

MEETING MINUTES

CVP GENERAL MEETING

MAIN ROAD NURSERIES

24 SEPTEMBER 2014

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	<p>Attendance:</p> <p>Ilse Steyl (Green Corridor); Rob Gray (FORCE); Chris Slack(Carillion); Ajit Bansal (LB Hounslow); Chris Mountain (Ickenham Marshes Partnership); Vicki Smith (Thames Water); Bob Barton (Cranford Park Friends); Tom White (LWT); Neale Hider (EA); Paul Leonard (Brunel University); David Allister (LB Richmond); Amanda MacLean (EA); Joe Pecorelli (ZSL); Paul Busby (Friends of Yeading Brook & River Pinn); Adam Cheeseman (EHM Ltd, representing Heathrow); Frances Bennett (FORCE); Hilary Thomson (Tidal Crane Association [TCA]); Richard Pollakey (Groundwork); Alison Shipley (LB Hillingdon); Dragana Knesewic (LB Hillingdon); Jean Rolfe (Green Corridor)</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting:</p> <p>Accepted. Amanda MacLean (AM) noted that discussion on the lower Crane restoration project are temporarily on hold until further investigations related to the hydrology are completed. The current weir is scheduled to be replaced in the near future and as a result, this gives an opportunity to influence the design.</p>	
3.	<p>Big Green Fund [BGF] & Thames Water Fund [TWF] project updates:</p> <p><u>Balsam Pulling – coordinated through Green Corridor [BGF]</u></p> <p>Ilse Steyl gave a brief overview to the Himalayan Balsam pulling effort during the spring (April/May/June). Thirteen sites were targeted across the catchment, partly funded through the BGF, i.e. Tidal Crane (TCA), Crane Park (TCV & FORCE), Crane Park Island (LWT), Pevensey Road NR (TCV), Brazil Mill Wood (TCV), Donkey Wood (TCV), Crane Meadows (LWT), Cranford Park (Thames21 & Cranford Park Friends), Yeading Brook Meadows (LWT), Ickenham Marsh (Ickenham Marsh Partnership), Yeading Brook West (Green Corridor), Bridgewater Open Space (LB Hillingdon), Roxbourne Park (LWT).</p> <p>A field trial by CABI (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International) using a species of rust fungus started in August 2014 at locations in Berkshire, Cornwall and Middlesex (exact sites not available).</p> <p><u>Donkey Wood – coordinated through LB Hounslow [BGF & TWF]</u></p> <p>Rob Gray discussed the progress of the project. Willow clearance and pollarding have been undertaken along the river channels. The Council is awaiting Flood Consent approval, which is required to</p>	

