

THE RIVER STOUR (KENT) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held at 14:00 on Thursday 10 November 2022
at Chartham Village Hall, Station Road, Chartham CT4 7HZ

PRESENT

Mr G R Steed (Chairman), Cllr M J Burgess (Vice Chairman), Mr P S Dunn, Ms N H Dyas, Mr G Holdstock, Mr P N Howard, Cllr P D Jull, Cllr M Sole, Mr M P Wilkinson and Mr P Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P Dowling (Clerk & Engineer), Mr J Dilnot (Engineering Assistant), Mr S Revell (Water Level Controller) and Mr J Williamson (Technical Assistant).

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Mr G Holdstock to the Board and to his first meeting. He further welcomed Mr D Thompson (Environment Agency), Dr D Price (Technical Advisor, Environment Agency) and Mr M Thomas (Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership – KSCP).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Crow-Brown (Deputy Vice Chairman), Mr D M Botting, Cllr A Buchanan, Cllr M D Conolly, Mr D J Fuller, Ms A Lynch, Cllr N Ovenden, Cllr D Smith, Cllr G B Sparks and Mr L Woollorton. Apologies for absence were also received from Ms Ana Eastwood (Finance & Rating Officer) and Mr D Godden (Rhino Plant Hire).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman declared a landownership interest in relation to Steed Stop mentioned on the Structures' replacement plan as one of the structures to be replaced in the future. There were no other declarations of interest.

UPDATE ON THE BIODIVERSITY ACTIONS BY MARTIN THOMAS – KSCP

Mr Thomas reported that he has surveyed several watercourses using a standard method developed a little while ago, involving looking at plant communities, priority and indicator species and lots of other things. He commented that this is quite time consuming and in future plans more targeted surveys so he can concentrate on more enhancement projects. As an example, Mr Thomas mentioned the post-desilt survey carried out on IDB 108 which looked at the recovery of the channel and checked that the management procedures were followed. Mr Thomas shared a picture of the Ash Level Feed and stated that there is tubular water dropwort downstream from here at Goldstone Farm.

Enhancement projects

- Tree planting at Pig Brook (IDB7) by KSCP volunteers to reduce in-channel vegetation through shading which will create greater silt scouring to increase White Clawed Crayfish (WCC) habitat, as one of the very few populations in the area can be found just upstream – WCC rely on bare gravel and cobbles to hide under, and they do not thrive as well in silty channels.
- Parrot's Feather removal at Wade Marsh (IDBs 114 & 142) work continued to clear this invasive weed and a substantial reduction has been achieved. The Technical Assistant has used the drone to help identify the worst locations.

- The azolla management project has continued in the Lower Stour marshes using weevils with some success already recorded. The Clerk & Engineer stated that duck weed replaced azolla in areas where the latter had been removed and he asked what can be done to tackle this. Mr Thomas replied that this is an indication of high nutrients, and it just needs to be flushed through. Ms Thompson stated that pollution booms were used at Gazen Salts Nature Reserve to contain duck weed.
- East Kent Beaver Advisory Group – Mr Thomas has attended some of this group’s meetings and attended training on beaver ecology and field surveying techniques.
- External funding was secured for watercourse enhancements through the AONB for farming in protected landscapes. Some of this funding was allocated to enhancements on Long Reaches (IDB30) – culvert re-setting, re-naturalisation of a section between Branch Road and the A28 through meandering or scallops to narrow the channel and some tree work. Several site visits and discussions took place but unfortunately just as the project was ready to go the key landowner withdrew. The culvert work is still planned but the remainder of the project will be shelved and will be kept on file in case it can go ahead in the future.

Future work:

- Edit watercourse management sheets following last summer’s surveys.
- Post weed cut surveys – focussing on management procedures and watercourse recovery.
- Identify and prioritise watercourses for future enhancement projects.
- Possible further work on Buxford Stream – river restoration project with the first phase carried out two years ago.
- Project on the Delf (Main River) to de-silt the section upstream of the railway in Sandwich on behalf of the EA. There is nowhere to put the spoil, so we are looking to repair the toe of the garden bank by faggoting and placing the spoil behind it creating a slightly narrower deeper channel.

Mr Williams asked if back-flushing will also be reintroduced at Brewery Sluice. Dr Price replied that this still needs to be discussed once the sluice is up and running, hopefully in the spring 2023, as it is contrary to the Water Level Management Plan. Cllr Sole stated that when this was done previously gut weed was found quite far up the Delf stream which indicated a brackish intrusion so it needs to be looked at very carefully. The Water Level Controller commented that this sometimes occurs even without back-flushing. Mr Dunn stated that there have been local news articles about the presence of mosquitoes near the Delf, presumably as a result of lack of flow, so this is very much a problem that needs resolving.

The Clerk & Engineer reported that a non-return flap is soon to be installed at Hacklinge Pumping Station, to help improve flows and prevent back-flow.

The Chairman thanked Mr Thomas for his update.

ELECTIONS/RE-ELECTIONS

The Chairman stated that in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the Board’s Rules and Standing Orders there is a requirement for the Board to elect a Finance, General Purposes and Works Committee to the period ending November 2023. The Board is also required to appoint a Health & Safety Committee and an Internal Audit Review Team.

The Chairman further pointed out that himself (Chairman), the Vice Chairman and the Deputy Vice Chairman were elected in November 2021 for a period of 3 years.

ELECTION OF A FINANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES & WORKS COMMITTEE
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2023

The Chairman stated that the last Committee consisted of himself, Cllr M J Burgess, Cllr D Crow-Brown, Mr P S Dunn, Mr D Fuller, Cllr P D Jull, Cllr D O Smith, Cllr M Sole and Mr M P Wilkinson. This comprises of five Appointed Members and four Elected Members. All current Members present agreed to remain on this Committee and as Mr Fuller, Cllr Crow-Brown and Cllr Smith have not expressed otherwise it was assumed that they are also willing to continue on this Committee. There being no further nominations, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Jull and resolved that the Finance, General Purposes & Works Committee for the year ending November 2023 be composed of the Chairman (Mr G R Steed), the Vice Chairman (Cllr M J Burgess – ABC), the Deputy Vice Chairman (Cllr D Crow-Brown – TDC), Mr P S Dunn (Ash Level), Mr D Fuller (Wye), Cllr P D Jull (DDC), Cllr D O Smith (ABC), Cllr M Sole (CCC) and Mr M P Wilkinson (Chislet). This was agreed by all present.

TO ELECT/RE-ELECT A HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2023

Mr Wilkinson asked, on behalf of Mr Botting, why is there a need for a Health & Safety Committee as this should be the employer's responsibility. The Chairman replied that the Board is the employer therefore it is extremely important that it is directly involved in the management of Health & Safety. He further stated that the Committee reviews policy and operational documents for the full Board to consider and approve. The Clerk & Engineer agreed and added that another reason for setting up the committee is to have a Board Member involvement in the investigation of accidents should they occur.

Ms Thompson stated that the EA has a Health & Safety Committee, which does the same and Cllr Jull stated that this is standard practice and Dover District Council also has a Health & Safety Committee.

The Chairman reported that the current Health & Safety Committee comprises of the three Chairmen and Cllr G Sparks. The Chairman asked if there were any volunteers to join this Committee, there being no other nominations, it was proposed by Mr Dunn, seconded by Cllr Jull and resolved that the Health & Safety Committee be composed of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Deputy Vice Chairman and Cllr Sparks for the period to November 2023. All present agreed.

