

Fens Reservoir Community Liaison Group

Summary of meeting

Date: 15 July 2024

Location: King Edwards Centre, Chatteris, PE16 6NG

Attending organisations:

Chatteris Town Council	British Horse Society
Doddington Parish Council	East Anglian Waterways Association
Fenland District Council	Fenland Walking Group
Wimblington Parish Council	The Chatteris Feoffee Charity
Cambridgeshire ACRE	Ouse Washes Partnership

Summary of the meeting

Welcome and introduction

Karen welcomed members to the third Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting and explained that the elected chair, David Connor, was unable to attend due to illness.

Review of previous CLG meeting

The agenda and actions from the last CLG meeting were reviewed. All actions had been completed and the group had no further comments on the previous meeting's minutes. It was highlighted that the Chatteris Show was a great recommendation from the previous CLG and resulted in some strong community engagement.

Project update

Anglian Water (AW) provided members with a project update, mapping out and talking through the project's progress to date and signposting key milestones in the future.

Since the last CLG, AW has launched its second phase of consultation on 30 May and carried out a number of actions in preparation for this. This included engaging with landowners and local authorities, organising a busy programme of events and publishing a suite of information about the latest proposals on the project website. AW provided a summary of consultation events, expressing that they have been successful and well attended.

AW also provided a recap on the broader project timeline.

Water sources infrastructure

AW outlined their proposed associated water infrastructure for the project and explained that the scheme would have an important role to play in creating a resilient supply. To do this, it would take water from rivers when it is in excess and store it at the reservoir for when it may be needed in the future.

Key points from the overview included:

- When there's not enough water available in the Middle Level system, AW would need to draw water from the Ouse Washes (river Delph) or the Great River Ouse.
- Using water from the Ouse Washes would involve building equipment near Welches Dam Pumping Station.
- If AW need to use water from the River Great Ouse instead of the Ouse Washes (river Delph), collecting water from the River Great Ouse at Earith would be needed.
- When AW need more water than the amount it can sustainably use from sources closest to the reservoir, it would need to use water from the River Nene supported by flows from its Counter Drain.
- The reservoir would need a water treatment works to treat the water ready for supply.

Water supply infrastructure

AW raised that the water would be transported to Anglian Water customers via a pipeline to a connection point at Bexwell and to the Cambridge Water customer's network via connections at Bluntisham and Madingley.

Emerging Design

AW presented the emerging design of the main reservoir site.

AW explained the overall design approach including the vision and principles.

AW stressed that it is very much an 'emerging design' meaning that the proposals are indicative and open to influence from consultation feedback and ongoing assessment.

AW then covered the 'ammonite' design concept and explained that inspiration was drawn from the fossils found on the main site during initial ground surveys.

A participative session was held to obtain feedback from CLG members on the emerging design and materials provided at CON 2, providing Anglian Water with a number of suggestions to consider.

Consultation update

AW provided an update on the consultation (30 May – 9 August)

Key points included:

- AW hosting a series of in person and virtual events, which have welcomed more than 650 people.
- An update on feedback and a reminder of which parts of the proposals are open to feedback.
- A reminder that a webinar was taking place the day after the CLG (16 July)

Q&A

Opportunity for final questions from members.

Close

Karen thanked members for attending and explained that members of the project team will be available at the end of the event should anyone have any further questions.