

Partnership Meeting

Supplement 2 to the agenda for

Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board

Wednesday 16 October 2024

2.00 pm

Conference Room 1 - Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE

	Pages
3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	3 - 4
Questions received from a member of the public.	
5. REPORT OF THE RIVER WYE STATUTORY OFFICER GROUP	5 - 6
An amended slide on behalf of Herefordshire Council is attached; this replaces page 21 of the agenda reports pack (slide 11 of the slide deck).	

Questioner: Helen Hamilton, Marches Planning & Environment

Question 1:

For Environment Agency:

Will the Environment Agency commission Rephokus 3 research in the light of newly available data that fills gaps in Rephokus 2?

New data includes:

- APHA figures showing poultry numbers in the Wye catchment of c.30m. Rephokus 2 modelling was based on 20m birds.
- The Wye Viz database of citizen science river testing results that would fill the gaps in testing data referenced in Rephokus 2.
- CPRW GIS mapping of Intensive Poultry Units across the catchment, which would enable the sub catchment analyses to include P production data omitted from the phase 2 report.

Updated research could address concerns over assumptions made in Rephokus 2, for example about historic land use, and provide clarity about the use of industry figures, which are not in the public domain.

Should the research be extended to other nutrients in the light of the Cardiff University research into the causes of algal blooms in the Wye?

Response by Environment Agency:

Response pending at time of publication [15 October 2024, 17:00]

Question 2:

For Natural England / Natural Resources Wales:

Will Natural England and Natural Resources Wales revisit their nutrient neutrality advice for the River Wye in the light of the research from Cardiff University showing that Phosphate is not the sole or main cause of algal blooms in the catchment?

(Interim) Response by Natural England:

Natural England intend to provide a considered reply and will endeavour to provide a response by the end of the week (18 October 2024).

Response by Natural Resources Wales:

Response pending at time of publication [15 October 2024, 17:00]

Strategic Mitigation:

- The Design and Build contract for Tarrington has been awarded and the construction of the site is due to commence in Spring 2025.
- We are seeking to acquire a further site in the north of the county for the construction of a wetland.
- Investigative work is also underway around the phosphate reduction obtained from seeking upgrades to Package Treatment Plants.

Homes Released

- To date 742 homes have been released within the Lugg catchment. The Council is due to publish the updated allocations list of credits which extends to November 2023 of this list a further 462 houses have been allocated credits.
- The specification for the update of the Welsh catchment evidence base and the delivery of a catchment wide Nutrient Management Plan has been drafted and reviewed by members of the SOG. The tender is due to be issued shortly.

Luston Monitoring

- Monitoring undertaken at Luston wetland during the first 12 months of the site being operational is indicating a 68% reduction in Total Phosphorous.

Rivers Conference

- The Council is hosting a second rivers conference on 21st November with a focus on sustainable practices for arable farming.