ELECTION OF AN INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW TEAM
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2023

The Chairman stated that the Accounts and Audit Regulations require the Board to review its Internal Audit arrangements annually. This review is carried out by the Board's Internal Audit Review Team which consists of three Board Members. The current Internal Audit Review Team consists of Cllr Jull, Mr Wilkinson and Mr Dunn. As this committee is run on a 3-year rotation, and as Cllr Jull has now served 3 years, the Chairman thanked Cllr Jull for his assistance and asked for a volunteer to join the team in his place. Mr Holdstock volunteered to join as the third member of the team. It was therefore proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Jull and resolved that Mr Wilkinson, Mr Dunn and Mr Holdstock be elected as the Board's Internal Audit Review Team for 2022-2023. All present agreed.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 11 AUGUST 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Thursday 11 August 2022 were received. It was proposed by Mr Dunn, seconded by Cllr Jull, and resolved that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings at that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Ref: W5 Planning Application 19/01178 Sandwich Leisure Park

The Technical Assistant reported that he has now received this consent application which is being processed.

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES & WORKS COMMITTEE HELD
24 OCTOBER 2022

The minutes of the Finance, General Purposes & Works Committee held on Monday 24 October 2022 were received. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Jull, and resolved that these minutes be received.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Ref: F1-2 Interim Audit of Accounts for year ending 31 March 2023

The Chairman reported that the Internal Auditor, Mr David Griffiths, conducted his Interim Audit of the Board's accounts and accounting documentation, for the year ending 31 March 2023, on 11 October 2022. It was proposed by Ms Dyas, seconded by Cllr Jull and resolved that the Interim Audit Report for the year ending 31 March 2023 be received and approved.

The Chairman reported that the Board needs to appoint an Internal Auditor for the forthcoming 5-year period. Ms Dyas asked about the cost for the Internal Auditor. The Chairman reported that there was a considerable discussion around the costs of internal audit at the FGP&W Committee meeting and it was considered that the Board is receiving a good service for a very reasonable price from Mr Griffiths, according to members with detailed knowledge of auditing. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Sole and resolved that Mr D Griffiths be reappointed as the Board's Internal Auditor for the next 5 years ending November 2027. This appointment is to be confirmed annually in November. All present agreed.

Ref: F.1-5 Conclusion of Audit – Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Chairman reported that the Board's external auditors (PKF Littlejohn LLP) completed their review of the Board's Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ended 31 March 2022. The external auditor's certificate and report is given at Section 3 on page 6 of the AGAR and details any matters arising from the review. The external auditors approved the AGAR with no recommendations or actions required.

It was proposed by Cllr Burgess, seconded Cllr Jull and resolved that the AGAR for the year ended 2022 be received and approved.

Ref: F1-6 Financial Risk Assessment

The Chairman reported that the Financial Risk Assessment was reviewed:

- Removal of Market Risk – considered minimal and of very low consequence
- Reference to the current economic situation
- Addition of Eurasian Beavers and how their protective status may impact the Board
- Update on the Thrustbore Culvert
- Addition of insurance to cover the Board’s pump and container

There being no further comments, it was proposed by Cllr Jull, seconded by Cllr Sole and resolved that the Financial Risk Assessment be received and approved.

Ref: F8-6 Surface Water Development Contributions

The Chairman reported that the Board’s Planning & Byelaw Strategy was adopted in August 2021 and is due to be reviewed in August 2024. The associated Development Control Charges & Fees document was adopted at the same time but is to be reviewed annually. The Water Management Alliance has recently reviewed and updated their charges and fees by 6%, so to keep in line with this it is proposed that the Board adopts the same which will maintain consistency.

It was proposed by Cllr Burgess, seconded by Mr Wilkinson and resolved that the revised Development Control Charges and Fees document be approved.

Ref: F10 Reserves

The Chairman reported that the Board’s Reserves’ future targets (General, Structures and Thrustbore Reserves) and the Board’s ability to meet the suggested targets within a sensible timescale were discussed by the FGP&W Committee. Cllr Sole questioned how and when the proposed target of £500,000 would be achieved on the Structures Reserve when the forecast for the ensuing 8 years showed this reserve to be decreasing, a fact that will only be exacerbated by the current high level of inflation. Therefore, a plan needs to be put in place to set and meet targets when budgeting.

Cllr Jull stated that when a risk is too great (i.e. a catastrophic event which may affect many of the Board’s structures) it should be insured against. The Clerk & Engineer opined that finding this type of insurance would be challenging, high premium and possibly with conditions for assets to be in good condition. He further added that some IDB’s are finding it difficult to find insurance for normal operations and costs have significantly increased due to many companies pulling out of the market.

The Clerk & Engineer reported that the remaining timber stops are planned to be renewed over the next 8 years, one each year, taking us to 2030. After this it is proposed that one structure be renewed every 3 years, along with ongoing routine maintenance and repair of other IDB structures. The projections show that with this estimated spend, and by increasing the structures reserve by 5% annually, the £500k reserve target will be met by 2040, although it must be noted that this doesn’t take inflationary increases into account (£500k in 2041 will not equate to £500k in 2022).

Following further general discussion around the difficulties of setting reserve targets, Cllr Sole suggested that he and the Clerk & Engineer meet to develop a plan for the next meeting of the FGP&W Committee. All present agreed that this would be helpful. **Action: The Clerk & Engineer and Cllr Sole to develop a longer term reserves plan.**

ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

Ref: A.1-1 Dates and Venues for 2023 Meetings

The Chairman stated that the following dates were proposed for the IDB's meetings during 2023:

Finance Meetings (10:30)

Mon 23 January 2023
Littlebourne Village Hall

Mon 22 May 2023
Sandwich Guildhall

Mon 24 July 2023
Littlebourne Village Hall

Mon 23 October 2023
Sandwich Guildhall

Board Meetings (14:00)

Thurs 9 February 2023
Chartham Village Hall

Thurs 8 June 2023
Venue to be found

Thurs 10 August 2023
Bromley Green FC Ashford

Thurs 9 November 2023
Dover District Council

The Clerk & Engineer stated that the venues may be subject to change due to availability. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Ms Dyas and resolved that the above dates be set for the 2023 meetings, with venues to be confirmed. **Action: Venues to be booked and confirmed.**

Ref: A3-6 Health & Safety Policy

The Chairman reported that the Board's current Health & Safety Policy was adopted in November 2021 and is to be re-visited/reviewed annually by the H&S Committee with a full review in 2024. The Manual remains unchanged, but a couple of minor changes which were highlighted to the Board, have been made to the policy document by the H&S Committee. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Burgess that the Health & Safety Manual and Policy be received and approved.

Ref: W15/Enf Enforcement issues & updates

The Technical Assistant provided the following updates:

Ordinary Watercourses at White Mill Wake and Aqua Park, Ash Road, Sandwich

The Aqua Park is now open but there are still a few issues that need to be finalised before consent is issued.

IDB106 Seaton Lead Dyke

Canterbury City Council is still to determine this planning application and the Board will then consider what action is needed.

Ordinary Watercourse feeding into IDB116 Walmers Hill Stream

Nothing further has happened since we served formal notice on the landowner to remove the obstruction to flow in this OWC and to reinstate the channel to its natural state. The Clerk & Engineer stated that action has been delayed due to the change of ownership and due to the complexity of the infringement it may be best to pursue this through the courts, to instruct the landowner to make the changes rather than the Board attempt them.

