

Lincolnshire Reservoir – Community Liaison Group

27 March 2024

Present:

Chair: Charles Campion (CC)

Anglian Water Project Team

Attendee name (initials)	Role/Specialism
Catherine Bruce (CB)	Human Health Assessment
Greg Phillimore (GP)	Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation
Isabella Norman (IN)	Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation
Jack Lister (JL)	Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation
Jenny Wade (JW)	Human Health Assessment Lead
Kate Wagg (KW)	Environmental Impact Assessment Specialist
Kelly Linay (KL)	Stakeholder Lead
Laura Underhill (LH)	Stakeholder Engagement Manager
Liam Gullis (LG)	Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation
Linda Elliot (LE)	Regional Affairs Manager

Attendees

Attendee name	Organisation
Andrew Hagues	Lincolnshire County Council
Chris Close	Sleaford Wheelers
Elaine Penketh	Swaton Parish Council
Geoff Hotchkin	Helpringham Parish Council
Geoff Mullet	Ramblers: Lincolnshire
Helen Earley	Threkingham Parish Council
John Johnson	Scredington Parish Council
Julie Close	Sleaford Wheelers
Karen Sweeny	Scredington Parish Council
Keith Laidler	Lincolnshire Geographic Association
Luisa McIntosh	North Kesteven District Council
Mark Robinson	Helpringham Parish Council
Murray Turner	South Kesteven District Council
Michael Coy	Burton Pedwardine and Burton Gorse Parish Council
Russell Jackson	North Kesteven District Council
Sally Tarry	North Kesteven District Council
Sara Marchant	Burton Pedwardine and Burton Gorse Parish Council
Tony Lyon-Marrion	Threkingham Parish Council
Will Watts	Helpringham Parish Council

Time:	7pm – 9.15pm	
Location:	New Life Conference Centre, 25 Mareham Lane, Sleaford NG34 7JP	
Welcome and introduction		
The project team led by KL introduced themselves to the group’s members, noting their areas of expertise.		
Introduction of the Chair		
<p>KL welcomed CC as the elected Lincolnshire Reservoir CLG Chair.</p> <p>CC then addressed the group as Chair and provided an overview of his professional background. CC also touched on his strong connection and knowledge of the area, having grown up in Lincolnshire and now residing in Swaton.</p> <p>Afterwards, KL recapped the duties of the chair for the group.</p>		
Review of previous CLG meeting		
<p>CC reviewed the agenda and actions recorded from the last CLG. All actions recorded from the last CLG have been actioned.</p> <p>CC also enquired whether the group had any further thoughts on the last CLG’s minutes. Attendees had no further comment on the minutes. However, the Chair noted that in some cases outstanding questions were not recorded as official actions and requested that in the future this is done.</p> <p>In line with the Chair’s request and in preparation for the meeting, questions, and topics of interest from the last CLG, which were not recorded as actions, were addressed within the pre-submitted questions section of the meeting. Therefore, no actions or question are outstanding from the first CLG.</p> <p>KL agreed the project should be quicker in responding to attendees’ questions following meetings, with one attendee highlighting it had taken three months to receive a full reply to questions submitted after the first CLG.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>AW to note all outstanding questions as actions and make it clear whose responsibility it is to provide a response to such questions, when preparing the CLG’s minutes. Timely responses to be prepared.</p>		KL
Project update		
<p>KL provided members with a project update by mapping out and talking through the project’s progress to date and future key milestones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the last CLG, AW has been progressing the project’s masterplan, continuing to engage stakeholders, engaging landowners, carrying out environmental assessments and assessing associated water infrastructure options. • KL also highlighted that AW acknowledges that they didn’t always get everything right during the phase one surveys last year. This has been addressed and AW is committed to ensuring this improves moving forward. 		

A number of questions arose during this section of the meeting. These were addressed by KL and other AW team members. In cases where questions could not be answered in full, AW took actions to take away the questions and investigate further.

