this.

36. Peter Knight – EA operate to treasury guidelines and do not view that withdrawal of maintenance in SU4 will have an impact on SU5.

Derek Waller – letting the embankments go in SU4 will increase the flood risk in Arundel. Not saying the position should be maintained forever but asking for some breathing space.

John Godfrey suggested something in the conclusions which reflect the SU4 decision by the EA and also other stakeholder (impact on SU5). A discussion regarding SU4 will take place outside the AVVG steering group meeting.

37. Adrian Waller – is another organisation was formed, what help would the EA be able to give?

Dave Robinson – technical knowledge, shared data, health & safety, EPR Regs (difficult and getting to grips with internally)

38. Adrian Waller – Could we set up a legal agreement?

Dave Robinson – we could have MOU's

39. John Godfrey - would the EA support a further 2 year phase of work?

Dave Robinson – no project officer support but could provide some in-kind support.

40. Louise Bardsley - could Southern Water provide any support to the ongoing project?

Kate Rice – possibly but we would need to identify what the funding would be required and for what.

### **Dates of future meetings 2018:**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2pm to 4.30pm

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2pm to 4.30pm