IDB170 South Poulders Main Stream and IDB191 Woodnesborough Road Dyke at Sandwich Leisure Park

Land Drainage Consent to be issued shortly.

IDB218 Minster Station Lead Dyke

Land Drainage Consent for an amended and improved structure was granted and that the landowner is expecting to be able to undertake the works in November 2022. **Action: Technical Assistant to check on status**

IDB309 Shelvingford Stream

Work has been completed which makes it possible to safely maintain this watercourse, when necessary, from the roadside with a long-reach excavator. The landowner has been informed of the need to retain a full 2.5m flat margin.

Report for the period August to October 2022

MOBILE PUMP

The Clerk & Engineer reported that the 12” tractor-powered pump mounted on a 6m long purpose made trailer and a substantial amount of pipework was acquired from King’s Lynn IDB for £25,000 and is now stored at Sarre in a secure container. He thanked the EA for allowing the Board to store its pump at their pumping station site. Ms Thompson suggested that this new pump be used at the EA’s next training day (in 2023). All present agreed this to be a good idea.

Ref: W4/WSR Rainfall & River Flow Data

The Clerk & Engineer reported that recorded rainfall in July across the Stour catchment ranged from just 2.1mm at Bybrook to 14.2mm at Barham and averaged 10.0mm (19% of the Long-Term Average). Rainfall in August ranged from 5.0mm at Broadstairs to 15.3 at Bybrook, producing an average of just 8.9mm (17% of the LTA). Conditions improved in September, with rainfall totals ranging from 69.8mm at Sevenscore to 112.7mm at Sholden, averaging 90.7mm (42% above the LTA). Of the information available, rainfall in October ranged from 33.6mm at Broadstairs to 59.7mm at Bybrook, averaging 45.4mm (59% of LTA).

River flows naturally improved as a result of September’s rain but are still below normal – the average flow for October was 1.19m³/s (46% of the LTA). Most groundwater level monitoring sites are still classed as below normal. Most reservoir levels are also below normal for this time of year, with Bewl being recorded at 43% on 20th October (the LTA for this time of year being 63%).

Ref: W7 IDB Programme of Works (Including works carried out under PSCA)

Weed Cutting

The Engineering Assistant reported that after a good start to the season, the prolonged hot, dry period caused some delays (due to environmental risks). By the end of September 144km of IDB watercourses had been maintained, which is slightly behind programme. However, conditions improved with good progress being made again and there is just another week of work on site specific ones to finish off, till the programme is completed. He stated that Rhino Plant Hire have done an excellent job this year when they have had to contend with weather related challenges.

As in previous years, approx. 53km of Main Rivers have been maintained on behalf of the Environment Agency under the PSCA. Matthews Close Dyke in Deal was cut in July on behalf of Dover District Council and a more thorough 2nd cut has also been completed as well as some tree

works. The Ropewalk watercourse is being monitored by DDC but we have not been asked to carry out a weed cut this year.

Cllr Jull reported that he has noticed Southern Water's tanker at Mathews Close on occasions of heavy rain though no flooding has occurred. The Technical Assistant stated that Southern Water is keeping the tanker there for the foreseeable future to ensure no problems arise.

De-silting

The 2022-23 IDB de-silting programme, which totals 19km and now includes IDBs 6, 24, 26, 28, 29, 31, 38, 52, 86, 117, 129, 136, 190, 202, 209, 217, 267, 268, 287, 289 & 296, is scheduled to commence in November. IDB9 Kimberley Dyke and IDB10 Cowlees Dyke have been inspected and removed from the programme. The feed structure at IDB 52 Preston & Deerson Main Stream has been included in place of them.

There is still no de-silting of Main Rivers planned to be delivered under the PSCA, but the EA is developing a programme of de-silting for its in-house team.

Spoil Spreading

It was reported that all the spoil from last year's de-silted IDB watercourses has been spread in agreement with affected landowners. As usual, some landowners chose to do this work themselves.

Tree & Shrub Maintenance

The Engineering Assistant reported that there is a very comprehensive list of tree works this year (around 8.5km on 38 different sites). The currently planned work includes IDBs 1, 4, 14, 26, 28, 52, 53, 81, 85, 86, 114, 137, 195, 198, 200, 202, 276, 302 & 311. This work will commence in November and will be completed in late February/early March.

Tree maintenance work on Main Rivers under the PSCA is still to be detailed – currently assessing the Sarre Penn, Whitewater Dyke and Ruckinge Dyke.

Structures Maintenance

It was reported that Supperton Stop on Supperton Stream (IDB86) was renewed in September as planned, in cooperation with the East Kent Engineering Partnership. Details of other minor repairs and improvements to various water level management structures are still being finalised, including another batch of stopboards to be renewed and fitted with beaver protection strips.

A longer-term structures programme is being developed, along with consideration of the possible effects on the Structures Reserve. It is currently still planned to renew one structure per year, along with annual minor maintenance and repairs.

Obstruction Clearance

It was reported that routine inspections continue to be carried out and obstructions cleared as necessary, particularly in the Ashford area.

Water Level Control

It was reported that summer water levels were retained into October but are now mostly lowered to normal winter levels to allow for heavy rainfall.

Mr Wilkinson expressed his thanks to the Water Level Controller who made water available to as many people as he possibly could in a very difficult year and it is much appreciated. Ms Thompson

seconded this. The Clerk & Engineer stated that the EA's Water Resources Team were also very helpful in allowing some gravity feeding to continue.

Cooper Street Pumping Station has been refurbished, but unfortunately an issue has arisen, so a temporary pump remains. Issues are also ongoing at Black Sluice, Stourmouth and Worth Minnis Pumping Stations, and also at Mile Pumping Station which will need to be addressed over the winter in preparation for next summer.

Ref: A4-3 Biodiversity

The following updates, against each of the BAP main headings, were provided by Mr Martin Thomas of KSCP:

1. Surveying:

Full repeat surveys of 9 watercourses, chosen according to principles in Review of Actions 2015-2020: IDB24 Golden Ball Dyke, IDB26 Bilby Wood Dyke, IDB29 Swanton Mill Dyke, IDB31 Shalmsford Street Dyke, IDB86 Supperton Dyke, IDB127 Redrow Lead Dyke, IDB129 Hog and Donkey Lead Dyke, IDB268 Ring Sewer and IDB207 Ash Level Feed Dyke (Total = 14km). Spring survey of IDB108 Wingham Well to assess desilting operations carried out winter 2021/22 and subsequent recovery of flora, brief report provided.

Addition of location data to photos from 2021 surveys to facilitate display on GIS. Photos from 2022 surveys transferred with location data. Exploring digitisation of species recording and submission using iRecord.

2. Management Prescriptions:

Management sheets and maps created for all watercourses surveyed summer 2021. Edited in collaboration with the Board's Engineering Assistant.

3. Enhancement Projects – as on presentation above

4. Engagement with Landowners and External Organisations:

East Kent Beaver Advisory Group. Attended course on beaver ecology and field survey, provided data on beaver signs from surveys/site visits. Activity not funded by IDB: attended one meeting and 2-day strategy workshop.

Thanet District Council Tree Strategy. TDC expressed interest in funding large-scale planting on farmland. Offered to organise mail-out to IDB ratepayers with details of offer. TDC subsequently withdrew offer.