Questions included:

1. How will the group know when the DCO has been submitted?
AW will notify members when the DCO application has been submitted. Members can also sign up for updates from the Planning Inspectorate via their website.
2. When will the reservoir be completed?
The reservoir is expected to be completed by 2040.
3. What happens in the period between examination and construction?
During this period, AW will be preparing for the construction phase of the project. The team may also have to complete further work in this period dependent on the examiner's comments, including discharging any planning conditions.
4. How will AW consult in the second phase of consultation?
Methods of consultation in this second phase will be similar to the first phase of consultation. AW will be hosting events in local venues, where members of the community can come and talk to us. AW will also be arranging a number of pop-ups, in busy and frequented areas. The consultation will also be publicised on digital platforms as well as in print (postcards, newspaper adverts, posters).
It was explained a more thorough response would be given in the 'Approach to consultation' section of the meeting. For reference, and for those who could not attend, please refer to the CLG slides.

Questions submitted in advance

KL then proceeded to review the questions submitted in advance by the group, with the assistance of KW and other members, where appropriate.

Pre-submitted questions and relevant answers were as follows:

5. Can you provide an update on the Residential Property Support Scheme (RPSS)?
The Residential Property Support Scheme will assist those directly affected by the reservoir who wish to sell their property.
The residential property support scheme is still being finalised and will be launched to coincide with the second phase of consultation.
6. Can you provide an update on the associated development that is required for the operation of the reservoir?
An update on the associated development that is required for the operation of the reservoir will be available in the second phase of consultation.
7. How will the River Witham fill the reservoir?
Detail regarding how the River Witham will be used to supply the reservoir will be available in the second phase of consultation.

8. Can you provide an update on the emergency drawdown procedure, and if transferring water into channels would affect surrounding communities as the area already experiences flooding?

Detail on the emergency drawdown procedure will be available in the second phase of consultation.

9. Why is this CLG meeting being held in a venue outside of the affected area?

It was agreed that the location of CLG events would be rotated amongst venues in the surrounding area. This was agreed so that, on average, members travel comparable distances over a series of events. Additionally, whilst Sleaford will not host the reservoir itself, it is still considered to be within the project area given the size of the development and its close proximity to the site.

However, KL suggested that if there was preference from the group to hold future CLGs at Screddington this would be done. She proposed that we ask all members outside of the meeting to highlight their preference.

KL

10. If and when will a 3D model be available for the project?

A 3D model will not be available until a much later stage of the project. However, in the second phase of consultation AW will provide visualisations of the reservoir which should help better understand scale and design.

11. What information can you provide at this time about the emergency drawdown procedure?

Detail on the emergency drawdown procedure will be available in the second phase of consultation.

In reviewing and answering the group's pre-submitted questions, another range of questions from members were raised.

Questions included:

12. Is the Residential Property Support Scheme only for residents directly affected by the reservoir project i.e. those within the actual site area?

Yes, only those who are within the reservoir site location itself will be eligible for the RPSS. It was also noted that AW has no obligation to provide this scheme but has chosen to do so in order to support affected homeowners. CLG members then expressed an interest in a secondary scheme to support those who are indirectly affected by the project. AW will take this away for consideration.

13. Will the proposals include any plans for alterations to roads?

The consultation will give an indication of local roads affected by the reservoir and early thinking on ways in which these could be managed.

14. Is the application for the reservoir a single DCO application, or will there be multiple applications for each element of the associated water infrastructure?

The application for DCO will be one single application comprising the reservoir and the associated water infrastructure.

15. Has AW consulted those affected by associated water infrastructure?

As of 27 March, AW had not consulted with landowners who will be affected by associated water infrastructure. Engagement with these landowners will start prior to the phase two consultation.

16. Can we have a 3D model view / artists impression of the reservoir from the lowest point?

This is to be referred to the masterplanning team. This ask may not be able to be achieved by the second phase of consultation and if this is the case AW will follow up with a rendering from a lower angle at a later point.

17. How much water would be dispersed in the event of the emergency drawdown procedure being used?

The reservoir will be lowered by a meter during EDD testing, but specific volumes are to be confirmed by the engineering team. Information will be available at the phase two consultation.

18. Has an emergency drawdown ever been used before by a reservoir in the UK?

The AW team in attendance could not answer whether a UK reservoir has needed to use its EDD procedure. This will be referred to the engineering team for clarification.

