

Minutes of South Wiltshire Agenda 21 Forum
6:30pm, City Hall, Salisbury
15th June 2006

No	Item
	<p>Present: Ruth Popplestone, Chair, Pam Rouquette, Vice-chair, Lis Woods (minutes). Rosemary Allen (Harnham Watermeadows), Andrew Baldrey (Sarum Solar), Ralph Bryder (T2000), Anne Case (FoE), Roger and Kirsty Dudin (Biodiversity Group), Martin Gilchrist (WWT), Robina Hattersley (St Thomas' Eco-congregation), Phillip Hewett, Megan and Sheryll Jerred, Rachel Lucas (Fair Trade and Trade Justice), Angela Macquiban (Sarum College), Catherine Mitchell (Women's Environmental Network), Jane Pelly (Fair Trade), Rachel Ross, Robin Russell, Rona Shellabear (FoE), Richard Speirs, Tony West (St Edmunds Community Assoc.), Margaret Willmot (T2000).</p>
1.	<p>Welcome and introductions Ruth welcomed all present, some for the first time, and Martin in his role as speaker.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies: Cllr John Brady, Cllr Dennis Brown, Ariane Crampton (SDC), Mary Dickson, Graham Rendel.</p>
3.	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting – The minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2006 were signed as a true record, subject to two changes: list of those present should say Women's Environmental Network, not Fellowship; item 5, dates of Salisbury Show should be July, not June.</p>
4.	<p>Matters Arising Green Business Award The article on the Award had appeared in the Journal's special business publication in June, with a centre spread devoted to green business. Copies had gone to local businesses.</p>
5.	<p>Action 21 Issue 5. Members were invited to take copies for distribution in places where they would come to public attention, such as GP surgeries.</p>
6.	<p>Salisbury Show, 8-9 July (set-up 7 July from 3pm). Pam confirmed there would be no marquee for Agenda 21 and affiliated groups, instead, there would be a central space for sustainable living surrounded by gazebos containing displays and leaflets. The open area would contain a pond, solar panels, real nappies on a washing line, composting and wild flowers. The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust would be fielding their composting, recycling and energy teams. There would be a quiz for children. Pam requested more volunteers to help prepare for and run the event.</p>
7.	<p>New project proposal – Freecycle Rachel Ross explained that Freecycle was a network of websites originating in America, a Salisbury group had been set up by Eric, a student at Salisbury College. It is a free exchange of goods, Any item could be advertised, provided it was decent, legal and free. Recent examples included a computer monitor, a cat scratching post, a cast iron toilet system and a pile of bricks. "Wanted" ads were also allowed, though not encouraged. To join up (free), it was necessary to sign up to a Yahoo group. This could be accessed via www.freecycle.org, following links to UK, Wiltshire, Salisbury, Join. Or via http://groups.yahoo.com/group/salisbury-freecycle.org.</p>
8.	<p>Presentation: River Avon and Avon Valley Initiative by Martin Gilchrist, Salisbury Wildlife Project Officer, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (An edited version of Martin's presentation is attached.) The project was still subject to approval by the Heritage Lottery Fund regional committee on 20 June. Questions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the project address agricultural and industrial pollution ? – No, the project was aimed at publicly accessible areas. Other projects targeted specific groups, for example the Environment Agency's Land Care Project worked with farmers. • Was the Ebble Valley part of the project or of the special conservation area? If not, could the SAC boundary be extended to include it, as it was a habitat for whorl-snails – No to both. SAC boundaries were fixed, and Europe adhered closely to the definitions. However, whorl-snails had protection in their own right.