

Minutes from the Havant Thicket Reservoir Strategic Advisory Group

Meeting presentations / discussions

Actions

Attendees from Portsmouth Water:

- Jonathan Clark (JC), Project Manager for Havant Thicket Reservoir scheme, Portsmouth Water
- Steve Holloway (SH), Health and Safety Manager for Havant Thicket Reservoir scheme, Portsmouth Water
- Joel Hufford (JH), Senior Communications Consultant, Create 51
- Ruari Maybank (RM), Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Director, Portsmouth Water
- Caroline Parker (CP), Environment Manager for Havant Thicket Reservoir scheme, Portsmouth Water
- Eleanor Shipton (ES), Havant Thicket Reservoir Communications & Engagement Lead, Portsmouth Water.

Stakeholder attendees:

- Andrew Biltcliffe, Havant Borough Council (Regeneration team)
- Nat Belderson, South Downs National Park Authority
- Jeremy Burgess, South Downs National Park Authority
- Ella Capaldi, Park Community School
- Dave Childs, Stop the Chop group
- Gary Christie, Havant Borough Council (Planning team)
- Ron Hammerton, Horndean Protection Group
- Sue James, Havant Climate Alliance
- Chris Janes, Southern Water
- Lakh Jemmett, Portsmouth Water Customer Challenge Group
- Nik Knight, Hampshire Bat Group
- Adrian Legg, Portsmouth City Council
- Lewis Oliver, Havant Borough Council (Planning team)
- Shelley Saunders, Havant Green Party
- Adrian Shepherd, Southern Water
- Marcus Stroud, Forestry England
- Sarah Thomas, Consumer Council for Water
- Sam Underwood, Southern Water
- Matthew Woodcock, Forestry Commission.

Apologies:

- Keith Betton, Hampshire Ornithological Society

- Joan Clark, Forestry England
- Tina Cuss, Hampshire County Council (Countryside Service)
- Sue Fewings, Environment Agency
- John Goodspeed, Hampshire Ornithological Society
- Jo Heath, Hampshire County Council (Countryside Service)
- Cllr Robert Mocatta, East Hampshire District Council
- Harnish Patel, Portsmouth City Council,
- Ingrid Strawson, Independent Chair.

Welcome and Introductions

Joel Hufford opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He explained that the stakeholder advisory groups' Independent Chair Ingrid Strawson was unable to attend, so he would be standing in as Chair on this occasion.

He ran through the apologies he had received for the meeting and then asked those attending to briefly introduce themselves (Please see the above list).

Joel also reviewed the actions from the previous group meeting (See <https://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk/new-reservoir/contact/library/>) and explained how these had been addressed.

Agenda Item 1: Havant Thicket Reservoir project update

Please also see slides 6-19 in the attached presentation pack from the meeting.

Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Director Ruari Maybank began his presentation by thanking Lewis Oliver from the Havant Borough Council / East Hampshire District Council Planning Team for his hard work and support throughout the planning process for reservoir scheme and wished him well in his new role away from the councils.

Ruari then provided the below update on progress with Havant Thicket Reservoir.

Summary programme schedule

The overall project programme remains on schedule.

While the project team has not yet concluded the governance review of the main works contracts (one for reservoir construction and another contract for building the reservoir pipeline) with Southern Water and regulator Ofwat, a number of enabling works contracts have been awarded. This is to make sure key activities are progressed in a timely way, putting Portsmouth Water in a strong position to start construction of the reservoir next year. Once the main works contracts have been awarded and signed, a more detailed forward plan can be shared with the group.

Ruari stressed that Ofwat, Southern Water and Portsmouth Water all remain committed to the Havant Thicket Reservoir scheme, recognising that the reservoir provides the best value for money to customers, when compared with alternative options. Portsmouth Water's main shareholder, Ancala, is equally committed to the project.

Concerns have been raised by some stakeholders over the potential impact of cost increases on the reservoir project, with widespread news coverage of price increases associated with inflation – such as fuel and building materials. Ruari said he would like to reassure everyone that if costs were to increase, this would not impact Portsmouth Water customers in any way. Ofwat, as the water industry regulator, has

stipulated **financial** controls which mandate this (in its 2019 final determination for the project).