Follow-up to land management issues recorded during summer surveys.

5. Communication and training:

Monthly and 6-monthly work summaries. Presentation to Catchment Improvement Partnership on new Biodiversity Action Plan.

Ref: A4-3.1 Azolla Project

It was reported that unfortunately, CABI struggled to supply weevils this year due to large orders and the weather – weevils do not breed when it is hot. However, a total of 11,500 weevils were released this year. The North & South Streams at Hacklinge had the largest release – on both the Eastry and Northbourne arms – an initial release of 6,000 and then an additional release of 4,000 at the end of September as there were still pockets of azolla present. These 4,000 were initially intended to be released on the Wingham River, but by the time the weevils became available the

azolla had gone. Another 1,500 were released on the Gosshall Stream end of July and although this reduced the quantity of azolla, it was unfortunately replaced with thick blankets of duck weed – not as thick or problematic as azolla but still not ideal.

It is understood that weevils will travel up to 10km in their home territory and this year's releases have given promising results. Areas such as Monks Wall ponds that were choked earlier in the year were free of azolla by September without a direct release. It is hoped that the weevils will find enough sustenance to support their lives until they go into a torpor for the winter. With our milder winters, it is likely some will over-winter and start work again next spring. Resurveys are planned for the spring, to see where azolla returns and then potentially retreat next year, although given the problems of supply we are likely to leave some sites without further treatment, which will show if the weevils are naturalising. All sightings of azolla should be reported to the IDB office (on enquiries@rsidb.org.uk).

Ref: A4-6 Environmental Good Governance Guide

It was reported that the long-awaited Environmental Good Governance Guide for IDBs has now been published and is available on the ADA website. The Guide brings together a vast, complex and ever-changing array of environmental legislation, regulation and policy, in a format that is accessible, up-to-date and relevant to IDBs, to help them to comply with their statutory environmental duties, identify best practice approaches, and to exceed expectations in their management of our lowland freshwater environments. The Guide is designed to be a reference guide, not necessarily to be read cover-to-cover and is indexed to provide quick reference.

ADA is planning to hold workshops in 2023 to provide an opportunity to promote and discuss the key messages and techniques detailed in the Guide. Articles in the ADA Gazette will also present bite-sized summaries of some of the lesser-known areas of environmental governance the guide covers.

Ref: A10-21 Beavers

It was reported that as of 1st October 2022, beavers are protected by law under the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017. It is now against the law to:

- deliberately disturb a beaver - this includes any action likely to impair their ability to survive, breed or rear their young
- deliberately injure, capture or kill a beaver
- damage or destroy the breeding site or resting place of a beaver

The Clerk & Engineer attended a 3-day Natural England accredited training course, which is required to help demonstrate competence, and has applied for and received a Class Licence (CL51) which gives the IDB the ability to modify or remove beaver burrows, lodges and dams when necessary. It should be noted that the licence includes an extensive list of conditions, including the following:

- The Registered Person cannot delegate authority.
- The Registered Person can authorise an Accredited Agent “if they can personally assure that the individual is appropriately skilled and competent...”.
- Assistants, which must also be assessed as competent by the Registered Person, must not act without personal supervision of the Registered Person or Accredited Agent.

- The Responsible Person must maintain their expertise at an appropriate level and is legally responsible for all activities carried out under the licence.
- The Licence allows us to modify or remove beaver dams between 1 September and 28 February, with self-assessment.

It must also be noted that all other activities (modifying a burrow or lodge, or modifying or removing a dam between 1 March and 31 August) requires prior site registration:

- Detailing exactly what is planned and where.
- Detailing why it is necessary: to prevent serious damage, preserve public safety or health, conserve wildlife or plants, scientific or educational purposes.
- Confirming why the work must be done now – can it wait?
- Confirming that alternatives have been explored – what will happen if we do nothing, less or alternatives?
- Must wait for confirmation from NE before acting – NE will aim to confirm within 5 working days.

We must keep a detailed record of all activities, for at least 2 years, and must submit an annual report to NE by 31 January each year.

The Chairman stated that the Board needs to ensure that it does not interfere with beaver activity, particularly dams and lodges. The Clerk & Engineer reported that he will be going through the survey with the Engineering Assistant and developing a plan. Ms Thompson reported that the EA has a trained Beaver Specialist – Mr Ben Morris – and he can advise the Board if needed. The Chairman thanked Ms Thompson for this and suggested that we invite Mr Morris to a future Board meeting to discuss local activity and future management. **Action: Clerk & Engineer to invite Mr Morris to a future Board meeting.**

Ms Dyas asked what will happen if beavers burrow through flood embankments on the lower Stour and elsewhere – will the EA address the problem. Ms Thompson replied that there are rules to follow but also allowances for such situations and Mr Morris should be contacted as earlier as possible for advice.

East Kent Beaver Advisory Group (EKBAG) – The membership of this group has been widened to include representatives from the following organisations: Beaver Trust, Environment Agency, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, Kent Wildlife Trust, Natural England, National Farmers Union, River Stour (Kent) IDB & Wildwood Trust. A new collaborative agreement is being drawn up, which all members will need to sign up to.

Ref: W7G Environment Agency Works

The following summary of EA activities has been received:

Work delivered July to September 2022:

- Meica asset maintenance/repairs
- Ashford reservoirs maintenance (grass cutting, minor structure repairs)
- Sandwich storage areas maintenance (grass cutting)
- Summer maintenance programme – the weed cutting was paused in the summer due to the prolonged dry weather and the concern for the welfare of fish. Once able to resume, the field team have been working hard to catch up, and we are on track to complete the programme in time for winter
- Terminal groyne modification works on NSW

2022-2023 Project updates

- Desilting – River Wingham added to programme (also River Wantsum and North Stream). Desilting scheduled to start in November 2022
- Hacklinge pumping station – pump refurbishment delayed to spring / summer 2023 due to concerns regarding removing pump over winter
- Worth Minnis pumping station – pump 2 replacement – delays experienced due to parts being obsolete. Awaiting quote for replacement pump
- Worth Minnis pumping station – sheet piling repairs – project has been reinstated to current year, expected to start early December 2022
- Black Sluice pumping station – eel pass pump replacement – project delayed to 23/24 due to queries with fisheries over Eel Regulations requirements
- Black Sluice pumping station – additional culvert (weed rake site) – gone out to tender, work likely to start in May 2023
- Ash Level and Stonar Cut boat ramp repairs – design work now taking place this year, construction expected summer 2023
- Moles Hole – structure repairs – project has been reinstated to current year, expected to start late November 2022
- Brooksend Outfall – culvert extension – construction expected early November 2022
- Brewery Sluice refurbishment – new outfall flap – funding approval has been received from National, awaiting timetable for construction
- Brewery Sluice refurbishment – new trash screen – construction expected spring 2023
- Stourmouth pumping station – pumps 1-4 refurbishment – pump 2 currently being refurbished
- Lower Newham & Quaives Outfall repairs – delayed to 23/24 due to ecological mitigation required
- Ashford reservoirs – access improvements – construction expected December 2022
- Rippers Cross and Paddocks Farm pumping stations (Hothfield FSR) – pump refurbishments – pump 1 at both sites expected to be refurbished over winter 22/23
- Northmouth Outfall – leaking outfall flap – leak appears to have resolved itself, no work expected to be required
- Stour catchment webcam installation – cameras to monitor water levels and key structures – installation expected in November / December 2022
- NSW groyne removal – removal of groynes adjacent to Coldharbour Lagoon – work scheduled for November 2022

Staff updates

Three new members of staff have joined the Stour & Swale Asset Performance team. For the Stour patch, Mr Richard Crisp will be leading on MEICA projects at pumping stations and key structures.