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What about the Nadder, Wylde and Bourne valleys? – All were included in the project, which was based on the catchment area as a whole. • Would there be a public announcement after the HLF meeting on 20 June? – Probably, but this was a matter for English Nature, who led the partnership. • How far back from the riverbank would the project extend? – Not yet decided, but the aim was to increase connectivity between the river and the flood plain. The project would work with landowners, not in isolation. • Name of the lead official at Salisbury District Council? – Robin Townsend, Head of Community Initiatives. • Who should be told of outbreaks of Japanese knotweed? The project would provide a central point for a catchment-wide data base. Plantlife in Rolleston Street had launched a nation-wide invasive plants initiative – packs could be had from them . • How would gravel be cleaned? – Using a high-powered hose. The project aimed to restore energy lost with the end of glacial meltwater, thus recreating natural meanders in artificially straightened river stretches. • Low water flows had led to algal bloom and cloudy rivers. Individuals could follow Down the Drain guidance on water saving and avoiding use of phosphates and washing up liquid. But Wessex Water also needed to be more proactive. – Wessex Water had said it would tackle low flows, not clear how. The project would help by collecting more systematic data than at present. • Were there fewer small springs due to climate change? – Some evidence of winterbournes being dry in winter. The project, while not solving the problem, could grip distribution better and raise awareness. Wessex Water or the Environment Agency might know more. • Any links with flood data project (Water, Water Everywhere)? – In touch with this. Scope different – they are creating a cultural archive. • Should more trees be planted on the Plain to conserve water? This would have costs. – Possibly, though there were conflicting priorities, with major felling recently. <p>Ruth thanked Martin for a clear and interesting talk, highlighting opportunities for local involvement.</p> <p>Any other Business</p> <p>Local Works – a new pressure group campaigning for a sustainable communities Bill. Further information at www.localworks.org or 94 White Lion Street London N1 9PF. On the recommendation of SWA21 committee, the Forum passed a motion of support for the campaign. Proposer: Martin Gilchrist. Seconder: Margaret Willmot. Ruth suggested members might also wish to write as individuals to their MP.</p> <p>Vision for Salisbury – SDC consultation on how Salisbury would look in 10-20 years’ time, concentrating on the Maltings, Churchfields, Southampton Road and the Market Square and Guildhall. Ruth said Agenda 21 had been well represented at the open event at the Red Lion Hotel. Further information and access to e-bulletin on Salisbury.gov.uk/vision.</p> <p>Women’s Environmental Network – fliers were available. Morning meetings in Paul’s Dene. Men were not excluded, but the focus was on young mothers.</p> <p>Hills recycling centre (Compton Bassett) – Camilla Timms at the Wildlife Trust could organise a visit. Those wishing to attend should notify Pam.</p> <p>Recycling directories – available for Downton, expected soon for Wilton.</p> <p>CVS summer training programme – now available.</p> <p>Plastic postal wallets – how to recycle? – Give to dog owners to pick up dog mess. Or post to Polyprint Mailing Films, Mackintosh Road, Rackheath Industrial Estate, Norwich NR13 6LJ.</p> <p>Plastic bottle tops – no longer being collected by Naomi House. To be put into normal recycling.</p> <p>Bourne Hill project – listed building application now going to the Government Office for the South West. Opponents should write to the GOSW and to Ruth Kelly at the Department for Communities and Local Government (formerly ODPM). Full business plan will go to SDC on 26 June, when there will be a demo.</p> <p>10. Date of next meeting: Thursday 19th. October, City Hall 6.30pm. Subject: Energy Conservation.</p> <p>Contacts: Ruth Popplestone-01722 327383, Pam Rouquette-pamrouquette@hotmail.com</p>
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River Avon & Avon Valley Initiative