Recruitment to project team

Next, Ruari updated the meeting on recruitment to the Havant Thicket Reservoir project team over recent months.

Jonathan Clark has joined as Project Manager for the reservoir. He has over 20 years of design and construction experience in client, contractor and consultant roles in the UK, Middle East and Pacific.

Ruari went on to explain that Caroline Parker is now in place as the new Environment Manager for the reservoir scheme. She is an internationally experienced environmentalist, who has worked within the public, private and voluntary sectors. She also reviewed Portsmouth Water's proposals for the reservoir project when she was working for the Forestry Commission.

Abigail Clements has also joined Commercial Manager for the Havant Thicket Reservoir project. Abigail has 25 years of experience in leading complex projects, from developing business cases, through procurement and contract negotiations, to contract delivery and performance improvement. Abigail is being supported by Kristina Carey, who has also taken up a new role with Portsmouth Water.

Finally, Ruari explained that many of these new starters live local to the Havant area.

Environmental works

Ruari stated that, in recent months, sheep have been grazed on the reservoir site more than usual, as part of the programme of environmental works. This has been an environmentally friendly way to keep the grass shorter and so encourage reptiles to move away from the site to newly created habitats in nearby Havant Thicket woodland.

However, more recently tractors have been needed to mow grass on parts of the site. This work was closely supervised by ecologists, who surveyed an area before mowing began to collect any reptiles still in place and see if any nesting birds were in place. If any nesting birds were found, an exclusion zone would have been created. However, none were found, with only two or three reptiles discovered and collected.

Work has also started to translocate macroinvertebrates, including beetles, from the reservoir site (specifically from a drainage channel in Middle Clearing) to nearby Southleigh Forest. The Portsmouth Water team has been studying watercourses in the local area for two years to find appropriate areas for translocation. Soil from the drainage channel in Middle Clearing will also be translocated to help the macroinvertebrates acclimatise to their new habitat. Things will be closely monitored in the coming years to ensure the translocation is a success.

Northern Access Route

Ruari said that most tree removal and ecological mitigation work has now been completed along the proposed Northern Access Route for the reservoir and at the new junction (for the access route) with the B2149.

He thanked residents in Rowlands Castle who provided feedback (via a recent parish council meeting that Ruari attended to provide a reservoir scheme update) on how the initial phase of work was managed. This is being used to update and refine the approach for delivering the next stages of work. Further tree and stump removal

work is scheduled to take place from 30 May to 8 June 2022, with two-way traffic lights in place while this takes place.

Ruari added that the team from Atkins is finalising the detailed design for the Northern Access Route and this should be ready to share with stakeholders in June.

Work will be carried out to improve visibility on the B2149 (in the area around the new junction for the Northern Access Route) later this year, with the reservoir project team looking at how best to minimise disruption for residents. Of course, an update on this will be shared with stakeholders and the wider public in due course.

A Section 278 Agreement is necessary to progress the improvement work to the B2149 and the Portsmouth Water team is reviewing this with Hampshire County Council Highways. The work could take up to three months, with single-lane road closures in place primarily. However, some of the work will involve a full road closure when activity needs to take place in the middle of the road. The Portsmouth Water team will be asking for feedback on the proposed approach from stakeholders, to ensure disruption for residents is minimised.

Site preparation works

From 23 May, work is being carried out to remove topsoil in a number of areas on the western side of the reservoir site (marked in yellow in the map shown on slide 11 of the presentation pack). This is in preparation for archaeological survey work that will follow.

Construction of the trial reservoir embankment is due to start in late July. This is a key activity this year to see how the local clay behaves. The area marked in yellow to the north on the map on slide 11 will be a 'borrow pit' – with clay removed from this location, once the topsoil has been taken off.

A new site compound has been installed off Swanmore Road on the western side of the reservoir site, to provide further welfare and other facilities for the contractors working on site.

The Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) for this year's enabling works on the reservoir site is being finalised. Ruari thanked Hampshire County Council and Forestry England for their support in reviewing the draft CTMP, which has the safety of the public as its top priority, and which honours the agreement to ensure traffic is kept away from residential areas. Ruari confirmed that good progress has been made and the plan should be finalised shortly.

