

**Minutes from the Havant Thicket Reservoir
Community Advisory Group**

Meeting presentations / discussions	Actions
<p>Attendees from Portsmouth Water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruari Maybank (RM), Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Director, Portsmouth Water • Eleanor Shipton (ES), Communications & Engagement Lead, Portsmouth Water • Joel Hufford (JH), Senior Communications Consultant, Create 51. <p>Other attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingrid Strawson (IS), Independent Chair of Havant Thicket Reservoir Strategic Advisory Group and Community Advisory Group. • Liz Brown (LB), Environment Lead, Atkins <p>Stakeholder attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Billam, Community First • Cllr Jackie Branson, Havant Borough Council / Hampshire County Council • Cllr Ann Briggs, Hampshire County Council • Cllr Liz Fairhurst, Hampshire County Council • Jim Farrell, Friends of Staunton Country Park • Cllr Beryl Francis, Havant Borough Council • Ron Hammerton, Horndean Protection Group • Sue James, Havant Climate Alliance • Linda Jewell, British Horse Society • Cllr Malcolm Johnson, East Hampshire District Council • Susan Parish, Park Community School • Carole Samuda, Havant Borough Council (Community team) • Jane Smith, Forestry England • Chris Stanley, Rowlands Castle Parish Council • Dee Tupper, Friends of the Hermitage Stream • Peter Westron, Ramblers Association. <p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Ashton, Cycling UK • Cllr Tony Denton, Havant Borough Council • Sally Foster, Havant Borough Council (Communications team) • Gareth Russell-Hughes, Project Manager, Agilia. <p><u>PLEASE ALSO SEE ATTACHED SLIDE PRESENTATION PACK</u></p>	

Welcome and Introductions

Ingrid Strawson opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. She expressed her gratitude to Havant Borough Council for use of the meeting room, for those joining the session 'face to face'.

Ingrid reminded attendees that the meeting was being recorded and that the minutes will be published on the public Havant Thicket Reservoir web pages – see <https://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk/new-reservoir/contact/library/>.

Ingrid explained that there had been a second interim stakeholder groups meeting held in early November 2021 and thanked everyone who attended.

Ingrid talked through the meeting agenda (See Slide 2 of attached pack), before asking everyone in the session (online or in person in Havant) to introduce themselves.

Finally, Ingrid ran through the actions from the previous meeting (30 September 2021) and explained the progress on these / how each had been addressed by the reservoir project team, as detailed in the Havant Thicket Reservoir Stakeholder Issues and Actions Log.

The minutes were accepted.

Agenda Item 1: Havant Thicket Reservoir project update

Please also see Slides 3-13 in the attached presentation pack from the meeting.

Ingrid handed over to Ruari Maybank, Havant Thicket Reservoir Project Director, for his project update.

He first reiterated that safety, of the public, staff and contractors, is the project's highest priority, especially on the reservoir site during site clearance and construction activity (See Slide 3).

Ruari went on to explain that the programme / timetable for the overall reservoir scheme is unchanged from the previous meeting (See Slide 4). He also added that Portsmouth Water is recruiting an 'in house' project management team, now that the scheme is moving into its construction phase.

At the previous round of stakeholder group meetings in September 2021, some stakeholders had requested details of the organisational structure for the Havant Thicket Reservoir team - See Slide 5. Ruari explained that he reports directly to Bob Taylor, CEO of Portsmouth Water, with the project management team predominantly made up of staff from consultancy Agilia Infrastructure Partners.

Of these colleagues, Gareth Russell-Hughes is looking after planning and environmental issues, John Reed is overseeing clearance work on the reservoir the site and Sam Donovan is looking after the Farlington Water Treatment Works to Nelson Service Reservoir.

Environmental and ecological expertise is being provided by sub-contractors, Ecosa and Five Rivers, with Atkins now working on certain aspects of planning, such as the reservoir's northern access route, and Tilhill contracted to complete the site clearance work, including tree removal.

Ruari reminded attendees that final planning permission for Havant Thicket Reservoir and its pipeline was granted in October, after Portsmouth Water signed the Section 106 legal agreement (See Slide 6). He also thanked everyone who was involved in helping secure planning permission, including members of the stakeholder groups through their input on the planning applications that were submitted. European Protected Species Licences,

covering bats and dormice, have been issued to the reservoir project, with pre-construction traffic management plans also progressed.

Ruari then went on to explain that full planning permission has been granted for certain aspects of the reservoir scheme, including the reservoir embankment's outer side and the site's northern access route. Outline planning permission has been granted for other aspects, such as the visitor centre and the reservoir pipeline (See Slide 7).

Next came an update on activity at the reservoir site since the previous main group meeting in late September 2021. Further detail is set out on Slide 8 of the attached pack, with tree removal work carried out at Middle Clearing, following initial inspections to ensure no wildlife was present. Tree removal work was stopped on 2 November 2021 for environmental reasons – the drop in temperatures leading to start of hibernation season, particularly for dormice.