Ref: W5

Planning Applications

Ashford Borough Council

PA/2022/2544

Location: Field to West of National Grid Converter Station, Church Lane, Aldington, Kent, TN25 6AF.

Proposal: Battery storage facility.

This application is for a battery storage facility on a greenfield site adjacent to the National Grid site at Sellindge. The accompanying drainage strategy states that the facility will discharge directly to IDB15 – Pleasance Dyke. Our formal Consent will be required for any new outfall and the discharge will be subject to the SWDC fee.

“Although we have not been formally consulted on this planning application, the development proposed will sit partially within the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board’s (RSIDB) Drainage District, and is bordered to the west by an IDB maintained watercourse (IDB15 – Pleasance Dyke, referred to within the accompanying FRA as “Sellindge Stream”).

As with all development proposals, efforts should be made to replicate ‘greenfield’ surface water discharge conditions, with regard given to drainage routes, flow rates and discharge volumes. Disposal of water via infiltration should be used wherever conditions permit, with all surface water managed as close to source as possible. We note that the FRA states that infiltration is not possible at this site, and the intent is to attenuate rates of flow to greenfield values, with a discharge directly to the IDB maintained Pleasance Dyke; we would be grateful if you could therefore include us in any future correspondence/DoC regarding the management of surface water from this development and ask the applicant to contact us at their earliest convenience.

The applicant should also be aware that our formal Land Drainage Consent **must** be sought for the proposed outfall along with any other works whatsoever within 8m of IDB15 (or any other watercourse within our Drainage District). A Surface Water Development Contribution will also be required, and the RSIDB would look to work with the applicant and your Authority to apply our Byelaw 3, specifically with regard to seeking the SWDC associated with *any increase in rate and/or volume* of discharge that may be directed into our District. Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flows resulting from the development into our District. Please refer to the following website for further information on the SWDC, policies and byelaws.”

PA/2022/2669

Location: Land off Norman Road and Romney Marsh Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 0SD.

Proposal: Development of 90 one and two bedroom apartments in three buildings, new vehicular and pedestrian access, internal access road, footpaths and car parking, earthworks, creation of a new section of active floodplain and floodplain compensation for the development, sustainable drainage systems, parkland open space and hard and soft landscaping.

This is a revised and reduced-in-scale application for a previously refused residential development on land adjacent to the Great Stour. We have **objected** to this application because the accompanying Flood Risk Assessment & Drainage Strategy has not demonstrated that the drainage and floodplain compensation provisions will be adequate.

“This site sits entirely within the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board’s (RSIDB) Drainage District; this proposal therefore has a potential to affect our interests, in particular drainage and downstream flood risk. The applicant should be reminded that the IDB’s prior written consent will be required for any works which will affect any non-main river ditch or watercourse on this site, in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the RSIDB’s own Byelaws. We have reviewed the submitted FRA/Drainage Strategy and have concerns with the methodology used to identify an appropriate post-development runoff rate, which will have consequences for the site’s layout and potential overall feasibility. The EA/LLFA should be consulted on the wider implications for flood-

plain storage and loss of habitat, but we would wish to **raise an objection** pending clarification on the following:

The FRA states that the ‘greenfield’ runoff rate for this ~0.5ha site is 6.9l/s, and that this will be the design discharge rate for the SuDS system for all rainfall events. This figure is actually the peak greenfield runoff rate for the 100yr rainfall event and is substantially higher than the QBAR figure of 2.2l/s, and higher still than the maximum permissible rate of 4l/s/ha dictated by ABC’s SFRA. We are therefore concerned that the surface water management system has not been appropriately sized, and that there is potentially insufficient room on site for a system that can control to the required rate, taking into account half-drain times. It also appears as though FSR rainfall data has been used in the modelling suite instead of FEH, and that KCC’s required 26.25mm hasn’t been substituted for the default 20mm.

We would also wish to see clarification/confirmation from the EA as to whether using the areas identified as flood-plain storage compensation can also be used for SuDS features, given that they would most likely be full of water following a rainfall event large enough for the compensation to be required, thus rendering the compensation unavailable.

We would also draw your attention to the requirement for the payment of a Surface Water Development Contribution to the Board if the proposals result in any increase in the rate *or volume* of runoff being directed into our district from the development. Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flow rate or volume resulting from the development into our District. We would appreciate the opportunity to review the detailed drainage design when it becomes available, should your Authority be minded to grant permission to this development.”

22/00668/AS

Location: Land south of M20, Church Lane, Aldington, Kent.

Proposal: Installation of a solar farm with a generating capacity of up to 49.9MW.

This application for a solar farm is accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment that states that the runoff from the panels will be dealt with via infiltration. Our interests should therefore be unaffected if the development progresses as described:

“Although we haven’t been formally consulted on the above referenced planning application, we would like the following comments recorded against this proposal.

Whilst this site is located predominantly outside of the River Stour (Kent) IDB’s district, the plans submitted show that the northern parcel lies partially within our Drainage District and immediately alongside an IDB maintained watercourse (IDB15 – Pleasance Dyke).

As with all development proposals, efforts should be made to replicate ‘greenfield’ surface water discharge conditions, with regard given to drainage routes, flow rates and discharge volumes. Disposal of water via infiltration should be used wherever conditions permit, with all surface water managed as close to source as possible. We note that the intent is to manage surface water via infiltration, but we would be grateful if you could include us in any future correspondence/DoC regarding the management of surface water from this development.

The applicant should also be aware that our formal Land Drainage Consent should be sought for any works whatsoever within 8m of any watercourse within our Drainage District, and that there

will be a Surface Water Development Contribution payable if the plans are revised such that there is an increase in the rate/volume of water being discharged to our District.”

22/01067/AS

Location: Former Houchin Playing Fields, Canterbury Road, Kennington.

Proposal: The erection of a Class E retail unit alongside access, car parking, landscaping and associated works.

This application is for a new Aldi store, with a surface water management system that will discharge to IDB19 – Bockhanger Dyke.

“This site sits largely within the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board’s (RSIDB) Drainage District; this proposal therefore has a potential to affect our interests, in particular drainage and downstream flood risk. The applicant should be reminded that the IDB’s prior written consent will be required for any works which will affect any ditch or watercourse on or bordering this site, in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the RSIDB’s own Byelaws.

The submitted FRA/drainage strategy outlines the intent to discharge the surface water generated by this development to the watercourse to the east of the site; this is an IDB maintained watercourse (IDB19 – Bockhanger Dyke). It is therefore important the applicant/their agents contact us at their earliest convenience to discuss the surface water disposal arrangements for this retail unit and the associated requirements for Land Drainage Consent.

We would also draw your attention to the requirement for the payment of a Surface Water Development Contribution to the Board if the proposals result in any increase in the rate *or volume* of runoff being directed into our district. Any such contribution will be a one-off payment, and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flow rate or volume resulting from the development into our District. We would appreciate the opportunity to review the detailed drainage design when it becomes available, should your Authority be minded to grant permission to this development.”

