

Meeting on Water Resources on 30 January 2020 at Christ's College, Cambridge

Participants

		Initials used in text
Anglian Water	Hannah Stanley-Jones	HS-J (AW)
Cambridge Ahead	Dan Thorp	DT (CA)
Cambridge City Council	Cllr Katie Thornburrow	KT (CCity C)
Cambridge University	Prof Ian Leslie	IL (CU)
Cambridge Water	Daniel Clark	DC (CW)
Cambridge Water	Caroline Cooper	CC (CW)
Cambridgeshire County Council	Councillor Lina Nieto	LN (CCountyC)
Cam Valley Forum	Stephen Tomkins (notes)	ST (CVF)
Environment Agency	Rob Bakewell	RB (EA)
Greater Cambridge Planning Service	Paul Frainer	PF (GCPS)
National Trust	Helen Dangerfield	HD (NT)
Natural England	John Torlesse	JT (NE)
National Farmers Union	Paul Hammett	PH (NFU)
Natural Cambridgeshire	Peter Landshoff	PL (NC)
OfWAT	John Russell (Senior Director)	JR (OfWAT)
OfWAT	Carys Goodwin	CG (OfWAT)
South Cambs DC	Cllr Bridget Smith	BS (SCDC)
Water Resources East	Robin Price	RP (WRE)
Wildlife Trust	Martin Baker	MB (WT)

Aim of Meeting

Peter Landshoff welcomed those invited, and all briefly introduced themselves. He outlined the need to have discussion about water resources, in view of the drought events of 2019 and widely shared concerns about water availability and development. Irregular rainfall and hotter summers clearly affect the resilience of our present water supplies which are needed for an increasing human population as well as for guaranteeing our stewardship of the natural environment.

Key Actions suggested at the end of the meeting by each participant

Cambridgeshire County Council needs to give top priority to a strategy for improving its chalk streams that are Cam tributaries. LN (CcountyC)

Work through the planning process to support and build better standards. HS-J (AW)

Seek stronger support for protection through regional plans and seek water saving technologies through better building standards. DC (CW)

Cambridge Water should continue to be responsive to local feelings about the River's health and would continue work on reducing per capita water consumption CC (CW)

The County must raise the status of its River Cam streams by building the public pressure for reform and working within the Cam Catchment Partnership. MB (WT)

Water consumption reduction towards 80 litres per head per day must be sought. BS (SCDC)

Growth rates need to be accurately responded to. Businesses need to work with Water Resources East to assure that water demand is sustainable. DT (CA)

The Environment Agency is bringing together Affinity Water, Anglian Water, Cambridge Water and Essex and Suffolk Water in a combined drought group to review and improve planning and response to future droughts. RB (EA)

The importance of the Cam to our region, for its biodiversity, environmental benefits and recreational significance, demands that action be immediate and sustained. ST (CVF)

If Doubling Nature is to be secured in development then achieving it with optimal water resource management is essential. PL (CA)

Engaging with Water Resources East and thereby co-creating a sustainable future is essential to all the different parties involved in this meeting. RP (WRE)

Lobbying for water economy will produce a more sound local plan. PF (GCPS)

Water Resource Management Plans need to be better integrated with natural capital planning and investment through Water Resources East. JT (NE)

We need to clarify our environmental ambitions locally and work with such bodies as NFU and water users/ abstractors to optimise nature conservation. HD (NT)

Coordination essential for meeting objectives and encouraging economy of water use. JR (OfWAT)

The meeting ended after 2½ hours. The following two pages are from the slides that served as the agenda for the meeting.