Ecological works on site

Throughout April, a team of ecologists inspected hundreds of trees to check for bats. A higher number of trees than expected had potential bat features and the ecologists are continuing to inspect the southern end of Middle Clearing, the northern section of The Avenue and some trees at the southern end of The Avenue. Any bat features will be removed and placed in nearby woodland, creating alternative habitats.

Ruari also explained that a senior officer from Natural England visited the reservoir site in May and was pleased with the progress made in delivering the programme of environmental protection and mitigation work.

Volunteering projects

Volunteers, including members of the Environment Subgroup, are translocating bluebells from within The Avenue.

In March, volunteers also collected around 250 tree saplings and planted these in compostable pots. The saplings are currently being looked after in one of the areas on the reservoir site where tree planting was completed in recent years.

Ruari expressed his gratitude to all the volunteers who have supported the above and other activities.

Tripartite meetings

The Havant Thicket Reservoir project team is holding regular tripartite (involving three parties) meetings with Hampshire County Council (as the organisation that owns and runs Staunton Country Park) and Forestry England (as managers of Havant Thicket woodland).

These are building on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by all three organisations, confirming a commitment to work together during the reservoir's construction and in the future to ensure the three sites are managed in an integrated way, with each organisation's plans tying together.

Regular meetings are being held to consider access for the reservoir scheme's enabling and construction works, developing the recreation strategy for the site and how the site's visitor centre will be procured and operated.

Bridleway diversion

The reservoir project team has been working to progress the bridleway diversion for Bridleway 120 (reference of 121 mistakenly used in meeting), which currently runs across the reservoir site (east to west). This is ahead of the reservoir construction works getting underway in 2023.

A bridleway temporary diversion is planned to be in place from February / March 2023 and colleagues from Atkins have been carrying out route surveys and design work.

Two possible routes are being looked at – factoring in environment, public safety and the reservoir project schedule. Ruari explained that stakeholders, including members of the Access subgroup and Recreation subgroup, would have the opportunity to contribute to the diversion design.

Land acquisition

For the reservoir's Northern Access Route and B2149 works, Portsmouth Water has acquired land from Forestry England and East Hampshire District Council. A small parcel of land is also being purchased from a private landowner.

In the next couple of months, Portsmouth Water will also enter into a long lease agreement with Portsmouth City Council for land for the reservoir's Southern Access Route.

80-hectare update

Ruari provided an update on procurement for land to provide 80-hectares of woodland creation / restoration, as part of the overall 200 hectares total that will be delivered under the reservoir project's Environmental Mitigation and Compensation Plan.

The final specification is being drafted for the procurement of the land, with two local landowners shortlisted for final selection of a site. The contract will be awarded at

the end of the summer, with the reservoir team exploring options to translocate ancient woodland soils from the reservoir site to the 80-hectare site.

New Havant Thicket Reservoir website

Ruari explained that the reservoir project has launched a new website – see <https://havant-thicket-reservoir.uk.engagementhq.com/>

There are still some Havant Thicket Reservoir pages on the main Portsmouth Water website, which provide introductory detail and signpost people to the new site, which has been created to share more information, provide more regular updates on the schemes progress and enable people to engage with the Havant Thicket Reservoir scheme much more easily and effectively. Ruari encouraged stakeholders to have a look at the website and provide their feedback to Eleanor Shipton and Joel Hufford.

Ruari then handed back to meeting chair Joel Hufford, who asked attendees if they had any comments or questions. A summary of the discussions that followed is set out below.

Q&A section

Question: Can you tell us more about the next phase of tree work to the B2149, in particular the northern splay for the junction with the road and the role that area plays as a bat commuting route? Is this linked to the purchase of land mentioned from a private landowner?

Answer: We need to remove a small number of trees (within the total already agreed) in the area north of the entrance / exit for the Northern Access Route (onto the B2149) and this is why we have purchased the area of land concerned. Tree inspections have been carried out with a low likelihood of bat roosting potential being the conclusion for the trees which need to come down. An extension to our environmental licence is being sought, so we can complete the required work. Where trees have been removed in other areas, we will need to revisit to take out the stumps that have been left.

