

# LODDON FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION CONSULTATIVE

## Actions and Minutes

**DATE** Thursday 21 April 2011  
**VENUE** Hurst Activity Centre  
**TIME** 7pm arrive for 7.30pm start 9.30pm finish

### Present:

- |                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Martin Moore        | Chairman LFCC                     |
| 2. Dominic Martyn      | Environment Agency, Fisheries     |
| 3. Ian Watson          | Barbel Society                    |
| 4. David Rundle        | The Gresham Angling Society       |
| 5. John Green          | Twyford and District Fishing Club |
| 6. Alan Brown          | Risley Angling Enthusiasts        |
| 7. Robert West         | "                                 |
| 8. Richard Lloyd       | River Whitewater / Potbridge      |
| 9. Russ Hatchett       | Swallowfield Fishing Club         |
| 10. Dave Pearce        | "                                 |
| 11. Barney Fairbrother | "                                 |
| 12. Pete Timms         | 21 YOTAC                          |
| 13. Gorge Loades       | "                                 |
| 14. Paul Hawkins       | Cove Angling Society              |
| 15. Andy Thomas        | Wild Trout Trust                  |

### Apologies:

John Ellis, Peter Walker, Amanda Bassett, Wayne Russell, Peter Francis, Simon Bartlam, Phiala Mehring, Dave Cassell, Adrian Ellis, Paul Wyatt, Ian Crook, Rupert Newby, Colin Sweeby

**Next meeting date** Annual General Meeting: Thursday 21 July 2011

# **2011 Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Consultative Programme**

- 20 January – General Meeting: coarse fish habitat bottlenecks, Adrian Pinder APEM**
- 21 April General Meeting: Twyford riffles and backwater project, John Green TDFC**
- 6 May Attendance at Loddon Valley Residents Association Meeting
- 7 May Attendance at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Eastrop Park Basingstoke
- 17 June Loddon Valley Residents Association – Loddon walk with EA
- 21 July Arborfield visit – fish and wildlife bypass channel, backwater and Biodiversity Action Plan project, Annual General Meeting**
- Saturday 24 September Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Action Plan workshop**
- Tuesday 4 October Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Action Plan workshop**
- 10 October – Loddon Rivers Week (1d classroom and site visit options, 1d Gresham chalkstream project with Wild Trout Trust, 1d Blackwater LWD, 1d Arborfield, 1d Risley Backwater, 1d Eastrop Park, 1d Wokingham BC, 1d Swallowfield Fishing Club)**
- October 20 – General meeting subject to be confirmed**

## ACTIONS from 21 April 2011 meeting

DM – send invitations and programme for Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Action Plan Workshops

IW – check how to join ART and cost

DM – next meeting talks – Murray Thompson and Moragh Stirling

DR - check date with Andy Thomas and get back to DR

IW - get better maps to IW

## **LFCC meeting minutes**

1) Welcome and introduction - good evening and thank you. John Green to give presentation instead of Moragh Stirling, who has had to defer. As there are insufficient members present, we will defer the AGM to the following meeting.

### **2) Lower Loddon and St Patricks Stream river restoration and backwater project, John Green, Arron Mulvanny, Dave Joynson**

Twyford and District Fishing Club - backwater and 3 riffles on the St Patrick's Stream (main water)

Backwater - large depression, ditch, public footpath, low quality pasture, no cattle. Between Sonning and Wargrave. St Pats used to flow into Thames until weir built on Thames and flowed the other way. River downstream London Piscatorials. LHB owned by Cemex.

- 2 acres

- dig a big hole and connect to river to give fish from Loddon, Pats and Thames somewhere to hold up during floods

- install 3 riffles using gravel won from backwater

- riffle 3 poor stretch of river, measurements taken show profile lacking variation

Functions:

- refuge for small fish

- fishing improved on St Pats and Loddon

- Angling resource - 20 pegs

- Nature reserve

- Education - local schools

Channel 2m deep, but with no bridge due to red tape. Shape may change, waste biggest issue - clay and sand. AT - how long is the connecting channel? 25m, 8m wide. 100m by 200m. Big hole.

- anything impacting on floodplain not good, so keep levels and quantities the same. Andy Thomas – what about future maintenance especially after big flood,

can use flow deflectors to point flow into the mouth of the backwater. St Pats used to have good gradient.

#### Riffles

- improve water flow and reduce weed growth
- improve recruitment of fish

AT – NB pipe reed (*Schoenoplectus*) can grow in faster conditions. E.g. Stour and Dorset Allan

Paul Hawkins, Cove Angling deal with contractor check if any of the dug material can be used as a resource elsewhere/sold.

**St Pat's weir - long timbers installed to restrict water flow in the St Pats. Navigation planned on reducing flow in St Pats by installing weir c.15 years ago. Changes less significant after flooding.**

**AT - could do sweetening flow, one in one out and a riffle in between.**

Riffle cross sections are a carry on from the weir profile to keep the same volume.

