

Questions via the Wye Catchment Partnership meeting on the 17th April 2024

1. Why is public money being used to clean up (the polluter pays principle).
2. 3D Buffer strips – please clarify how this relates to coppiced buffers within catchment.
3. Please clarify new money, money that was already available in different schemes (SFI/ELMS/Landscape Recovery).
4. Plan is not cross border – what efforts were made to get Welsh Government contribution?
5. Can the 1m for ADs be used to retrofit existing ADs with P/N separation?
6. River Champion – how long is the appointment? What was the process to appoint the river champion?
7. How does the plan relate to other
8. Do you believe EA to be under resourced – can some of this money be used to support the regulators?
9. Plan does not contain actions to directly impact the release of nutrients into the river.
10. The need for funding for the regulator remains – they are charged with developing and delivering the current plan (Nutrient Management Plan/DWPP) and if they had more resources they could do this with more urgency. Can some of the 34m be used to support the regulator?
11. Will the mooted plan (catchment plan) address legacy P and direct losses to water?
12. What cost benefit analysis was done of the two supported technological solutions? What other options were considered? Has a cost benefit analysis been done of on farm incineration against, say, pyrolysis?
13. Why is it felt necessary to fund a pilot project for on farm incineration when we already have the tech up and running in the catchment?
14. What controls are going to be in place to monitor emissions to air of incineration?
15. Will the finding of incinerators and mini ADs create another problem since neither tech strips P. What monitoring will be in place to ensure P from these sources is used responsibly and/or exported? How will the phenomenon (already seen) of reimportation be countered?
16. There will be a need for increased capacity within the LPA to process complex technical applications – can some of the funding be used to support that work stream?
17. How do we get reassurance that this is not going to enable further expansion of the industry?
18. How does this plan relate to the NMP/DWPP/WCPP/RBMP and other existing plans? It was the understanding in the room that the plan will not be a 3rd plan (ie: as well as the NMP and WCPP) – can this be confirmed?
19. A request was made for the MPs to attend the NMB on the 26th
20. Where does DEFRA's authority and responsibility for the Wye begin and end (what are the limits of devolution)?
21. Why does the plan not build on the conclusions of the University of Lancaster Rephokus report and consider ways to reduce livestock/manures/fertiliser to bring the catchment into balance. This would include sheep, pigs and cattle as well as controls on the use of artificial fertiliser and organic manures.
22. The government has proposed UK wide soil testing – the Wye would be an excellent place to start – will this be a consideration?
23. Who is going to be on the taskforce (organisations, not individuals)?
24. Who wrote the plan? What consultation was undertaken with members of the WCP or NMB to gain a complete understanding of the issues and complexity? Please name individuals, organisations and the nature of their input.

25. Will a change of government impact this plan?