Question: I'm concerned about the potential impact on the existing bat migrating corridor of removing the trees mentioned above and would like further detail on plans to mitigate this, such as planting of new trees in the same area of land?

Answer: Ruari suggested that this should be followed up via the Environment subgroup, in particular to share the detail on this set out in the project's Environmental Mitigation and Compensation Plan.

Question on proposals for potential enhanced future uses of Havant Thicket Reservoir and the impact these could have for the reservoir scheme that has already been granted planning permission (e.g. route for new water transfer pipeline and topping up reservoir with recycled water), in particular, how communications and engagement activity by Portsmouth Water will take account of these, to address public concerns and queries in a timely and proactive way. This is based on concern that public perception locally of the reservoir scheme that's being delivered is being negatively affected by the proposed future enhanced uses.

Answer: Ruari Maybank explained that this is one of the reasons why Southern Water colleagues are invited to these meetings, to provide a specific update on progress with these proposals. Portsmouth Water and Southern Water are working very closely on this, with Portsmouth Water clear that it will not move away from the

Stakeholder group members to feedback on new reservoir project website.

Query over bat migration corridor to be addressed via Environment subgroup.

environmental commitments it has made as part of the scheme that has already received planning permission.

A 'No regrets' approach is being taken, to explore areas where impact on the environment and local communities can be avoided by taking action now to futureproof the reservoir, in case the enhanced uses proposals are given the go ahead to be delivered – for example, installing an additional pipe section when building the reservoir embankment which would allow recycled water to be pumped into the reservoir (This is discussed in further detail later in the meeting).

Ruari is very mindful of the importance getting the communications and engagement right, to make sure all the issues are discussed with customers and stakeholders and their views are fully taken into account. This is a high priority for Portsmouth Water and Southern Water, with a clear plan already in place and being further developed.

Sam Underwood reiterated the close working relationship between Southern Water added that Portsmouth Water and outlined the plan for consultation and engagement for the enhanced uses proposals this summer and beyond, which is discussed in greater detail later in the meeting. Sam stressed they are keen to reach as many people as possible and share information as soon as possible, such as Environmental Impact Assessments, so customers and stakeholders have all the detail they need to provide considered feedback.

Meeting chair Joel Hufford suggested that there might be an opportunity to share the engagement strategy with stakeholders and ask for their input.

Question: There is potentially one oak tree which can be saved at the eastern end of where the reservoir embankment will go, based on the map which Portsmouth Water provided. Can this also be discussed at the Environmental Subgroup?

Answer: Caroline Parker and Jonathan Clark will pick this up and look at whether it will be possible.

Agenda Item 2: Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Resources Project update

Please also see slide 22 in the attached presentation pack from the meeting.

Meeting chair Joel Hufford handed over to Sam Underwood from Southern Water for an update on progress with proposals for potential enhanced future uses of Havant Thicket Reservoir. These proposals are known as the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

Sam first explained that a two-month consultation on the proposals is due to start on 5 July 2022. This will include a variety of engagement activities, with an online portal for people to find out more and have their say, face to face drop-in briefing sessions in locations across the local area and a series of webinars. Sam is happy to provide further details with stakeholders, so this information can be shared with people's wider contacts and networks.

Further consultation will then begin in early 2023, once a preferred route for the water transfer pipeline has been selected.

Several pipeline corridors are being considered and these are available to view on the Southern Water website – see <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/our-story/water-for-life-hampshire/our-strategic-solutions>.

Sam then updated the meeting on a proposal to install an additional pipe section (which would be used for potential enhanced future uses of the reservoir, were these to go ahead) as part of embankment construction for the reservoir. This is in order to

Communications and engagement plan for Havant Thicket Reservoir enhanced future uses proposals to be shared with stakeholder groups.

Update on oak tree specified to be provided by Caroline Parker and Jonathan Clark.

avoid the need to dig up the embankment, should the Hampshire Water Recycling and Water Transfer proposals be approved in due course. This would also avoid any need to delay construction of the reservoir, pending the water recycling and water transfer options being approved.

Sam stressed that the plan to install the pipe section does not pre-empt full consideration of the Hampshire Water Recycling and Water Transfer scheme and is completely at Southern Water's own risk.