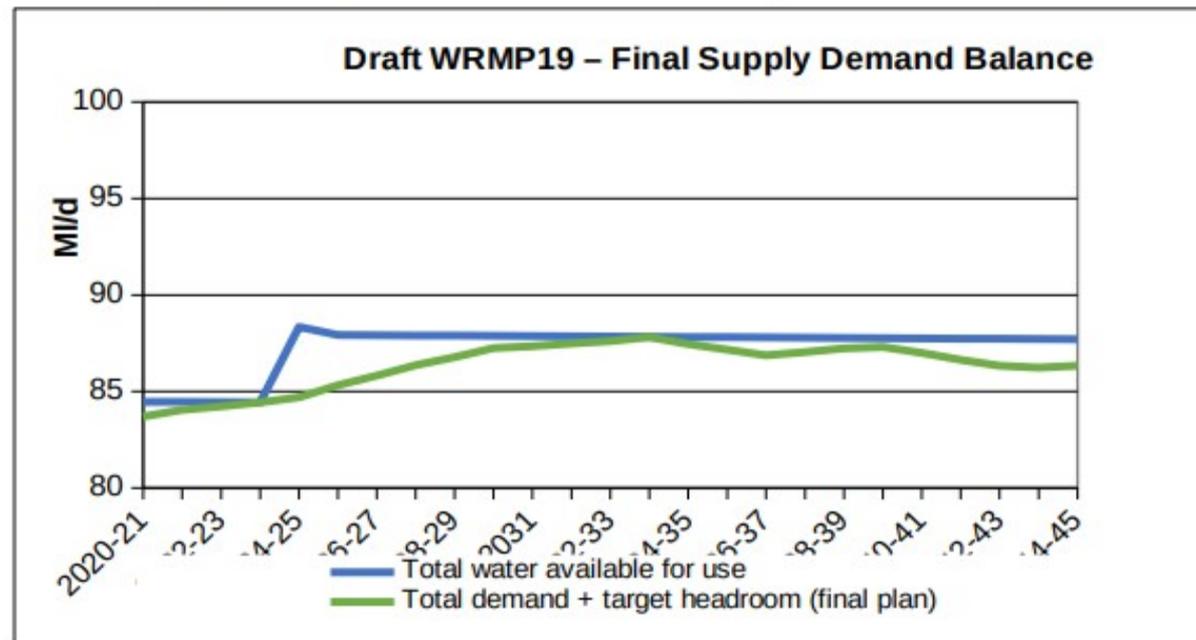
Our area's natural environment is under threat

Together with London and the South East, we pay for the rest of the UK – and our life sciences are internationally important.

Grant Thornton: area employment growth is 6.3% per year – so jobs double by 2035 (The ONS says 2.5%.)

City and South Cambs Local Plans: 33,500 more houses by 2031. (The new local plan will surely increase this significantly.)

Cambridge Water Company
projections for next
25 years

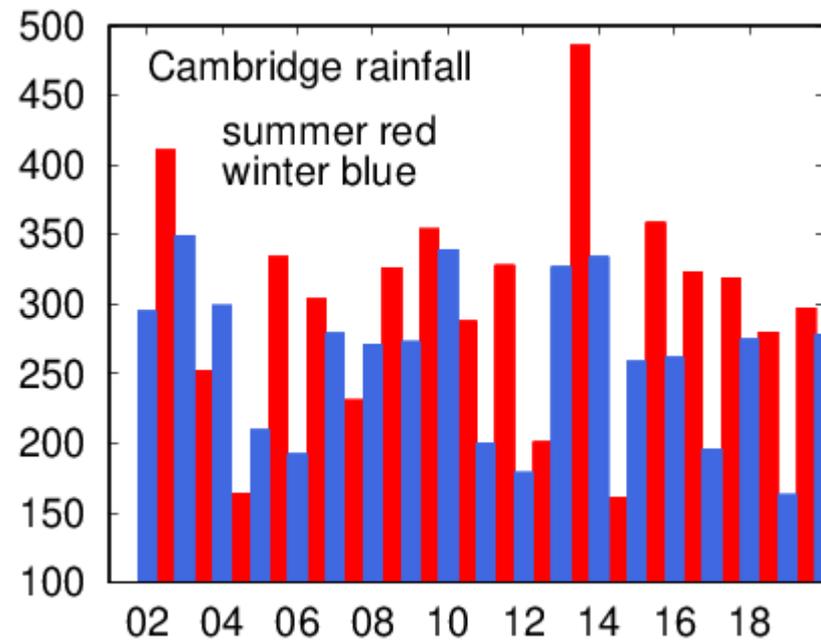


September 2019

The flow in the Cam was the lowest on record
Several of our waterways dried up



The River Granta at Stapleford
Photo: Rob Mungovan



Cambridge gets its water from the chalk aquifer, which should be replenished each winter – it stretches all the way to north London