A Partnership led by English Nature & including

- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
- Hampshire Wildlife Trust
- Wessex Water
- Environment Agency



River Avon & Avon Valley Initiative



The River Avon system lies in Wiltshire, Dorset and Hampshire. It supports habitats and species listed in UK and local BAPs, and is of national and international importance, with SSSI, SAC and SPA designations.



River Avon & Avon Valley Initiative



A sustainable future for wildlife and people

River Avon & Avon Valley Initiative

Threats to the Avon System



River Avon SAC Conservation Strategy identified these threats:

- Over-engineered river channels lacking natural habitats and dynamic functions
- Low flows caused by a range of factors including licensed abstractions
- Pollution by a range of licensed discharges and unlicensed/diffuse sources
- Built development that increases pressure on the river system either directly or indirectly (e.g. by increasing demand on water resources)
- **Loss of habitats adjacent to the river, reducing connectivity between wetland habitats and the river**
- **Invasive plants that occur throughout the catchment, currently at low levels but likely to increase significantly in the near future unless controlled**
- **Lack of community engagement which can be defined as**
 - **lack of public access to, understanding of and appreciation of the river system**
 - **lack of engagement between communities living near the river and those responsible for its management**

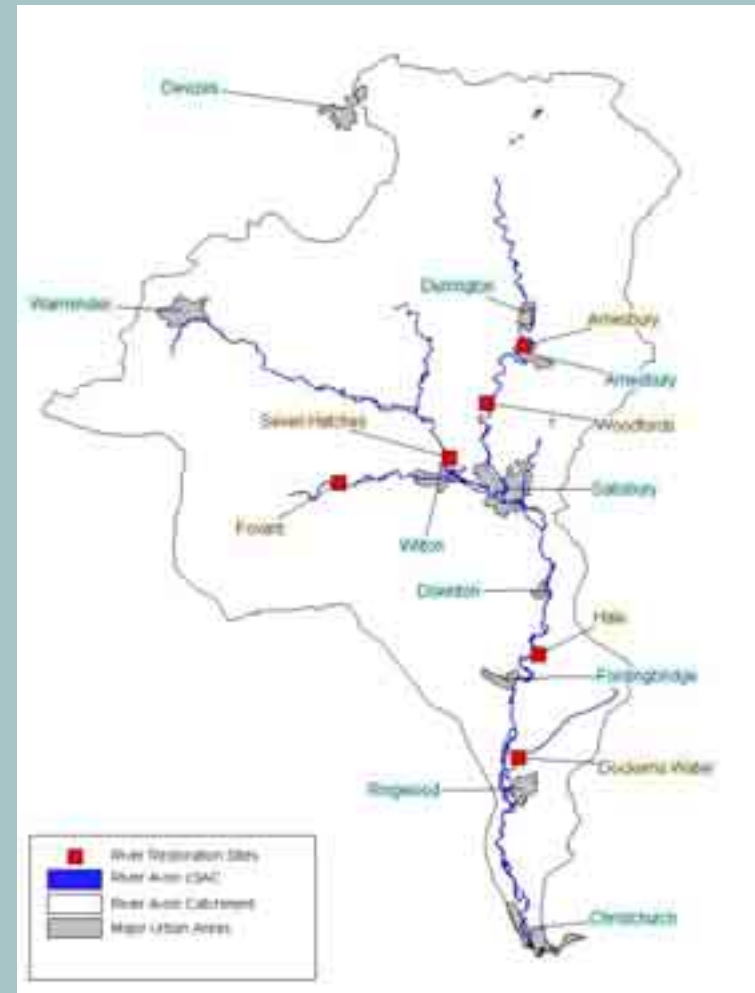


European LIFE Funding - £1.2m



Strategic River Restoration at

- Upper Woodford
- Amesbury
- Fovant
- Hale
- Blashford
- 7 Hatches
- focussing on restoration of the SAC



HLF bid – The Living River- £1.2m



The overall goal is of the Living River Project is:

A healthy River Avon system that is valued by everyone living and working in the catchment.

Three Programmes

- Biodiversity
 - Access and Interpretation
 - Education and Training
- Partners for this project are EN, WWT, HWT, EA, SDC and Salisbury Festival – many more are involved too.



The Living River



The Living River Project is based on Audience Development, Access and Conservation Plans produced under an HLF Project Planning Grant

It will target four audiences:

- river managers
- Users
- influencers
- wider public

and will involve them throughout the project in restoring, monitoring and making decisions about the natural heritage.

Communities will be involved in all the activities carried out in their area, and volunteers participation will be encourages wherever possible.



The Living River Biodiversity



Salisbury City Centre

Blashford

Amesbury

Bickerley Common, Ringwood

Laverstock

Porton

Invasive Plants Programme



Salisbury City Centre



- The Maltings rivers & a new reedbed
- Churchill Gardens
- Avon Valley LNR - reedbed
- Harnham Recreation Ground





A sustainable future for wildlife and people

The Living River Access & Interpretation

Access and Interpretation – creating and enhancing physical and intellectual access to the natural heritage across the river system

3 Gateways

12 River Network Sites

32 Local Sites

6 Welcome Points



The Living River Access & Interpretation



Gateways - where large numbers of people can access and enjoy the natural heritage of the river without impacting upon it.



The Living River Access & Interpretation



Local sites -
where the
communities local
space is tied in
with the river





The Living River Access & Interpretation

- Major access works at Blashford
- Access at other locations
- Programme of events / talks / activities
- Collaboration with Salisbury Festival
 - Performance / sculpture / audio archive
- Water Festival in Salisbury
- Work with Libraries, schools
- Website



The Living River Education & Training



The project will provide education, events and resources, and offer training opportunities to help people understand their relationship with the river system and take responsibility for it.



The Living River Education & Training



Accredited training

- Species identification (river monitoring and invasive plants)
- Practical skills
- Health and Safety Skills

Guided activities

- Practical restoration projects – theory and practice
- Biological recording and monitoring

Mentored training

- Training local volunteers to deliver water conservation and heritage conservation messages within their local communities



The Living River Education & Training



Accessible information

- Information at sites across catchment in various forms
- Website

Accessible public activities

- Guided walks & talks on natural & cultural heritage
- River themed events at gateway sites
- Events linking natural and cultural heritage – e.g. watermeadows and mills



The Living River Education & Training



Targeted opportunities

- Water conservation demonstrations through a mobile exhibit to tour schools and libraries
- Provision of information through interpretive materials

Resources Provided to Local Communities

- Creation of story sacks as a resource for local schools / play groups / libraries / social groups such as cubs
- Water games for local schools / play groups / libraries / (e.g. River Avon catchment twister)
- Fish tanks (linked to Wessex Salmon and River Trust)