19. It's been reported that Thames Water's proposed Abingdon reservoir could raise groundwater levels by 1 metre. Could the Lincolnshire reservoir have a similar impact?

The AW team in attendance could not answer this. This will be referred to the engineering team for clarification.

20. Will the second phase of consultation go ahead even if not all information required is available?

The project team is confident the consultation will go ahead as planned with the intended information available.

Actions:

- **AW to consider members' request for whether a scheme to support those who are indirectly affected by the project could be made available.**
- **AW to ask CLG members where they would like future meetings to be held**

Questions to be followed up by AW:

- **Can a 3D model view / artists impression of the reservoir from the lowest point be provided?**
- **How much water would be released during an EDD procedure?**
- **Has EDD ever been used before on another reservoir in the UK?**
- **Reported that Thames Water's proposed Abingdon reservoir could raise groundwater levels by one metre. Could the Lincolnshire reservoir have a similar impact?**

The plan for engagement

Presentation by GP outlining the plan for engagement during the second phase of consultation.

Questions posed to the group for discussion and consideration were:

- Are there any additional methods for engagement?
- Who/which groups do you think are seldom heard?
- How could AW make the consultation easier to engage with for these groups?

The group engaged with the subject and provided AW with a number of suggestions to consider.

Suggestions included:

AW's presence or involvement at a number of events and festivals:

- Swaton Show/egg throwing competition.
- Heckington Show.
- Newark Garden Show.
- Folkingham historic events, hosted by Folkingham History.

Popular areas for pop ups:

- Sleaford Tesco.
- Sleaford Leisure Centre.
- Farmer's markets.

Engaging older generations:

- Luncheon Club in Helpringham.
- It was expressed that older generations are less likely to use platforms such as email, so ensuring a phone number is clearly present on consultation materials is important.

Engaging with a number of groups and clubs:

- National Autistic Society.
- Local mental health charities.
- Dementia groups.
- Armed forces veterans.
- New mum groups.
- New Life Mosaic Club.
- Helpringham Guides.

Utilising councils:

- Consistent messages to all councils should be prioritised.
- Councillors raised that there are a number of small areas which are affected by the reservoir plans and suggest utilising councils, as they will have personal contact, relationships, or knowledge of the people within their area.

Engaging young people:

- Schools should be considered a component of consultation to help ensure AW engages with younger generations.
- Student Council.
- School breakfast clubs.

Education:

- Some members reported misinformation from estate agents. Given this, could AW provide education to estate agents and similar professions whose work will be impacted by the reservoir?
- As the project is responding to the need to secure future water supply, it was suggested that AW should educate people in the area on efficient water use.

Facebook groups and online forums.

- AW representatives to be included in Facebook groups, to answer questions and stop speculation from members.

Utilising local media outlets:

- The Voice.
- Local Lives.
- NK News.
- LCC County News.

Some felt that postcard drop, and leaflets are highly effective.

It was suggested that seeing case studies of similar style reservoirs would be a useful way of contextualising the project.

During this session members also took the opportunity to share their thoughts on the purpose of the CLG in a broad sense, and the role of consultation.

Some members questioned the specific purpose of the group and shared concerns over a lack of information provided at this stage of the project.

In response KL explained AW is grateful for members’ patience and noted the project will be able to provide a fuller update at the phase two consultation. The next CLG will take place during the consultation so can be used to look at the updated proposals in more detail.

Some members sought assurance that the consultation would be meaningful and not a “tick box exercise”.

In response GP assured members that consultation feedback was carefully considered and that there was a specific pre-application requirement for AW to have regard to feedback. He added that how feedback was considered and responded to would be included in consultation reports, which would be available publicly.

CC added that the group has an important role to play in bringing questions and concerns from the community to AW’s attention. He noted the frustration of the group in not getting full answers to questions raised at the meeting, but commented he was hopeful the next consultation would provide more detail.

Human Health Assessment

JW led the Human Health Assessment and encouraged the group to share their thoughts on potential health impacts and opportunities as part of the project.