He then handed over to Ruari Maybank from Portsmouth Water to provide further detail. Ruari explained that the principal behind the above is to have a 'No regrets' approach, to avoid the risk of having to dig into the reservoir embankment in the future. Doing this will reduce the impact on the environment and the local community. Ruari re-iterated that putting in an additional pipe section does not in any way mean that the water recycling and water transfer project is definitely going ahead. That is subject to further consultation, further plan development, approval by regulators and planning approval being secured.

Sam went on to address the proposal to set up a Hampshire Water Recycling and Water Transfer stakeholder subgroup. He stated that they are keen to get this up and running, but is mindful that many of the questions raised by people so far need the Environmental Impact Assessments to be completed to provide answers.

These assessments will be fully finalised when the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning application for the water recycling and water transfer scheme is submitted in late 2023. Initial EIAs will be presented at the next consultation on the proposals in early 2023.

Sam then handed back to meeting chair Joel Hufford, who asked attendees if they had any comments or questions. A summary of the discussions that followed is set out below.

Q&A section

Question: Will the project (potential enhanced future uses for Havant Thicket Reservoir) go through planning as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), rather than via the local planning authorities?

Answer: Sam explained that Southern Water have applied to DEFRA to designate the scheme as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, to streamline the planning process, which would involve six local authorities if it happened via the local route. However, he stressed that this would still mean that there would be extensive consultation and engagement with communities.

Question: As part of progressing the enhanced uses proposals, in December Southern Water wrote to landowners for permission to go onto their land to carry out surveys for the possible pipeline routes that are being looked at. Has this work started yet?

Answer: Yes, this work has started and is a continuing process.

Question: Can you clarify if there will be a further outlet pipe from the reservoir that would link with the proposed new water transfer pipeline to Southern Water's supply works near Winchester? Question prompted by point on Interface works as set out on slide 22 in the presentation pack.

Answer: Sam explained that the enhanced uses proposals include the option of installing a new pipeline to take water to the Southern Water works to the north

west. However, the interface works mentioned on the slide are different. This is related to the pipeline that would take water from a new water recycling plant in Havant to the reservoir. This will form part of the reserved matters planning applications for the current reservoir scheme and is being done to avoid potential delays and other impacts to the current reservoir project.

Ruari Maybank reiterated his earlier point about a 'No regrets' approach is being taken, to explore areas where impact on the environment and local communities can be avoided by taking action now to futureproof the reservoir, in case the enhanced uses proposals are given the go ahead to be delivered.

Sam also explained that the purpose of the consultation in the summer will be to look at the possible pipeline routes that are being looked at under the enhanced uses proposals.

Question: When will the queries from Ofwat (raised in their final decision on the latest enhanced future uses proposals submission from Southern Water) be addressed?

Answer: Sam Underwood explained that these are currently being worked through. When more information becomes available, this will be shared with the stakeholder groups as well as more widely.

Agenda Item 3: Havant Thicket Reservoir Subgroup update

Please also see slide 25-37 in the attached presentation pack from the meeting.

Meeting attendees were provided with a series of updates on progress with the various stakeholder subgroups that have been established to explore different topics related to Havant Thicket Reservoir in greater depth.

The updates were provided by the relevant subgroup chair, or by meeting chair Joel Hufford on behalf of a given subgroup chair.

Access subgroup – Update from Chair Ron Hammerton (Horndean Protection Group)

Ron had an initial 1 to 1 meeting with Gareth Russell-Hughes (HTR project contact) on 4 May. This was for an outline review of all the known access points around the reservoir site and to discuss a proposal for nomenclature (a naming system) for the access points on an outline map of the site.

The results of this discussion were then emailed to the Access subgroup members on 16 May with a request for comments. Two replies received to date.

A summary of the access points (and associated external routes) which are likely to be funded, at least in part by Portsmouth Water, has also been circulated. This assumes some contributions from local authorities.

The most important issues identified to date are:

- The Northern Access Route (for vehicles), including security.
- A separate Northern Access Route for cycling and walking, including security.
- The lack of information about Whicher's Gate (south eastern end of reservoir)

- There is also further information required about the reservoir site's car park and detail about preventing rat running and log jams.

