

Lincolnshire Reservoir – Community Liaison Group

**2 October 2024**

**Chair: Charles Campion (CC)**

**Anglian Water Project Team:**

<b>Attendee name (initials)</b>	<b>Role/Specialism</b>
Kelly Linay (KL)	Stakeholder Lead
Victor Freeney (VF)	Head of Planning & Stakeholder
David Whittaker (DW)	Project Development Lead
David Bull (DB)	Design Lead
Hugh Maxfield (HM)	Land Lead
Ben Shin (BS)	Design Manager
Roxanne Blake (RB)	Stakeholder Engagement, Consultation and Communications
Liam Gullis (LG)	Stakeholder Engagement, Consultation and Communications
Imogen Asquith (IA)	Stakeholder Engagement, Consultation and Communications

**Attendees:**

<b>Attendee name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Michael Coy	Burton Pedwardine and Burton Gorse Village Meeting
Andy Topp	Burton Pedwardine and Burton Gorse Village Meeting
Cllr Geoff Hotchkin	Helpringham Parish Council
Cllr Russell Jackson	North Kesteven District Council (Helpringham and Osbournby ward)
Cllr Will Watts	Helpringham Parish Council
Sue Fortune	Lincolnshire Community Foundation
Lea Schofield	Lincs Rural Support Network
Cllr Sally Tarry	North Kesteven District Council (Heckington Rural ward)
Cllr Luisa McIntosh	North Kesteven District Council
Cllr Christine Collard	North Kesteven District Council and (Heckington Rural ward)
Jon Johnson	Scredington Parish Council
Karen Sweeny	Scredington Parish Council
Chris Close	Sleaford Wheelers
Julie Close	Sleaford Wheelers

Cllr Elaine Penketh	Swaton Parish Council
Charles Campion	Swaton Parish Council and Chair of the CLG
Helen Earley	Threekingham Parish Council
Tony Lyon-Marrion	Threekingham Parish Council
Emma Billings	Lincolnshire Rural Support Network

<b>Time:</b>	7-9pm on Wednesday 2 October 2024
<b>Location:</b>	Helpringham Memorial Hall, 6 George St, Helpringham, Sleaford NG34 0RS

### Welcome and introduction

CC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The project team introduced themselves.

CC ran through the actions from the previous Lincolnshire Reservoir CLG and discussed the meeting agenda explaining that pre-submitted questions will be answered at the end.

Responding to an outstanding action, DB said surveys are planned to commence in Spring 2025; however, AW is still monitoring the existing boreholes to gather data for ground investigations. More data is required to allow AW to draw conclusions from this survey.

### Project update

DW discussed the programme update saying that the submission date for the DCO application is now Autumn 2028, meaning an extended two-year pre-application period.

Our revised programme for the Lincolnshire Reservoir is subject to the final determination of our five-year business plan by our economic regulator, Ofwat. This is planned for December 2024.

KL acknowledged the additional uncertainty this would create for local communities, but this will allow AW to undertake additional technical work and stakeholder discussions.

### Feedback update

KL explained that the project team is currently in the process of analysing feedback from the phase two consultation. She explained that there will be a feedback summary report published by the end of the year.

CC

DB

DW

KL

<p>KL went over our feedback processes, reiterating that we are now in our analysis phase and are continuing our engagement with statutory undertakers.</p>	
<p>KL discussed the ways in which we can continue to work with attendees and continue to engage with landowners, parish councillors, district councillors, to provide survey updates.</p>	
<p>RB thanked all who came to our consultation events, explaining that feedback is vital and will develop our project.</p>	<p><b>RB</b></p>
<p>RB went through feedback and website statistics.</p>	
<p>RB explained that we took on board ideas regarding local advertising.</p>	
<p>RB reflected on what we have learnt so far from what people have told us, specifically their concerns. We are aware of concerns regarding noise and disruption, and work is underway to mitigate this potential impact.</p>	
<p>RB stated that residents have a greater knowledge of the local area and we will take feedback onboard. We are looking at ways to support the local economy, and support wildlife, which is at the forefront of our thinking.</p>	
<p>RB ran through the positive comments received. The positive comments were on the emerging design, the critical need for water supply and the educational opportunities.</p>	
<p>An attendee raised concerns regarding the presentation only focussing on positive comments.</p>	
<p>RB assured the member that there was a balance of both positive feedback and key concerns in the presentation – revisiting the slides for reference. RB also agreed to ensure a more clear representation of both positive and negative comments will feature in similar post-consultation meetings in the future.</p>	
<p>KL explained that our feedback was not all negative. There are constructive comments and positive comments, which came through especially during consultation events. KL states that there is still a lot of work to do and these comments will help shape our proposals.</p>	<p><b>KL</b></p>
<p><b>Next steps</b></p>	
<p>KL explained that the project team is RAG rating feedback. KL stated that internal workshops with our technical stakeholders will be going ahead during this time, as well as surveys.</p>	<p><b>KL</b></p>
<p>KL also talked through the updated programme, explaining that work is under way to refine the key milestones, e.g. future phases of consultation.</p>	

KL proposed a pause on the Lincolnshire Reservoir CLG. Instead of every three months, she suggested every six months, unless there is important information to be discussed. A vote is to be cast later in the meeting.

