

River Dove NFM update

10/01/2023

1. Funding.

- a. An indicative Local Levy allocation of £154k has been secured from Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
- b. £94k Grant in Aid funding has been bid for through the Environment Agency's capital programme.
- c. With the addition of the Kirkbymoorside Town Council contribution (the JBA study) and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's time, the economic case can be made and partnership funding rules are met.

2. Approvals.

- a. The Strategic Outline Case (SOC) has been drafted and locally assured. This document makes the strategic and economic case, demonstrates sufficient benefits appraisal against the cost, assess broad options, delivery method and project funding. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust provided high levels costings based on the JBA report and we estimated benefits using the available river flow archive data and Vale of Pickering flood model which allowed us to make some calculated assumptions and avoid the need for new modelling at greater cost and time.
- b. There has been verbal acceptance of the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) by the budget holder, we're now waiting on formal confirmation. This will allow spend of 36k for further study, engagement and design work.

3. Partnerships.

- a. A 'collaborative agreement' is in draft with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and we're now getting our legal team to assist in finalising.
- b. NYCC have shared the previous WSP report and we have discussed project appraisal aspects such as benefit apportionment and project scope.
- c. Site visits with Chris Tinkler and Paul Smith have taken place. Some options were discussed, e.g. Large Woody Debris and floodplain reconnection but further investigation is needed.
- d. Follow up email and calls sent re monitoring to Paul Smith. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are following up.
- e. We have contacted Tom Holt who is broadly supportive. A planned site visit was cancelled before Xmas and we hope to re-establish one soon.
- f. We met with the Yorkshire Peat Partnership. They have a green light to do some peatland restoration work around Bransdale this winter, Farndale was also looked at but is not funded as yet. This is one to possibly support through the project.

- g. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust had a productive meet with George Winn-Darley and better understand land ownership in the upper catchment and introduction of JBA report.

4. Other related matters.

- a. Marshalls. Kirkbymoorside Town Council have been contacted about a contribution of time and money towards environmental outcomes. It would be great to join this up with the NFM scheme. This would probably be best done under the direction of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust delivery.
- b. North Yorkshire County Council have reviewed the planning app re Swineherd Lane and applied conditions to their response.
- c. Ryedale District Council have drafted a newsletter to residents with input from North Yorkshire County Council and the Environment Agency which will include mention of planned projects.
- d. Our national economics and research team are reviewing our business case and have verbally confirmed we are following the latest national thinking around NFM appraisal.

5. To do.

- a. Consider whether connections with the Woodland Trust / White Rose Forest / Highways are needed.
- b. Carry out further site visits and landowner engagement spring/summer 2023 including potentially looking at some of the WSP sites at the same time to avoid dual engagement.
- c. Conduct detailed design and draft landowner agreements.
- d. Draft a Full Business Case and seek approval.
- e. Deliver the scheme. Programming to start next winter going into financial year 2024/25.

6. Key risk at this stage.

- a. Sufficient landowner/tenant engagement and agreement for delivery and ongoing maintenance.
- b. Costs – inflation.

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