Potential health impacts raised by the group included:

- Loss of existing travel routes and travel limitations, which could consequently cause stress to drivers. Frequently travelled routes, such as those to local schools, should be considered when planning construction.
- Stress occurred to the community during the planning stage due to uncertainty.
- The potential effects of noise, dust, disruption and pollution during construction.
- An affected group might be those with asthma, with consideration to air pollution.
- It was also noted that there is a prevailing wind from the west. This raised concerns about dust travelling to surrounding villages during construction, and the subsequent impact this could have on health.
- The health of CLG members in relation to stress caused by resident’s desire for information and the lack of information being supplied to CLG members via the meetings themselves. Opportunity for some of this stress to be alleviated through clearer communication. For instance, notifying members that updates on the project are going to be limited so they can manage parishioners’ expectations.
- The mental health of farmers and leisure groups might also be affected due to the current uncertainty on the plans for the reservoir.

Health opportunities as part of the project included:

- Opportunities for recreation - some members said it is important that leisure infrastructure is included at the earliest opportunity, so that the community can enjoy the reservoir straight away, even if other areas are still under construction. Suggestions for recreation facilities included cycle tracks, horse riding, walking routes and water sports such as sailing.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members said educational facilities and opportunities should be included in the reservoir. • Using the reservoir to improve local roads and access to the reservoir was considered an opportunity. This included ensuring there was sufficient parking and welfare facilities within the design, and that those with physical disabilities were also carefully considered. • Some members said in the longer term if the reservoir was an attractive location, it could add value to the houses in the surrounding area. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AW to share Health Impact Assessment questions for members to provide further feedback on, should they wish. 	
<p>Additional questions and actions</p>	
<p>Following this session, a series of further questions were raised by the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some members reported they had signed-up for the project e-newsletter but had not received it. In response GP assured members e-newsletters are being issued and agreed to take details of email addresses to check the newsletter database. • A discussion followed about whether AW could add members to the database to automatically receive updates. GPfol advised that due to data-use regulations, individuals must sign-up and cannot be added. • CC requested that AW distribute instructions to CLG members on how to subscribe to the project e-newsletter. <p>A question followed about how much the reservoir would cost and whether this would add to customer bills. KL advised the current estimate is approximately £2 billion for the reservoir and associated water infrastructure. She confirmed that all new water infrastructure investments are passed on to bill payers, so there would be an increase in water bills. The exact increase was not known at this time.</p> <p>A member added this was more than Thames Water’s investment in the proposed Abingdon Reservoir. Other expressed dissatisfaction that the investment in the new Lincolnshire reservoir would add to costs for bill payers.</p> <p>A member added that the attending AW team has not been able to answer all members’ questions and asked that this is considered for future meetings, as it was disappointing. Technical specialists, including reservoir engineers, were considered important for future meetings.</p> <p>Members asked who the senior leader was for the project and if they could also attend future meetings. KL advised this was Mark Malcolm who is closely involved in the development of the project and who attended community events in the first consultation. He is happy to attend a future meeting.</p> <p>The AW team agreed to consider the request for engineers and project leadership to join future CLGs.</p>	

A question was also asked on soil movements to construct the embankments and the potential effects of this on communities and local roads. The AW team agreed to investigate this and provide more information on the subject at the phase two consultation and at future CLGs.

Actions

- **AW to redistribute the newsletter sign up link.**
- **AW to investigate individual cases where newsletters are not being received.**
- **AW to provide information on how construction phase of the project could affect local communities – particularly relating to soil movement and how the impact of this could be mitigated.**
- **AW to consider and, where possible, organise senior AW representation at future CLGs.**
- **AW to consider and, where possible, organise representation from the AW engineering team at future CLGs.**

Close

CC fielded any last questions from members and revisited the earlier point regarding holding future CLG meetings at Screddington Village Hall.

Attendees voted in favour of future CLG meetings being held at Screddington assuming the hall would be available.

CC thanked attendees and the meeting came to a close.

Actions

- **AW to share minutes and slides from the meeting.**
- **Attendees to continue to share relevant information with their organisations and gather feedback as representatives. Feedback can be shared via the project mailbox prior to the next session.**
- **AW to organise date and location for the next CLG**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: June/July TBC