Canterbury City Council

CA//16/00600

Location: Land North And South Of New Dover Road Canterbury Extending North To Canterbury-Dover Railway Line West To Nackington Road And South To A2.

Proposal: Hybrid planning application for urban extension of up to 4,000 dwellings.

This is an application that has been under-development for some time. We were consulted on new/revised documentation, partially related to the provision of an on-site wastewater treatment works that is likely to increase the flow to our District:

“Although this site lies outside of our IDB Drainage District, we note that it is intended to construct a WWTW on site that will discharge treated effluent away from the site and ultimately towards and into our district. The applicant will need Land Drainage Consent from Kent County Council for any works that has the potential to affect flow in any ditch or watercourse on or bordering the site, and we would look to work with them and your Authority to apply our Byelaw 3, specifically with regard to seeking a Surface Water Development Contribution for any increase in rates/volumes of discharge that may be directed into our District. We would appreciate it if the applicant and/or their agent contact us at their earliest convenience to discuss the additional rate/volume of surface water flows and the permanent additional baseflow from the WWTW into our District. Any such

contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flows resulting from the development into our District. Please refer to our website for further information on the SWDC, our policies and byelaws. We would encourage the applicant to seek to minimise any increase in the post-development rate and volume of surface water discharge.”

CA/21/02797

Location: Land to The South Of Island Road (A28) Former Chislet Colliery Hersden Westbere.

Proposal: Reserved matters application for phase 1 comprising access into the site together with associated infrastructure and landscaping pursuant to outline planning permission CA//16/00673/OUT.

This application mainly pertains to the means of access to a wider development, but we have not recently had the opportunity to comment on the associated application. The surface water strategy states that the development to be served by the access applied for will drain to the south and into our District; we have therefore requested that the SWDC be considered and that we are involved in future discussions. CCC planning have acknowledged the response and have provided the applicant’s contact details.

“Although the above application appears to have been granted, we would have appreciated the opportunity to comment, especially since the surface water discharged from the site will ultimately discharge to a watercourse that discharges to our Drainage District.

I would appreciate it if you could contact the applicant and inform them of the following:

Although this site lies outside of the River Stour (Kent) Drainage District, the surface water discharged from the site appears to flow towards and into their district. The applicant will need Land Drainage Consent from Kent County Council for any works that has the potential to affect flow in any ditch or watercourse on or bordering the site, and the RSIDB would look to work with them and your Authority to apply our Byelaw 3, specifically with regard to seeking a Surface Water Development Contribution for any increase in rates/volumes of discharge that may be directed into their District. Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flows resulting from the development into our District. Please refer to the following website for further information on the SWDC, policies and byelaws.

I would be grateful if you could also provide me with the details of the best person on the applicant’s side who I could contact to discuss this matter.

Would you be able to make sure we are consulted on any future applications that are likely affect our interests, particularly those that will increase the rate and/or volume of runoff that we will have to accommodate?”

CA/22/01845

Location: Land To The North Of Hersden Canterbury Kent CT3 4HY.

Proposal: Planning application for development of 261 residential dwellings.

This application is for a major housing development, complete with a sustainable drainage system that ultimately discharges at a controlled rate towards our district. As with any such development, the additional volume of water leaving the site is of concern, not just the rate at which it is discharged:

“Although this site lies outside of our IDB Drainage District, the surface water strategy states that the surface water from this development will not be able to be disposed of via infiltration or directed to a surface water sewer; it further states that it will be discharged to “existing ditches”. Although we haven’t been formally consulted on this application, we would wish to register the following comments:

Given the site’s location, any surface water discharged into an existing ditch will drain into the wider drainage network that discharges to our District. We would therefore recommend that the applicant demonstrates that the proposed point of discharge does indeed outfall into a wider, contiguous drainage system (rather than to a blind-ditch that may exacerbate the local flood risk), and would suggest that a Condition is attached to any permission granted to this end. We would then wish to be contacted by the applicant to discuss our requirements and would recommend we are consulted on the subsequent discharge of any drainage related Condition.

If it can be demonstrated that water can be effectively conveyed from the point of discharge, the applicant will need Land Drainage Consent from Kent County Council for any works that has the potential to affect flow in any ditch or watercourse on the site, and we would look to work with them and your Authority to apply our Byelaw 3, specifically with regard to seeking a Surface Water Development Contribution for any *increase in rates/volumes* of discharge that may be directed into our District. Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flows resulting from the development into our District. Please refer to our website for further information on the SWDC, our policies and byelaws. We would encourage the applicant to seek to minimise any increase in the post-development rate and volume of surface water discharge.”

CA/22/01954

Location: Land at Hillborough Sweechbridge Road Herne Bay.

Proposal: Details submitted pursuant to condition 3 (surface water drainage) and 56 (drainage strategy) of planning permission CA//17/01866/FOS.

This is an application we were not directly consulted on, but one which will likely have implications for an IDB adopted watercourse. The surface water from the development proposed is to be directed to a watercourse network that ultimately discharges to IDB307 – Hogwell Sewer. “Whilst we haven’t been formally consulted on the above referenced application, the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board (RSIDB) would like a note made of the following comments, and would appreciate it if the applicant could be asked to contact us at their earliest convenience.

Although this site lies outside of the RSIDB’s Drainage District, the surface water discharged from the development will be discharged beneath the railway and then conveyed eastwards towards, and ultimately into, an IDB maintained watercourse (IDB 307 – Hogwell Sewer). The applicant will need Land Drainage Consent from Kent County Council for any works that has the potential to affect flow in any ditch or watercourse on or bordering the site, and the RSIDB would look to work with them and your Authority to apply our Byelaw 3, specifically with regard to seeking a Surface Water Development Contribution for *any increase in rate and/or volume* of discharge that may be directed into our District. Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flows resulting from the development into our District. Please refer to the following website for further information on the SWDC, policies and byelaws.”

Dover District Council

22/01163

Location: Elite Car Wash Centre , Sandwich Road, Hacklinge, CT14 0AT.

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of 5no. dwellings (with all matters reserved except access).

This application for a residential development is within our Drainage District, but as the application is outline only, there is no detailed information available that pertains to its surface water management.

“This site sits within the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board’s (RSIDB) Drainage District; this proposal therefore has a potential to affect our interests, in particular drainage and downstream flood risk.

The applicant should be reminded that the IDB’s prior written consent will be required for any works which will affect any ditch or watercourse on or bordering this site, in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the RSIDB’s own Byelaws.

Although this is an outline application at this stage and is subject to an objection from the Environment Agency on flood risk grounds, the submitted FRA states that the surface water management from properties proposed will need to be considered by way of a Surface Water Management Strategy at a later date.

If there is any intent to construct any new outfall to any surface water feature on or bordering this site, the applicant/their agents should contact us at their earliest convenience to discuss the surface water disposal arrangements and the associated requirements for Land Drainage Consent.

We would also draw your attention to the requirement for the payment of a Surface Water Development Contribution to the Board if the proposals result in any increase in the rate or volume of runoff being directed into our district. Any such contribution will be a one-off payment, and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flow rate or volume resulting from the development into our District.”

22/01159

Location: Waterlock Cottage , The Street, Stourmouth, CT3 1HZ.

Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension incorporating balcony to first floor and single storey side extension (existing side extension to be demolished).