Ron explained there would need to be an agreement with the Recreation subgroup that they will lead on access within the reservoir site boundary.

Question: Has funding (from the Community Infrastructure Levy) from East Hampshire District Council been confirmed?

Answer: At the very outset of this development, East Hampshire District Council gave a presentation and listed which projects would benefit from the levy. A sum of £140,000 was to be allocated for pedestrian and cycling access between Horndean and the reservoir.

Education subgroup – Update from Chair Ella Capaldi (Park Community School)

Ella began by saying she felt it was important to ensure that local young people feel proud and engaged by the reservoir project. She then went on to provide her update, as set out below.

The Education subgroup is now established and is meeting once per half term, with representatives from Warren Park Primary School, Trostant Primary School, Park Community School, Havant and Southdowns College, Staunton Country Park, Havant LEP, Future Water (enabling contractor for the reservoir scheme) and Portsmouth Water

There have been detailed discussions about potential educational opportunities, from Reception, to A-Level (ages 5-18).

Other key points raised include:

- Opportunities and career placements / shadowing
- Specialist sessions by experts in schools / colleges or on site
- Teacher training sessions
- Curriculum development opportunities for specific subjects
- Regular site visits with student and staff ambassadors from schools who then lead work in own schools
- Student voice/ ambassador groups to be established representing cross section of ages to mirror discussion in the education group, feedback to own schools/ colleges

There is a school site visit planned on Friday 27 May – this will involve a students and teachers from a variety of local schools.

Other actions that have been agreed include:

- Establishing a broad timeline, mapping suggested educational activities for different year groups.
- Using the school curriculum groups meeting at Park Community Schools in June to enable Portsmouth Water to provide an update and discuss links to the existing curriculum.

Question: Will other local schools be involved?

Answer: Yes, at the moment the focus is on getting the group and the offer established. Anyone is very welcome to join the group, but the focus of the group is

HTR Project team (Gareth Russell-Hughes / Jonathan Clark) to follow up with council to clarify on funding

to represent different age groups. Secondary schools from the area all meet together regularly and updates are being shared with them.

Environment subgroup

Meeting chair Joel Hufford provided an update on behalf of Environment subgroup chair John Goodspeed (Hampshire Ornithological Society), who was unable to join the meeting. Joel ran through the members of the subgroup (see slide 32 in the presentation pack) and the main updates and issues from the group. These included:

The Environment group has met on site twice with Gareth Russell-Hughes and Caroline Parker from the reservoir project team and have visited and discussed areas of concern.

The group has significant anxieties over the following:

- Loss of habitat, mainly trees, for bats and the provision of suitable mitigation.
- Adapting suitable wet areas as mitigation for the ponds that will be lost on the reservoir site.
- Although it will be covered now by a separate subgroup, the Southern Water proposals for wastewater recycling worry us. We need to be convinced that the proposal will not lead to algae blooms in the reservoir and that water levels in the planned wetland area of the reservoir will not be affected.
- We remain anxious that the mainly excellent provisions of the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) are communicated to and implemented by contractors.

Joel then handed over to Caroline Parker, Environment Lead for the reservoir scheme, to respond to the points raised above in turn.

Loss of habitat: She explained that there has been felling and will continue to be felling on site. However, this has been minimised as far as possible. A lot of work has been completed / is being carried out to ensure there is advanced tree planting, so that new trees are growing to provide wildlife corridors and new habitats on or around the reservoir site. The new trees on Gypsies Plain (eastern end of the reservoir site) are well established, as are the trees at Memory Park (western side of the site). The trees were planned, so they are present before the Avenue is removed. This means there are alternative wildlife corridors around the reservoir site.

Ponds: There's probably two ways of thinking about the ponds. There is the invasive non-native species (INNS) aspect, particularly the Parrot's Feather plant. It is already present in one of the ponds in Havant Thicket. Ponds at risk of Parrot's Feather need to be protected from dogs, to prevent the risk of the plant spreading. A "sacrificial pond" will need to be found which is isolated from other ponds on site and can be used by dogs, without the risk of Parrot's feather being spread. The other ponds can then be protected. Portsmouth Water is also looking at the existing ponds within Havant Thicket woodland, so they match those which are being lost within the footprint of the reservoir site.