#### Problems

- design - don't have a method
- using waste as a resource - lots of it, gravel, sand, top soil
- access for big machines - 15t max
- risks -
- permissions

#### Costs

#### What next

##### Permissions

Environment Agency - flood defence consent

Wokingham Borough Council - planning permission PH - may ask for site to be checked first.

#### Questions

RH - if connected to river does it fall under close season? JG - yes.

Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Action Plan – Ian Watson - when WFD conceived, no-one thought how to implement. Now 27 countries meeting to decide on what is an estuary. EA wheels grind slowly especially in current funding climate. IW is only available at times. Meet on 6 May to sort out.

- Need WFD Catchment Implementation Plan
- We need to concentrate on separating issues WFD and FCAP
- How big society will work?

- AT - going into rivers trusts or similar organisations in addition to EA
- need to get access via ART
- need to check with Angling Trust

Maybe more money

- offsetting. If impact, mitigate e.g. 10,000 Basingstoke homes = money for habitat or treatment works
- offsetting voluntary
- e.g. offsetting in Brazil 500mill dollars

River Corridor Survey

- to get put onto Loddon website
- has specific recommendations for maintenance work

September for FAP workshop, subject to information from Water Framework Directive. IW will set aside two week period for doing it. Late September.

DM points - IFM conference, fish survey.

Dates -

### **LFCC Programme for 2011**

**Thursday 21 July**

**September - IW to be away at the end of Sept, so need AC meeting then gap. Saturday 24 September, Thursday 29 September**

**Thursday October 20**

**Next talks Moragh and Murray**

DR - check date with Andy Thomas and get back to DR  
IW - get better map to IW

### **ACTIONS from January 2011 meeting**

1. DM to provide wish list to Thames Water for types of people and information for the workshop - **awaiting date**
2. PW to send example of consultation techniques.
3. Workshops - DM to put together and send invite, programme, options brief for techniques for effective consultation, learn lessons from past experience and ensure facilities present to deal with numbers on each day. **done**
4. All to respond with availability on each day, members can attend both.
5. IC to put calendar together, need targets. **Done**
6. DM to send FCAP info to RH and into FCAP folder on website **done**
7. DM to update members on progress of last meetings actions **done**
8. Change title of Loddon project to LCAP as majority agreed title should be Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Action Plan - **done**
9. FCAP date all agreed – **proposed Sat 24 September and Tuesday 4 October**
10. All: can interested Consultative members contact DM for 2011 spawning observations. The EA can provide a service on collection of data from spawning and nursery habitat for management and other purposes. Good data has been collected by fisheries from 2007 to 2010 and can be presented at a future meeting upon request.
11. DM to send Arborfield habitat mapping from Blackwater confluence to Arborfield
12. DM to send barbel report with assessment of scientific research on habitat use by barbel and other coarse fish. See reference page for more information
13. All - details for possible businesses and those not represented at meetings but with influence on stillwaters, canal and rivers and associated watercourses
14. DM to investigate following talk options: Dinton Pastures, 2010 Loddon Fisheries Survey, flood mapping talk discussed with team members and will be reported on soon, Basingstoke Canal fisheries and conservation, Arborfield from inception to completion – in progress
15. Site visit/events options - Thames Water, Arborfield, Whitewater chalkstream restoration, Maiden Erleigh, Basingstoke Canal, London Institute of Fisheries Management Sherry Evening Oct 2011 or other meetings, Loddon Valley Residents Association - **done**
16. DM to send FAPs approach and impetus **done**
17. DM to assist Adrian Ellis with Management Plan - **done**
18. Colin Sweeby CLP site visit - **planned**
19. Richard Lloyd site visit - **done**
20. Derek Brandt comms for workshop
21. Simon Bartlam contact re managing river habitats - **done**



## **Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Action Plan**

Purpose: This information outlines arrangements for the LFCC to conduct its Fisheries and Conservation Action Plan workshops in September/October 2011, provide examples to LFCC members of existing Fisheries Action Plans (FAPs) and provide a platform for effective consultation and partnership in the protection and improvement of water in the Loddon catchment.

### **Objectives**

Attend FCAP workshop and consult on issues and opportunities  
Draft FCAP for edit and approval  
Publication of Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Action Plan  
Do work and use plan as a mechanism to achieve a better environment for people and wildlife

### **Outputs**

Workshop  
LFCAP draft  
LFCAP published  
2011 to 2020 targets met (tbc)

### **Outcomes**

Inspire river restoration  
Improved environment and fisheries  
Improved environmental education and participation

### ***Fisheries and Conservation Action Plan Document check list (email Dominic Martyn if you do not have any of these)***

1. *FCAP Programme*
2. *Invite*
3. *Draft agenda*
4. *Consultation document - table of issues*
5. *Wey example*
6. *Other case studies - Kennet, Cherwell, Colne, Lee*

*Time: 09:00 to 16:30*

*Date 1: Saturday 24 September 2011*

*Date 2: Tuesday 4 October 2011*

*Location: tbc*

*Facilitators – Sue Dent, Tom Rolls, Amanda Bassett, Dominic Martyn..*

*Questions welcomed in advance to the steering group and responses to be provided in advance of meeting*

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