This is a relatively minor development on a plot within our District that is bordered by IDB175 – Stourmouth Stream. We are satisfied that our interests should not be impacted:

“Although this site lies within our Drainage District, with an IDB maintained watercourse (IDB175 -Stourmouth Stream) to the rear of the property's curtilage, we are satisfied that this proposal is unlikely to affect our interests owing to the nature and scale of development proposed.

However, the applicant should be reminded that the IDB’s prior written consent will be required for any works which will affect any ditch or watercourse on or bordering this site, in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the RSIDB’s own Byelaws.

If there is any intent to construct any new outfall to any watercourse, the applicant/their agents should contact us at their earliest convenience to discuss the surface water disposal arrangements and the associated requirements for Land Drainage Consent.

We would also draw your attention to the requirement for the payment of a Surface Water Development Contribution to the Board if the proposals result in any increase in the rate or volume of runoff being directed into our district.

Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flow rate or volume resulting from the development into our District.”

22/01143

Location: Scrub Land West Of Sandwich Bypass And North Of Ash Bypass, Ash, CT3 2EQ.

Proposal: Change of use of land for the storage of logs, including construction of roads, landscaping and fencing.

This application is for the change of use of a parcel of land for the storage of logs; the accompanying documentation shows that the surface water from the areas of hardstanding will be directed to a new pond with an outfall to a watercourse. Although we are broadly satisfied that there will be no increased flood-risk, any discharge will be subject to land Drainage Consent and SWDC:

“This site sits within the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board’s (RSIDB) Drainage District; this proposal therefore has a potential to affect our interests, in particular drainage and downstream flood risk. The applicant should be reminded that the IDB’s prior written consent will be required for any works which will affect any ditch or watercourse on this site, in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the RSIDB’s own Byelaws.

We would also draw your attention to the requirement for the payment of a Surface Water Development Contribution to the Board if the proposals result in any increase in the rate *or volume* of runoff being directed into our district. Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flow rate or volume resulting from the development into our District. We would appreciate the opportunity to review the detailed drainage design when it becomes available, should your Authority be minded to grant permission to this development.”

22/01062

Location: Land Adjacent, The Coach House, High Street, Wingham

Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling with attached double garage

This is a minor residential application that should not affect our interests

“This site lies outside of, but adjacent to, our Drainage District. The intent appears to be to discharge the surface water generated by this development to the main-sewer network. Accordingly, we have no objection to this proposal, but would wish to be reconsulted if there are any amendments that will result in a direct discharge of water to our District.”

Folkestone and Hythe District Council

Y19/0257/FH

Location: Otterpool Park.

Proposal: Further Information submitted in support of major development.

We have been consulted on revised documentation submitted in support of this major development. We have taken the opportunity to remind the LPA that their draft SFRA supports our requirement

for the application of Byelaw 3 to development sites outside of our District if the development proposed will result in a greater discharge to the watercourse network:

“Although this site lies outside of our IDB Drainage District, a proportion of the surface water generated by the development proposed will be discharged towards and into our district. The applicant will need Land Drainage Consent from Kent County Council for any works that has the potential to affect flow in any ditch or watercourse on or bordering the site, and we would look to work with them and your Authority to apply our Byelaw 3, specifically with regard to seeking a Surface Water Development Contribution for any increase in rates/volumes of discharge that may be directed into our District. This requirement is reflected in your Authority’s draft F&H SFRA (Section 6.59). Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flows resulting from the development into our District. Please refer to our website for further information on the SWDC, our policies and byelaws. We would encourage the applicant to seek to minimise any increase in the post-development rate and volume of surface water discharge and we would encourage the applicant and/or their consultants to contact us to discuss this issue at their earliest convenience.”

22/0742/FH/CON

Location: Land Rear Rhodes House, Main Road, Sellindge.

Proposal: Application for the discharge of conditions 16 (Drainage).

We have previously commented on this site and were aware that KCC as LLFA had objected to the development owing to an insufficient Drainage Strategy. We have taken the opportunity to remind the LPA of our previous response and the need to obtain our Consent under Byelaw 3:

“We note that there have been recent discussions with KCC as LLFA that have enabled them to remove their outstanding objection to the above referenced development.

Should your Authority be minded to discharge the drainage related Condition, we would appreciate it if a note could be added to any notification to highlight our previous response (as below). Although this site lies outside of our IDB Drainage District, the surface water discharged from the site appears to flow towards and into our district. The applicant will need Land Drainage Consent from Kent County Council for any works that has the potential to affect flow in any ditch or watercourse on or bordering the site, and we would look to work with them and your Authority to apply our Byelaw 3, specifically with regard to seeking a Surface Water Development Contribution for any increase in rates/volumes of discharge that may be directed into our District. This requirement is reflected in your Authority’s draft F&H SFRA (Section 6.59). Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flows resulting from the development into our District. Please refer to our website for further information on the SWDC, our policies and byelaws. We would encourage the applicant to seek to minimise any increase in the post-development rate and volume of surface water discharge.”

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC)

22/503566/FULL

Location: 62 Maidstone Road Lenham Kent ME17 2QJ.

Proposal: Demolition of existing outbuildings and part of existing garage, and erection of 4no. semi-detached chalet houses with associated access and parking.

This application site sites within the wider catchment of the Stour. Although the application was not accompanied by any drainage detail, the application for states that sustainable drainage will be utilised. Should this system involve off-site discharge, we have provided precautionary comments:

“Although this site lies outside of our IDB Drainage District, the surface water discharged from the site appears to flow towards and into our district. The applicant will need Land Drainage Consent from Kent County Council for any works that has the potential to affect flow in any ditch or watercourse on or bordering the site, and we would look to work with them and your Authority to apply our Byelaw 3, specifically with regard to seeking a Surface Water Development Contribution for any increase in rates/volumes of discharge that may be directed into our District. Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flows resulting from the development into our District. Please refer to our website for further information on the SWDC, our policies and byelaws. We would encourage the applicant to seek to minimise any increase in the post-development rate and volume of surface water discharge.”

22/504368/FULL

Location: Little Gaynes Faversham Road Lenham Kent ME17 2PU.

Proposal: Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 4no. social rent affordable homes and 16no. open market homes, with associated car port, passing points, alterations to access, the retention and enhancement of PROW KH438, and the implementation of a 0.51 hectare public access natural landscape buffer and local nature reserve. Open for comment icon.

This application for residential development is situated outside of our District, but within the wider Stour Catchment. We have highlighted that we would wish to be consulted should infiltration (as proposed) proves unviable:

“Although this site sits outside of our Drainage District, it is situated within the wider catchment of the River Stour and could therefore potentially affect our Board’s interests.

We note that the applicant's FRA states that the surface water generated by this proposal will be directed to soakaways. We would suggest that a Condition is attached to any permission granted to require the submission of a detailed drainage strategy. We would wish to be reconsulted if infiltration proves unviable and if an off-site discharge is pursued as an alternative.”

19/504724/HYBRID

Location: Land Off Old Ashford Road Lenham Maidstone Kent.

Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for up to 100 dwellings.

This major application for residential development is accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment/Drainage Strategy that recommends an attenuated surface water discharge to an adjacent watercourse. Although the site is outside of our Drainage District, the additional surface water discharged from this development will have the potential to affect our interests:

“Although this site lies outside of our IDB Drainage District, the surface water discharged from the site appears to flow towards and into our district. The applicant will need Land Drainage Consent from Kent County Council for any works that has the potential to affect flow in any ditch or watercourse on or bordering the site, and we would look to work with them and your Authority to apply our Byelaw 3, specifically with regard to seeking a Surface Water Development Contribution for any increase in rates/volumes of discharge that may be directed into our District. Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flows resulting from the development into our District. Please refer to our website for further information on the SWDC, our policies and Byelaws. We would encourage the applicant

to seek to minimise any increase in the post-development rate and volume of surface water discharge.”

