

Cam Corridor Strategy

Report of steering group to plenary meeting on 27 November 2013

Catherine Bailey (CambridgePPF)
Simon Bunn (City Council)
Peter Landshoff (CambridgePPF)

Lou Mayer (Environment Agency)
Rob Mungovan (South Cambs)
Jean Perraton (Cam Valley Forum)

Apologies:

Pip Noon (Cam Conservancy)

1 The partnership agreed to divide the project into manageable pieces, starting with little detail and making several passes over everything. Initially we have focused on

- Key problems relating to the river and riverside land, with suggestions and recommendations for action to solve them
- Key opportunities for improving the river or riverside land.

and our first pass on these is largely complete. Further issues have so far been covered only partially:

historic environment	recreation, tourism and river use
development pressures	economic considerations
landscape	quality of life
river flows (high and low)	legal constraints
pollution	restoration potential
wild life	

2 62 people attended the 28 September workshop, representing 51 organisations. Material from the workshop is on <http://cambridgeppf.org/river/meetings.shtml>. The actions suggested at the workshop have been merged into [river_actions.pdf](#), with a vision included at the beginning.

This document will continue to collect together all the knowledge that we accumulate. It will be used mainly just for our own purposes. Information from it will be extracted to create smaller documents targeted to specific purposes, for example one for each planning authority to provide material considerations in the consideration of planning applications, and another listing quick actions that could be taken at little or no cost.

3 Catherine Bailey and Peter Landshoff attended a workshop in London on 5 November to brief partnerships participating in Defra's Catchment Based Approach. Notes of what was said ([caba.pdf](#)) show that the suggested approach is very similar to what we have been following. Barry Bendall of the Rivers Trust and Lu Gilfoyle of Anglian Water have called a meeting of the Cam and Ely Ouse catchment partnership on 26 November, which Catherine and Peter will attend.

4 At the London workshop it was said that farmers and other landowners should be made to feel early on that they have a stake in the process. We therefore propose that we mount a workshop in January to seek to achieve that. The format of the workshop would be a small number of introductory talks followed by round-table discussions, with no more than 10 at a table. Among those suggested to give introductory talks are Richard Pemberton (Trumpington Farms), Robin Page (Cottryside Restoration Trust) and Ben Cowell (National Trust). The challenge will be to find reasons for the landowners to feel that there is advantage in working with us.

5 We propose a second workshop about issues related to the planning process, as a first step to preparing the documents mentioned above. In due course these documents will need to be subjected to a statutory formal consultation process.

6 We reaffirmed that before we contemplate employing a consultant, we should assemble as much as possible of our own knowledge.

7 Our present funding position is as follows. £500 has been promised from each of Cam Valley Forum, City Council, County Council, South Cambs and Cam Conservancy. Up to £5k is left over from the 2030 Vision project if matching funding is available. CambridgePPF has already paid a further £500 towards the September workshop (fee for John Preston) and the Environment Agency paid £1333 for catering and room hire.

We were told at a previous meeting of the partnership that colleges might provide pump priming for imaginative schemes.