**Questions – pre-submitted and open floor**

Members of the project team answered attendee’s pre-submitted questions.

DW

***Will there be a guarantee that Anglian Water can afford the reservoir build, given their current level of debt? If not, what financial burden might be passed on to customers? (Pre-submitted question)***

In England ultimately water customers pay for required public water supply infrastructure, albeit that can be on differing timeframes depending on how water companies and their projects are financed. It is the role of Ofwat, the water sector economic regulator, to ensure customers get value for money, companies are efficient yet sufficiently funded and that there is an investor market willing to finance capital investment programmes with appropriate level of returns.

The delivery stage of the new Lincs Reservoir is expected to be funded via a third-party infrastructure partner (IP) which will be a corporate entity ‘Reservoir Company’ operating under licence to Ofwat. Their remit will be building the reservoir and its associated infrastructure within planning consent constraints and the bulk supply provision of treated water to Anglian Water, who will then continue to distribute it to customers.

The reason for using a third-party IP is that that it helps ensure the best possible value for money for customers is achieved through a competitive process and recognises that certain very large projects are outside of the business as usual operations and investments of water companies. Ofwat has proposed the delivery mechanisms which involve third party providers delivering and owning these new assets and this is what is planned for the Lincs reservoir.

Initial development phase funding to achieve planning consent is funded through Anglian Water’s customer bills over the next five year period. We have applied for approximately £200 million for Lincs Reservoir for this work and await Ofwat’s approval of this allowance by early 2025 (as a portion of our AMP8 2025-2030 period c.£10 billion company-wide investment plans). The delivery phase funding mechanism for the IP will likely be similar to that used for the c.£4.5 billion Thames Tideway Tunnel project, whereby Thames Water customers currently have repayments to their IP paid through customer bills – in their case this component is about £25/year.

<p><b>How much will customers now pay for water bills? What is our benefit?</b></p> <p>DW explained that Ofwat regulates water bills, but the cost is not yet established.</p>	<p>DW</p>
<p><b>Will Anglian Water fund/build/own the Water Treatment Works? (WTW)</b></p> <p>DW stated that this is to be confirmed and is being explored with Ofwat.</p> <p>DB added that the operation of the WTW has to meet the requirements of the Drinking Water Inspectorate and ensure that the quality is maintained, irrespective of ownership, with VF reinforcing the fact that this is tightly regulated by legislation.</p>	<p>DW/DB</p>
<p><b>Will there be guarantees that if money is added to bills this will not be the outrageous sum that Thames Water is proposing to cover its debt? (Pre- submitted question)</b></p> <p>We are unable to say exactly how this project will impact our customers' bills. However, we're aware that Thames Tideway, a DCO project costing over £4 billion, increased customer bills by £25 per year.</p>	<p>KL</p>
<p><b>Please provide more details on the proposed Water Filtration Plant e.g. position of building on the horizon, actual size, noise levels, lighting and traffic access (Pre-submitted question)</b></p> <p>DB explained that we will be undertaking a range of environmental scoping work which will eventually feed into design development. This will consider things like noise and light pollution, as well as associated traffic during both construction and operation.</p>	<p>DB</p>
<p><b>If planning consent is given, will the Highways Authority a) regulate the construction traffic; b) forbid access to villages for example to prevent short cuts; and c) instigate speed restrictions (Pre-submitted question)</b></p> <p>If consented the DCO will set out the requirements (conditions attached to the DCO) which will control the construction, commissioning and operation of the approved works. These requirements will likely include traffic control measures to reduce any negative impacts on the surrounding areas.</p>	<p>KL</p>
<p><b>Will there be a protected, and realistic budget for planting suitable shrubs and trees to hide the thing? (Pre-submitted question)</b></p> <p>A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIA. This will assess the effect the reservoir and associated infrastructure will have on views from the surrounding area. The results will be used to help inform what planting will be needed as mitigation and this will be detailed within the Environmental Statement and committed to in the DCO application.</p>	<p>KL</p>

