

Fens Reservoir Community Liaison Group Summary of meeting

Date: 7 November 2023

Location: Manea Village Hall

Attending organisations:

Anglian Water	Great Ouse Valley Trust
Doddington Parish Council	The Chatteris Feoffee Charity
Manea Parish Council	The Cam Valley Forum
Chatteris Town Council	The British Horse Society
Fenland Walking and Cycling Club	Fenland District Council
Chatteris Cycling Club	Cambridgeshire County Council

Summary of points

Introduction to the group

The Community Liaison Group (CLG) gives attendees the opportunity to ask the project team questions relating to the proposed Lincolnshire reservoir and share local views. It also provides Anglian Water with a forum to provide the latest updates on the project. The group involves representative organisations from a cross-section of the local community joining the project team at quarterly meetings to share updates and discuss any potential related impacts and opportunities. We hope this group will act as a key link between the project team and the community for the duration of the project. The Community Liaison Group (CLG) is an invitation only forum for community representatives.

Aims of the CLG and electing a chairperson

Anglian Water chaired the first meeting, however, the aim is for this meeting to be chaired by an independent chair. The first discussion focused on the characteristics attendees would like to see in a chairperson. Following discussions, the desirable qualities and role expectations were shared among the group. It was agreed that the selection would be democratic, and applicants should submit a CV and statement to the project team, who will then circulate these among CLG members. An election period will be held in January 2024, with the intention a Chair is in position by the next meeting.

Overview of project developments

The Anglian Water team provided an overview of the recent project developments, including the various land surveys which have taken place, as well as the process for planning the necessary associated infrastructure, pipelines and transfers for the projects. Attendees were invited to ask questions throughout the meeting.

1. Masterplanning overview

Attendees were provided with an explanation of the masterplanning process – the development of a conceptual plan for the reservoir design. This included an in-depth look at the inspiration behind the process, such as geography, local heritage and culture. Project team representatives on each table noted comments from attendees on the reservoir masterplanning process and any particular areas of interest.

2. **Socio-economic strategy**

The next section provided an overview of what a socio-economic strategy is, and how it will influence the development of the project. The strategy will look at how the project can maximise its socio-economic potential and contribute to the region. A series of questions were included on the slides which attendees were encouraged to discuss within their organisations.

3. **Communications and engagement round up**

Since the end of the first phase of consultation, the project team has been carrying out a range of community engagement activities. This has included a community e-newsletter and the release of the *Deliver our Shared Ambition* document. This was followed by a look ahead to the second phase of consultation, which will be discussed at the next meeting and is expected to take place in spring 2024.

Reflections and close

The Chair provided a final summary of the meeting before agreeing on actions which the project team would carry out before the next meeting. The next meeting is expected to take place in March 2024.

Ends