Ruari gave a special mention in thanking the Stop the Chop group, who came up with the idea of identifying an additional 80 trees for relocation from the reservoir site. He explained that more than 80 trees were marked up on site, to allow for a number of trees that would not survive (See Slide 9).

Other works (See Slide 10) on site include maintenance of the 6,000 trees that have been planted at Gypsies Plain and Memory Park and habitat improvement on Forestry England's Havant Thicket woodland, under the reservoir scheme's environmental protection and mitigation plan.

Ruari then introduced a short video, which is available via Portsmouth Water's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNeyS8EsQX8>, setting out an overview of the environmental benefits of the scheme.

In terms of planning and future consents (See Slide 12), the project team are looking to progress improvements to the B2149, related to where Forestry England's logging road joins it. The logging road will be used for removing felled trees from the reservoir site. Work is also underway on the detailed environmental mitigation and compensation strategy for the reservoir scheme, along with the plan for woodland restoration at Southleigh Forest (land owned already by Portsmouth Water) – as part of the overall 200 hectares of woodland and grassland that will be created or restored through the reservoir scheme.

Finally, (See Slide 13), Ruari updated the meeting on two locations being considered for the site for 80 hectares of woodland creation / restoration (as part of the 200 hectares total). The reservoir team are working to secure the required land by Spring 2022.

He also reiterated the additional benefit that the reservoir will have, in terms of preventing nitrates from entering Langstone Harbour, something that is having an adverse impact on the harbour environment – for example, leading to algal blooms during warm weather. The reservoir will capture nitrate-rich spring water and so stop it flowing into the sea, as it otherwise would. Any nitrates in the reservoir would naturally settle to the bottom of the body of water and be absorbed into the surrounding soil where they, and other nutrients, would be taken up by surrounding trees and plants. Ruari stated that a fact sheet on this is being developed to provide more information for stakeholders and the wider public.

Ruari then answered questions from attendees.

Q&A section

Variety of questions raised about proposal for recycled water to potentially be used to top up Havant Thicket Reservoir during periods of drought. See further detail on this issue in an update from Southern Water in the AOB section, later in these minutes.

Responses being drafted and will be shared alongside these minutes in due course.

Agenda Item 2: Northern access route update

Please also see Slides 16-18 in the attached presentation pack from the meeting.

Liz Brown from Atkins provided an update on the detailed design of the northern access route for Havant Thicket Reservoir (See Slide 16). The planning permission granted for the reservoir stipulates that work on the northern access route - which will be 1,400 metres long and will follow the route of an existing forestry track for much of its length - must be completed before construction of the reservoir itself begins. This is because the northern access will be used for construction traffic. The above limitation excludes the initial site clearance work, which is already underway, with separate accesses agreed for this.

As part of the planning and consultation process, it was agreed that improvements need to be made to the B2149, where the northern access road route will connect to it (See Slide 17). The latest design includes a right turn filter lane for traffic heading south on the B2149 and entering to the reservoir site, with ongoing liaison with Hampshire County Council Highways and the local planning authorities.

In order for work to start on the northern access route, the construction design needs to be developed in much greater detail, with the team from Atkins focused on this currently. Liz explained that the design is being refined to minimise its footprint – i.e how much space the road would take up.

The majority of trees along the northern access route have been found to be non-native species, particularly turkey oaks. A number of other surveys, including for bats, also need to take place.

Up to ten trees will be affected by the northern access route being built and these have been identified in the planning application – they are all individual trees along the route where access / passing bays are needed. Where trees overhang the construction route, there will not be any excavation into the soil. Instead, a geo-grid which is backfilled with an aggregate will be used to install the road, to avoid impacting tree roots.

The ten trees that will need to be removed include small yew, a birch and an oak tree. These would likely be cleared in April or November 2022, which falls into bird nesting season, so there would be an ecologist on site to check each tree.

Multi-user access for the northern access route, such as cyclists, was looked at, but was not feasible, as it would involve widening the route, which would impact more trees and the local environment.

Liz also set out the forward timetable (See Slide 17) for the northern access route design, with engagement initially with Hampshire County Council's Highways and Ecology teams, before consultation with Forestry England and members of the reservoir stakeholder groups in the early part of 2022. The further planning applications will then be finalised and submitted in February and March.

A key part of the process is the development of a detailed Biodiversity Mitigation Compensation Strategy. This will also capture some of the offsite interventions.

