**Upper Thames Catchment Management Steering Group**

**Meeting Sept 17th 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Siddington Village Hall**

**Attended:** Rowena Harris (DbyDfacilitator), Oliver Roden (EA AEP team, WFD catchemtn coordinator), Jenny Phelps (FWAG), Chris Short (CCRI), Chris Cowcher (GRCC), Mark Connelly (Cotswold AONB), Jon Wilshaw (Swindon Borough Council), Paul St.Pierre (EA, Coordinator Upper Thames), Charles Mann (NFU), Steph Nellis (Natural England, CSF), Daryl Henehan (Thames Water), Sue Humm (GCC), Esther Collis (GCC), Larence King (Cotswold DC), David Graham (Glos CC, Flood Risk), Jim Seymour (EA Fisheries Officer Upper Thames), John Tingey (NFU).

**Apologises**: Liz Parker (GWT), Gary Kennison (GCC), Peter Holmes (NE), Lisa Warne (NE), Stephen Davis (WWT), Matthew Mallett (Cotswold WP).

**1. Feedback from working groups***1.1 Education & Community Engagement*

Chris Short and Chris Cowcher spoke to the paper circulated before the meeting. Issues relating to what sort of Catchment Management Plan wanted were discussed later in the meeting. It was noted that there was some consultation and modelling taking place in the Upper Thames catchment in relation to flooding. **Action:** details of the consultation to be circulated.

*1.2 Planning*

A wider ranging discussion concluded that planning linked into the catchment and the CMP in a number of ways. Logically it made sense to focus on the most obvious links to delivering WFD> The legal and strategic responsibilities of planning authorities was also changing and new duties such as those concerning Sustainable (Urban) Drainage Systems (SUDS) not enacted as yet. Key links were seen as the National Flooding Strategy. The River Basin Plan is the legal document.

**Action:** establish a planning working group with representation from each LA to determne the core focus, Jenny P to convene.

 *1.3 GIS Mapping*

Ester Collis spoke to the paper circulated before the meeting. It was noted that the EA map used old data. **Action:** Oliver Roden promised to redraft using the most current data available.

Data sharing acknowledged as an issue by all but key to any collaborative approaches. Action: JP and CS to take back this issue to Defra at conference in Leeds in Nov.

**Action:** A small working group, linked to that developing the revised CMP, to consider how a framework for data to fit in might be achieved. Aim to keep it simple so it can expand to meet catchment needs and data types.

*1.4 Arable*

Stephanie Nellis spoke to the paper circulated before the meeting. Work still progressing and EA has a task force looking at this, Laurence King also mentioned that Cotswold District Council also interested. **Action:** Thames Water(DH) has monitoring information and willing to feed into this.

*1.5 Habitats, fish & invertebrates*Agreed to look into the sharing of surveys. Might require a separate working group on Monitoring and Evaluation. Need a baseline so we know where we were and how things have changed (or not).

**Action:** form a M&E working group and develop a framework to integrate data and knowledge across the catchment (expert and local knowledge).

**2. What kind of Plan/Document do you want?**

Don’t want a plan. Need something g for the local communities in the catchment and that represents all of the interest groups in the catchment. It should reflect the terms of reference for the group. Simple structure (what do we have to do?, how can we deliver it?, what do we need to know? What is already being done? **Action:** Small group (JP, CS, EC, CC) to develop outline to discuss at next meeting.

**3. Round of updates & business from last meeting**
*3.1 Update on Community engagement*Work with Siddington is going smoothly and a number of possible areas of co-working are being followed-up. **Action:** fuller update at next meeting.

*3.2 Update on training for FIELD advisors.*

Developments are on-going, still hoping to run a course within the next 4 months. Would be open to all. **Action:** fuller update at next meeting.

*3.3 Update on funding options & issues*Outcome of the WILD project is still unknown, should here before end of Sept.

**4. Date of next meeting**

Should be before the Nov 8th meeting in Leeds. **Action:** CS to circulate Doodle Poll with dates between 29th Oct and Nov 6th. (offer 29, 30, 31, 2, 5, 6 am or pm)

The meeting finished with lunch at 12.40.