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	<p>start in-channel work (channel redirection). The boardwalk has been extended (carried out by TCV), and some aquatic planting has been undertaken. Work on a leaflet for Donkey Wood has also started. Works planned to finish by spring 2015.</p> <p><u>Pevensie Road & Mill Road – coordinated through FORCE [BGF]</u></p> <p>Rob also noted the works completed at these sites. Interpretation boards have been completed and installed. More people are taking advantage of the site as a result of the works reducing motorbikes entering the site. TCV has a weekly green gym on site, helping with clearance work and it is attracting people from all over London.</p> <p><u>Citizen Crane – coordinate by FORCE and ZSL [TWF]</u></p> <p>Joe Pecorelli gave an overview of the project so far. There currently 11 sites across the catchment, with a potential for a 12th site in Hounslow. A successful meeting was held at the London Zoo in early September, where all the Citizen Scientists, the EA, Thames Water, Heathrow, Universities and other interested parties were invited and over 40 people attended. The notes of the meeting will be made available on the CVP website. The citizen scientists are also monitoring outfalls to assist Thames Water with planning for AMP6 – the next Asset Management Programme starting in 2015.</p> <p>The project team is in discussion with Universities to get involved with the project and assist in further research.</p> <p><u>Yeading Brook Meadows rehabilitation & mid-Crane Aquatic Refuge project – coordinated through LWT [BGF & TWF]</u></p> <p>Tom White presented the work to be undertaken at these sites. At Yeading Brook Meadows physical works undertaken by volunteers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scrub clearance, • creation of faggots, • installation of faggots, • creation of berms. <p>Contractor works include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creation of riffles, • tree works, • scrub clearance, and • in-river work. <p>The aquatic refuge project includes meander re-connections at Crane Meadows and Crane Bank, feasibility studies for backwater creation projects at Brazil Mill Wood and Causeway Rd as well as floodplain enhancement works at Green Lane.</p> <p>Concerning the meander reconnections – the three southern meanders were previously re-connected by the EA and LB Hounslow, whilst the northern most two remain. The first meander is located on the left bank (looking downstream) in Cranford (known as Crane Bank), whilst the other is further downstream on the right bank at LWT's site at Crane Meadows NR. Work undertaken thus far include:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community engagement, • invertebrate surveys (x3) to establish baseline, • fixed point photography, • flood defence consent and WFD compliance assessment approved by EA, • materials assessment (to determine whether any hazardous) – no hazardous materials were found. <p>The Brazil Mill Wood and Causeway sites have been surveyed to create detailed backwater designs plans. Material analysis has also been undertaken and no hazardous materials were found. Flood defence consent needs to be obtained for sites, D1 waste disposal exemption for Brazil Mill Wood needs to be obtained. Funding to undertake the works will then be sought.</p> <p>Flood plain enhancement works at Green Lane was not completely funded due to concern at the presence of <i>Crassula helmsii</i> on site (Australian swamp stonecrop). A biosecurity plan has been submitted to the EA and is awaiting approval, before funding will be released and works can go ahead.</p> <p><u>Native Species Nursery – coordinated through Green Corridor [BGF]</u></p> <p>Jean Rolfe took attendees around the site, which has been officially occupied since May. The site is on a five-year rolling tenancy from Heathrow Ltd. and offers significant opportunity for a number of activities, the native species nursery being one. The site came with a polytunnel, barn and house/office building with kitchen. The aim is to grow native species, including fruit trees, to support the local boroughs and land owners with the improvement of habitats.</p>	
4.	<p>Catchment Partnership Fund 2015/16 financial year:</p> <p>In August the EA announced the potential for catchment partnership funding for the 2015/16 financial. This potential funding is to assist both in the hosting of the partnership and projects that will be completed within the financial year. However, the likelihood of this funding becoming available is not clear. No further information has been received.</p> <p>Partners are encouraged to identify projects that could be put forward in case any funding becomes available and to inform IS. IS will send information on funding if/when received.</p>	<p>All Partners to identify projects. IS to forward information on funding once received.</p>
5.	<p>River Basin Management Plan update:</p> <p>Consultation for the RBMP will be announced in October. The plan was written using combined information from partners and the EA. The London catchment summary is 92 pages and the Crane catchment forms part of this summary. Once launched, the consultation will be for a six month period. The summary of actions are not included in the consultation, but will be made available by Amanda. It was also suggested that a workshop to discuss the actions from the RBMP is held during the early part of 2015 (before the consultation ends).</p> <p><i>The consultation was launched on 10 October and will run until 10 April 2015. A link to the consultation as well as additional information on the Crane is available on the CVP website:</i></p>	<p>AM & IS to circulate information on workshop.</p>

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	http://www.cranevalley.org.uk/news/post/consultation-RBMP-FRMP.html	
6.	<p>Public meeting at Whitton – organised by FORCE:</p> <p>FORCE has organised a public meeting for 31 October, starting at 19:00. Richard Aylard from Thames Water and Russell Knight from Heathrow have been invited. The meeting will be chaired by Vince Cable. FORCE will circulate notes of the meeting after the event.</p>	RG to provide notes for circulation to IS once ready. These will be circulated to rest of CVP/published on CVP website.
7.	<p>CVP GIS geodatabase:</p> <p>Ilse has been building up a geodatabase with data covering the Crane catchment. These include data on water and drainage features, engineering structures, land cover, population, conservation designation, etc. Current and potential projects are also mapped. The database will be used to explore spatial linkages between e.g. issues of concern. Methods for making these outputs available as interactive maps are being explored by IS.</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Paul Leonard (professor at Brunel University) mentioned that he will be giving a paper at the Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences (SEFS) meeting in Geneva, July 2015 on the Crane – see http://www.sefs9.ch/. He also mentioned an ecosystem services conference taking place on 6 November in London (Natural Capital – What's the Evidence?) sponsored by the Society of Biology, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and the British Library, with data supplied to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) – see http://www.naturalcapitalinitiative.org.uk/events/valuing-our-life-support-systems-2014/.</p> <p>Joe Pecorelli talked about the progress made so far on the eel passes project. The trap at Mogden will be installed in April 2015 and will be monitored by volunteers.</p> <p>The Crane fish restocking was also mentioned – being assessed by the EA to determine whether re-stocking can take place during December this year. <i>Subsequently the first re-stocking of fish took place on 3 December. The programme will be running for three years and the next re-stocking will take place in December 2015.</i></p> <p>Hilary Thomson mentioned the severe impact of Japanese Knotweed on the tidal Crane. She has undertaken mapping where possible. The TCA is asking for assistance in this problem.</p>	
9.	<p>Next Meeting Date:</p> <p>To be confirmed.</p>	