

Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 17th April 2018.

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Subject:

Bradford Beck Pilot Study

Summary statement:

The Bradford Beck Pilot Study was first discussed by members in April 2013 and again in subsequent committees. It was resolved that the ongoing collaboration between officers and Friends of Bradford Beck be supported; also that the Friends of Bradford Beck be congratulated for the work they have undertaken throughout the years. This report outlines progress made in the financial year 2017- 2018.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Environment & Waste Management.



1. SUMMARY

Since the Committee meeting of 18th April 2017 there have been a number of meetings and developments between Council Officers in various sections and Friends of Bradford's Becks (FOBB). This report outlines the work carried out over the last year in collaboration to the catchment plan produced by FOBB that was supported by the Environment and Waste O&S Committee in 2013.

2. BACKGROUND

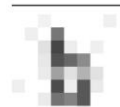
During the course of the year there have been numerous meetings and developments involving FOBB and Council Officers in relation to Bradford Beck. The various projects and initiative are discussed below:

Local Levy Funded Projects

As discussed in last years report, following the floods of Decemeber 2015 it was recognised that there was a need need for a long term strategic approach to managing flood risk and associated envionmental impacts across the Bradford district. In idenitifying this need the Council worked with the Environment Agency to scope and develop a Bradford Flood Programme Board. The Board agreed that, alongside ongoing scheme development, it is a priority to focus on identifying and delivering cost-beneficial solutions to areas within the district that are at risk of flooding. The Programme Board were able to secure local levy funding to help deliver aspirations and the following work has been funded through this govenernece structure within the financial year 2017/ 18.

Following the success of the River Stewardship pilot project in 2016/17, In collabaoration with FOBB and the Aire Rivers Trust, further funding was secured to undertake a River Stewardship programme for 2017/18. The overall aim of River Stewardship for Bradford is to create a sustainable and active network of citizens looking after Bradford's rivers, delivering activities including debris clearance, invasive species control, backside maintenance and riparian landowner engagement to support flood risk and resilience activities on behalf of the community.

The Shipley Canal Road Corridor Flood Risk and Benefits Study is nearing completion. The purpose of the study is to investigate the multiple benefits that flood risk schemes could deliver in improving flood risk, providing environmental benefits, assisting in maintaining and achieving Water Framework Directive objectives, enhancing the transport links to and from the city centre, provide biological enhancements and creating open space to encourage social community benefits within the Shipley and Canal Road Corridor alongside Bradford Beck. In developing the study, a workshop was held on the 19th January 2018 with the purpose of presenting the outputs of the study to local stakeholders. Input from local stakeholders is important in developing an approach that will gain acceptance within the community and so facilitate progression through the latter stages of community engagement on proposed works. Invites were issued to 35 representatives covering 21 different organisations. The final study is due to be published in April 2018 and will outline the Strategic Outline Case for the renaturalisation works and the measures to be taken to proceed the project to a Full Business Case with the aim of attracting the necessary funds to implement the proposals.



European Project

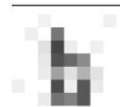
The re-naturalisation works also form part of the successful funding bid to the EU North Sea Interreg Vb programme project BEGIN (Blue / Green infrastructure through social innovation) which was approved in early September 2016 to EU North Sea Region Secretariat; The Lead Partner being the Municipality of Dordrecht in the Netherlands. The scheme is progressing and will help support the aspirations of the Councils Green Infrastructure Study. The emerging approach in respect of Green Infrastructure and flood risk is based on the creation of a Linear Park along the length of Bradford Beck, restoring the natural character of the beck, retaining areas of natural floodplain, introducing new areas and enhancing existing areas of greenspace whilst incorporating sustainable drainage within new developments. The BEGIN projects also aims to engage with communities to increase awareness of the Beck and its catchment..

Pollution Prevention Working Group

To tackle the ongoing historically pollution and ecological concerns over the water quality and embankment quality within Bradford Beck, the Council alongside FOBB the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water have set up a working group to share the challenges we all face and how these might be dealt with for the short, medium and long term. The collaborative catchment approach could influence a gradual change in the improvements necessary on Bradford Beck and increase the awareness of the issues within each organisation. The group was established following a report prepared by Friends of Bradford Becks that provided a sound and proper evidence base of the type and frequency of a range of pollution incidents within the Bradford Beck catchment. As Bradford Beck forms a big part of the Council's strategic aspirations for growth and regeneration along the Shipley and Canal Road Corridor, it's appearance and condition are an important part of future aspirations and strategies. The group has discussed the complexities within the regulatory frameworks in preventing pollution and similar constraints within the objectives of various funding mechanisms that could be used to prevent pollution. The group has identified that a lack in resource in reporting pollution incidents makes pin pointing the source of incidents difficult and has therefore identified the need to develop a range of strategies to improve the reporting procedures.

Monitoring

The Open Data Institute Leeds in conjunction with the Council continue to maintain the LoRaWAN (Long range wide area network) coverage of the city centre and Canal Road corridor is been established to facilitate 3 sensors in measuring water levels on Bradford Beck and its tributaries. Currently the 3 sensors are in place and sending live updates which can be viewed on the 'Flood Network' <https://map.flood.network/> together with Environment Agency water level gauges on the Beck and River Aire in Shipley. The data are also published as open data on DataMill North, and the LoRaWAN network is 'open' and available for anyone to use free of charge via 'The Things Network Leeds – Bradford'. The network can provide live information on flood risk and the data can be used in conjunction with rainfall measurements from Council gauges in Thornton and Britannia House to gain a better understanding of the performance of Bradford Beck and the flood alleviation tunnel. This Internet of Things (IoT) infrastructure can be used for many other purposes and provides a resource for the Council, academic researchers, local businesses and the public.



3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Friends of Bradford Becks have worked on a broad range of projects over the year and a copy of their activities for 2017 – 18 is included as appendix 1.

The Environment Agency has been approached on pollution incidents that have been reported on Bradford Beck and its tributaries. This data is included within appendix 2.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

None

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

None

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

None

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

None

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None

7.6 TRADE UNION



None

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

None

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

None

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Friends of Bradford's Becks and the Strategic Director, Place be requested to work jointly on studies and proposals for the Canal Road Area.
2. That the Friends of Bradford's Becks be invited to report back in a year's time.
3. That Document AJ be noted and that the ongoing collaboration between officers and the Friends of Bradford's Becks be supported.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Friends of Bradford Becks summary of activities 2017 – 18

Appendix 2 - Environment Agency Pollution Incidents 2017- 18

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Bradford's Becks – a New Lease of Life

Available online from:

<http://bradfordbeckdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/bradfordsbecksfinalweboptimised.pdf>