**ACTION:
(JH)
Provide responses on water recycling queries.**

<p><u>Q&A section</u></p> <p>Question: Concerns raised about traffic turning right from the reservoir site onto the B2149. This could lead to a tailback on the reservoir’s northern access route. Would recommend a short section of two lanes for outgoing traffic, so there can be an option to turn either left or right easily.</p> <p>Answer: This point has been noted and will be feedback to the team working on the northern access route design.</p> <p>Question: Will there be measures to prevent the reservoir access routes, from the north to the south, being used as a rat-run?</p> <p>Answer: It is intended to have gates controlling access (from south to north, or vice versa) in the reservoir car park area, so it would not be possible to drive through from one side of the site to the other. The northern route will be for construction traffic when the reservoir is being built and for non-local visitors in the longer term. The southern access route will be for local users / visitors.</p> <p>Question: Will lorries coming out of the Holt (just north of the reservoir site, on the eastern side of the B2149) still be able to turn right onto the B2149?</p> <p>Answer: This point has been noted and will be raised with the team working on the northern access route design.</p> <p>Question: Queries on whether local Infrastructure Levy funding will be used to help ensure good connectivity for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders to the reservoir site. For example, £140,000 of allocated funding for sustainable connection between the Land East of Horndean development and the reservoir.</p> <p>Answer: The reservoir team agreed this is very encouraging news and advised that there is ongoing liaison on the issue of connectivity with the relevant authorities and stakeholders.</p> <p>Question: Could the northern and southern access routes be kept open for cyclists to use to cross the reservoir site?</p> <p>Answer: This point has been noted and will be raised with the team working on the access routes’ design.</p> <p><u>Agenda Item 3: Havant Thicket Reservoir Issues & Actions Log</u></p> <p>Ingrid talked through the updated Havant Thicket Reservoir Stakeholder Issues and Actions Log, which formally records all questions, comments and ideas from stakeholder groups members, together with responses from the reservoir project team. Ingrid explained that the format of the log has been revised to make it clearer what progress has been made to date on a particular issue, and what the next steps are. A copy of the log is being circulated for stakeholder groups members to review and comment on.</p> <p>Ingrid also updated the meeting on progress in setting up stakeholder sub-groups, to enable interested group members to explore particular issues or topics in greater depth, including further engagement with the reservoir project team. She reviewed the list of proposed sub-groups and the potential chairs for each (See Slide 21), adding that she has created a draft Terms of Reference for the sub-groups to work to, with the proposed Terms to be shared for comment. She has also had initial discussions with the proposed chairs of the sub-groups and plans to follow this up with a further call, with a view to the groups having their first meetings in the early part of 2022.</p>	<p>ACTION: (LB) To brief colleagues on this point.</p> <p>ACTION: (LB) To brief colleagues on this point.</p> <p>ACTION: (LB) To brief colleagues on this point.</p> <p>ACTION: (GRH) To report back on how this funding integrates with reservoir project plans.</p>
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Q&A section

Question: Could we please make sure the filters are in place on all columns of the Issues Log?

Answer: Taken as an action.

Agenda Item 5: AOB

Sam Underwood from Southern Water provided an update on developing proposals for new sustainable water resources for Hampshire – to protect the county’s chalk streams and maintain supplies to customers, especially during drought.

In summary, the revised plans would involve:

- Building a new pipeline to transport more water from Havant Thicket Reservoir to Southern Water’s Otterbourne Water Supply Works
- Using an innovative technology called water recycling to maintain levels in the reservoir, so there is more water available.

Southern Water submitted updated proposals to regulators on 6 December 2021, with the plans now being reviewed in detail. More detail on the submission can be found on the Southern Water website via the following link: <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/our-story/water-for-life-hampshire/latest-updates>.

A draft decision from water industry regulator Ofwat on the proposals is due to be published on 1 March next year, with a final decision to follow on 17 May 2022.

As with any proposals for the future, should these ideas progress further, they would be subject to public consultation and further scrutiny / approval from regulators and Government. They would also require planning permission in their own right.

Sam also explained some additional targeted qualitative and quantitative customer and stakeholder research is taking place, with the results feeding into the above water resources proposals. The research has involved 200 Portsmouth Water (water supply) customers, as well as Southern Water (water supply customers. More detail will be presented at the next main stakeholder group meetings in late February / early March 2022.

Lastly, Joel explained that the plan is to move the date for the next group meeting back a week to early March in order to avoid half term.

Meeting close

Ingrid Strawson closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for their contributions.

She reiterated the change of date for the February meeting (now on 3 March, not 24 February), to avoid clashing with the school half-term holidays.

PLEASE SEE SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM MEETING BELOW

Meeting actions

<u>Action</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Date to be completed</u>
Provide responses on water recycling queries and to offer tours of Southern Water’s Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works in Havant	Joel Hufford	As soon as possible, with update provided for next group meeting on 28 February 2022

ACTION: (ES) To update Issues and Actions log filter settings.

for those wishing to gain a more detailed understanding.			
<p>To brief colleagues at Atkins on the concerns raised regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vehicles turning right out of the Northern Access route onto the B2149 - Measures to prevent the reservoir access routes, from the north to the south, being used as a rat-run - Lorries coming out of the Holt (just north of the reservoir site, on the eastern side of the B2149) still be able to turn right onto the B2149 - The potential for the northern and southern access routes be kept open for cyclists to use to cross the reservoir site. 	Liz Brown	As soon as possible, with update provided for next group meeting on 28 February 2022	
Local infrastructure funds are being made available to provide sustainable connections between Land East of Horndean (LEOH) development and the reservoir site. Report back on how these will integrate into the project plans.	Gareth Russell-Hughes	Update for next group meeting on 28 February 2022	
Restore the filter settings in the issues and actions log.	Eleanor Shipton	For next version of log to be issued – ahead of 25 January 2022 interim stakeholder groups meeting.	