<p><b><i>Will The Woodland Trust and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust be consulted on suitable planting? (Pre-submitted question)</i></b></p> <p>We will consult with all relevant stakeholders on suitable planting through our Technical Working Groups.</p>	<p>KL</p>
<p><b><i>A landscape artist said at Swaton that some planting could be done before the reservoir is built. When can AW commit to this?</i></b></p> <p>KL explained the work taking place during the pre-application phase and when more information will be available. She added that we will conduct a visual impact assessment which will help inform what planting is needed as mitigation.</p>	<p>KL</p>
<p><b><i>What is Anglian Water going to do about dust?</i></b></p> <p>DB explained that we will be completing environmental scoping, and this concern will feature in our scoping work. If there are concerns, this will then feed into our planning.</p>	<p>DB</p>
<p><b><i>Could you explain why the Cambridge reservoir is being fast tracked by three years and the Lincolnshire one delayed by two years?</i></b></p> <p>KL explained that there is a more pressing need for the reservoir in the Fens due to demand for water in Cambridge, as recognised in the WRMP.</p>	<p>KL</p>
<p><b><i>Feedback from new Central Government about large infrastructure plans</i></b></p> <p>VF said that we are aware of this and taking it into account, adding that we must stay agile to changes made by government. He also reinforced the need case for the project, which underpins the proposals.</p>	<p>VF</p>
<p><b><i>Following the notification that the pre-application phase has been extended by approximately two years this is going to prolong the uncertainty for those affected. There is a Residential Support Scheme but how will you support the affected businesses and farms (landowners and tenant farmers)? Are there plans for a business support scheme and if so, what will the timescale be for its implementation?</i></b></p> <p>HM explained that the RPSS will remain open for applications and we will continue to talk to affected landowners and homeowners throughout the process, despite the delay.</p> <p>HM also explained that there isn't a plan to introduce an additional business support scheme.</p>	<p>HM</p>
<p><b><i>Are minor roads going to be used for construction traffic?</i></b></p> <p>DB said that we are still assessing which roads we will be needing to use.</p>	<p>DB</p>

<p><b><i>If Anglian Water is passing on responsibility to another company, how will we take responsibility?</i></b></p>	
<p>VF explained the Planning Act 2008 and said that the DCO application will be a large document including contracts and permissions. He explained that it is a strong and robust process.</p>	VF
<p><b><i>Will local residents have contact during this period of delay?</i></b></p>	
<p>KL stated that we will develop an engagement plan. She stated that it is important to maintain our relationship with the local communities.</p>	KL
<p><b><i>Is Anglian Water liaising with the council regarding the road north of the reservoir site?</i></b></p>	
<p>KL stated that we are working closely with the Highways Authority regarding this.</p>	KL
<p><b><i>Will the new owners of the project also controlled by Ofwat?</i></b></p>	
<p>DB said yes, they will be regulated the same way.</p>	
<p><b><i>What will you do about people parking on verges or speeding on roads? Will you put speed restrictions in place?</i></b></p>	DB
<p>DB – we will try to mitigate any disruption impact and work closely with the Highways authority.</p>	
<p><b><i>CC asked the specific reason for programme delay.</i></b></p>	DB
<p>KL explained the delay will allow the project team to carry out surveys and further technical work.</p>	
<p><b><i>Has the RPSS been delayed? An attendee raised an individual's case.</i></b></p>	KL/CC
<p>HM stated RPSS has not been delayed – it was introduced on 30 May, but we have not yet received any applications. HM spoke with the attendee regarding individual case after the meeting finished,</p>	HM
<p>HM was also asked to define what 'residential' means and went on to explain that this term is flexible as the scheme is discretionary. He also flagged the location of the RPSS boundary and additional land-related information on the project website.</p>	HM
<p><b><i>Do we see the project area increasing or decreasing?</i></b></p>	
<p>HM: We will know more once time progresses.</p>	

<p>An attendee raised a concern regarding communication around the Swaton event change. They suggested that AW email all parish councils and not just the directly affected parish. They also suggested advertising the event change on local radio.</p>	<p>RB</p>
<p>An attendee stated that the event change was communicated on the parish council website and Facebook page.</p>	
<p>RB assured the attendee we will look into this approach and take advice onboard for next time. RB stated that the postcards had already gone to print when the General Election was announced.</p>	
<p>An attendee stated that when filling in a feedback form, they received a notification stating that their inbox was full.</p>	<p>RB</p>
<p>RB stated that she will look into this and go back to them once she's investigated.</p>	
<p>A member raised concerns about the water distribution across the region, and KL used the analogy of a motorway to explain how regional distribution would be achieved.</p>	
<p><b>Close of meeting</b></p>	
<p>Attendees agreed to having the next meeting in around six months' time once there is more to report, unless there is a project update required before then. The project team states that a copy of the slides and a summary of today's meeting will be added to the project website <a href="http://www.lincsreservoir.co.uk">www.lincsreservoir.co.uk</a>.</p>	<p>KL</p>
<p><b>NEXT MEETING TBC</b></p>	