Thanet District Council (TDC)

TH/22/1245

Location: Richborough Energy Park, Ramsgate.

Proposal: Installation of an electrical battery storage facility including the installation of UKPN connection area and equipment, ground raising, landscaping and associated works.

This is an application for a battery storage facility that should not affect the Board’s interests provided the Environment Agency are satisfied with the location and drainage provisions.

“I have reviewed the application and pertinent accompanying documentation and can confirm that the River Stour (Kent) IDB have no concerns related to these proposals. Although the site is located within our Drainage District, the development proposed does not affect any watercourse (either IDB maintained or otherwise), with surface water being directed to the tidal Stour. Provided the Environment Agency are satisfied with the drainage provisions and any other works within 16m of the Main River, we have no further comment.”

Ref: W15 Applications for Consent

22 ST 05

Location: Dog and Duck Leisure Park, Plucks Gutter.

Proposal: New surface water outfall and internal access road adjacent to IDB52 – Preston and Deerson Stream.

We have granted LDC to the applicant for a controlled discharger of surface water from the site via a new outfall. We have requested and received ~£6000 SWDC. The works applied for relate to a revised layout of the site that will result in a lower density of caravans over a larger area. We negotiated with the applicant to reduce the rate of surface water discharge and to amend the surface of the road adjacent to the watercourse to facilitate the movement of maintenance machinery.

22 ST 09

Location: A257, Wingham (IDB108 – Wingham Well Lead Dyke culvert).

Proposal: Lining of 3 x culverts and bank stabilisation works.

We received an application for LDC from KCC Highways for the relining of the three culverts that convey the Wingham Well Lead Dyke beneath the carriageway. The works formed part of a larger programme to repair subsidence in the road surface and stabilise the embankment on the northern side of the road. The upstream end of the culvert was cleared of vegetation and silt, and it was demonstrated that the relining and stabilisation works would not reduce the flow capacity.

22 ST 10

Location: RSPB Blue Pigeons Farm, Sandwich Bay to Hacklige Marshes.

Proposal: 10 x structures:

- **3 x Pipe sluices**
- **4 x 600mm Culvert crossings with mammal runs**
- **1 x new connecting ditch**
- **2 x stretches of perimeter bunding**

We have approved an application for LDC from the RSPB for works within their reserve at Blue Pigeons Farm. The works will amend the conveyance of water within their site and will serve to

retain water to form a wetland habitat. We have ensured our contractors are satisfied with the scheme, particularly where the proposed new bunding will form an access to IDB271 – Fry Dyke.

22 ST 11

Location RSPB reserve, Worth Minnis.

Proposal: Installation of a wind powered pump.

We have approved another LDC application from the RSPB for the installation of a wind powered pump to enable them to extract water from the fluvial system on the reserve to top-up water levels in their wetland habitat (subject to obtaining other permissions).

22 ST 12

Location: Land adjacent to the Great River Stour, opposite the Conningbrook Lakes development. Ashford, Kent. TN24 0LS.

Proposal: Infilling of a ditch to facilitate the construction of nitrate removing wetland adjacent to the Stour.

This application related to the infilling of 125m of ditch (OWC) as part of the wider creation of nitrate removing wetland areas. These are being constructed in an attempt to mitigate the impact of new development on the SSSI at Stodmarsh downstream. The applicant's ecologist has stated that the loss of ditch habitat will be compensated for by the additional habitat created throughout the rest of the site and the nature of the development itself. The flood risk from the wider development has been assessed, with mitigation approved by the Environment Agency. There will not be any off-site effects from the loss of this ditch.

22 ST 13

Location: IDB 218 (Minster Station Lead Dyke), Minster.

Proposal: Amendments to existing water level control structure/culvert.

This application is related to a long-running issue at Minster. With the existing arrangement, the control structure within the culvert tends to be left closed to retain water upstream for irrigation. During heavy or prolonged rainfall, it is not possible to operate the flow-control device without mechanically manipulating a large concrete protective slab. Although there is a high-level overflow pipe that can convey a limited amount of excess water, this is not able to adequately manage more extreme events, allowing water levels upstream to rise to a level where residential properties and their gardens become affected. With the negotiated amendments we have now formally approved, water will be able to passively weir over the structure in extreme conditions, with much better access and control possible under normal operating conditions. In combination, these works should significantly reduce the flood risk to the residential area upstream.

ADMINISTRATION

Ref: A3-6 Health & Safety – Cable Strike

A recent EA incident report, involving an overhead cable strike, has been shared with ADA and IDBs. Details as follows:

An EA long-reach excavator was being tracked along a national cycle network track to a loading point for transportation. 11kV electricity cables cross and run parallel to the track which the excavator had to negotiate, and a low bridge also crosses the track. The excavator was fitted with a weed bucket but was also transporting a digging bucket using a 2-legged chain sling.

When travelling along the access track during the pick and carry operation, the dipper arm of the excavator struck the 11kV overhead cables crossing the track. There was a flash that alerted the

operator, who then reversed the excavator approximately 20 metres clear of the overhead cables, before lowering the boom and proceeding to track underneath the cables which remained intact.

On investigation it was noted that there was no risk assessment and safe system of work to cover moving the excavator from the storage location to the loading point, and safe working and emergency procedures were not adhered to.

Next steps/actions:

1. The lessons and actions will be incorporated into our Operational Instructions for working near and passing underneath overhead cables.

2. Teams must check and confirm that risk assessments and safe systems of work are in place to cover the movement of excavators from storage locations to loading points, and from unloading points to depots or working areas.

3. Any overhead cables that present a hazard must be considered within the risk assessment and the safe system of work must detail how the excavator can be safely manoeuvred when within the 15 metre controlled area adjacent to overhead cables.

4. WIRE-WATCHER high voltage cable detection and warning units will be installed in all of our long reach excavator fleet. The equipment will be installed by an approved specialist and managed via the service, inspection, maintenance, and repair provider, with the costs being returned to the asset responsible officer under a safety enhancement code. Responsible Officers will be contacted directly to make the arrangements for the on-site installations to be booked-in.

5. Note these units provide supplementary hazard identification in conjunction with normal practice of obtaining services information which informs risk assessments, safe systems of work and site plans.

Details of this incident have been shared with the Board's maintenance contractor in order to share lessons learned and to aid review of our own procedures.

Ref: A8-1.1

ADA South East Branch

A meeting of the ADA SE Branch took place in Ashford on 19th October 2022. The Stour Board was represented by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Clerk & Engineer, Finance & Rating Officer and Technical Assistant.

Mr Bill Gower (Chairman of Pevensey & Cuckmere WLMB) was appointed Chairman of the Branch and Cllr Mick Gillman (Member of Upper Medway IDB) was appointed Vice Chairman. General updates were provided by ADA and the EA and it was agreed that the next meeting will be scheduled for October 2023, but with a possible mid-year meeting or site visit to also be arranged around April/May. Further details will be issued in due course.

MEETING CLOSED

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

9 February 2023

The Chairman