A wetland is also being created along the northern edge of the reservoir. This will be at a much later stage, creating a brand-new habitat. So, Portsmouth Water is doing all it can to improve water habitats and to mitigate the loss of ponds.

LEMP: Caroline confirmed that the LEMP is being communicated to contractors working on the reservoir scheme. She met that morning with one particular enabling works contractor to ensure they understand the LEMP and what it requires them to do.

She then passed over to Ruari Maybank to respond to the point about the proposal for enhanced uses of the reservoir, including around water recycling. He confirmed that algal blooming is a challenge to manage for any reservoir. Havant Thicket Reservoir will have an aeration system, which will blow oxygen into the water to help prevent blooms. Nitrates also have an impact on the risk of algal blooming and fortunately the level of nitrates in the spring water that will be used to fill the reservoir is relatively low. He also explained that the recycled water that could be used to top up the reservoir in the future will have even lower levels of nitrates the spring water. By having an additional source of water (i.e. recycled water), this will make the reservoir more resilient.

Sam Underwood from Southern Water added that the issue of nitrates will be covered in detail as part of the water quality modelling for the proposals that are being developed. However, it is predicated that the level of nitrates will be far lower.

Local Economy subgroup – Update from Chair Andrew Biltcliffe (Havant Borough Council Regeneration team)

Andrew explained that there had been an initial meeting on 29 April to discuss getting the group fully established.

He is keen to make sure that the economic and wider benefits of the reservoir are maximised, both in the short and long term. Key to measuring this accurately will be gathering baseline data and tracking progress against this.

He added that there are likely to be more job opportunities via the reservoir project at the beginning of the construction phase, with employment opportunities advertised on the new Havant Thicket Reservoir website, as a suggestion.

Recreation subgroup

Subgroup member Joel Hufford provided an update on progress made to date, including the below.

- Initial subgroup meeting held on 27 April at Park Community School.
- Recreation subgroup members involved in 20 June 2022 draft Havant Thicket Reservoir Recreation strategy workshop.

Areas of interest

- Ensuring good links for visitors between the reservoir site and Staunton Country Park next door.
- Further developing the proposal for the reservoir to be a site for fishing / angling.
- Routes for walkers / cyclists on the reservoir site and ensuring good connectivity for walkers, in particular, between the site and the wider local area.
- Getting the best value for the community from the reservoir site, including maximising use by cyclists and walkers – such as the 70,000 people living in the nearby PO7 and PO8 postcode areas.

- Maximising number of young people using the site and engaging with them about the reservoir scheme.
- Potential for further community-based businesses to provide services on the reservoir site (e.g. visitor centre café).
- Clarifying what recreational activities could be available on the reservoir site (e.g. Community-based water sports?) and resulting potential to support / encourage local people to be active.
- Using available data on local health (such as from Havant Borough Council) to inform discussions on recreation.

Agenda Item 5: Any other business (AOB)

Joel confirmed the dates for upcoming reservoir stakeholder meetings including the Recreation strategy workshop on 20 June 2022, the next interim stakeholder meeting on 7 July 2022 and the next Strategic Advisory Group meeting on 5 September 2022.

Joel then closed the meeting, having thanked everyone for attending and contributing their views.

PLEASE SEE SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM MEETING BELOW

Meeting actions

<u>Action</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Date to be completed</u>
Stakeholder group members to feedback on new reservoir project website.	Stakeholder group members	By next interim stakeholder meeting on 7 July 2022
Query over bat migration corridor to be addressed via Environment subgroup.	Caroline Parker / Jonathan Clark	By next Strategic Advisory Group meeting on 5 September 2022
Communications and engagement plan for Havant Thicket Reservoir enhanced future uses proposals to be shared with stakeholder groups.	Sam Underwood / Eleanor Shipton	By next interim stakeholder meeting on 7 July 2022
Update on oak tree with the potential to be saved to be shared with stakeholder groups.	Caroline Parker / Jonathan Clark	By next Strategic Advisory Group meeting on 5 September 2022

	HTR Project team to follow up with council to clarify on funding	Gareth Russell-Hughes / Jonathan Clark	By next Strategic Advisory Group meeting on 5 September 2022		
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