

Catchment Guide

Appendix 2:

Case Studies

List of Case Studies

1. Ribble Catchment – Online Information
2. Upper Thames Catchment – Integrated Local Delivery

The Ribble Catchment

Question 8:

What information will you need?



Increasing stakeholder engagement with an online presence

+ Background Information

The Ribble catchment is located in North East England and is home to over 1.25 million people. The catchment drains an area of 860 square miles and can be divided into five sub-catchment areas: the Upper Ribble catchment, Hodder catchment, Calder catchment, Darwen catchment and the Lower Ribble catchment.

Ribble Life manages the catchment project and is a partnership led by both the Ribble Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency. The Ribble Rivers Trust was formed in 1997 and delivers a number of projects across the Ribble catchment.

Key Players: Ribble Life, Ribble Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency

+ Issues or challenges for the catchment

The Ribble Life Project Board felt that it was important for the Ribble Life Action Plan to be a living document which is open and transparent to all stakeholders in the catchment. Therefore they decided that an online plan which anyone could view, add and update actions was a good format to help deliver that aim.

The Ribble Life Project Board identified the following additional benefits of an online plan:

- The plan can be easily updated, thereby helping to make actions remain relevant.
- The ability of stakeholders to access, update and edit their own actions will provide a greater sense of ownership and help secure commitment to deliver those actions.
- The costs of a web-based system (Ribble Life already had a website) are lower than publishing costs associated with a printed document, especially as actions are added, updated and improved.
- The accessibility of the plan could help us secure wider engagement and attract new stakeholders – they can see what Ribble Life is all about and join in if they want to.
- It is possible to directly link the plan with other stakeholders' websites.

+ What Happened

Ribble Life has created a website (www.ribbonlife.org) that allows us to present information and to receive information from the public. Information presented includes issues affecting the Ribble catchment (such as pollution, water abstraction and invasive non-native species) and a catchment map. The catchment map displays site-specific information across the catchment area that has been uploaded by website users. The website also enabled (until December 2012) users to upload suggested actions for inclusion into the Ribble Life action plan. Submissions were discussed by the Ribble Life project board and, if accepted, were then included in the action plan and published on the website.

The Ribble Catchment

Question 8:
What information will you need?



Increasing stakeholder engagement with an online presence

+ What Worked Well

Worked:

- The website enabled the catchment actions to be open and transparent to everyone
- Stakeholders gave good feedback about the format of the website generally.
- The website provided a good, central location to keep records of meetings and engagement activity which was open to be viewed by all.

Did not work so well:

- Few stakeholders uploaded actions themselves, but relied on the host co-ordinators.
- Many of the actions are high-level or vague and will require further development.

+ Outcomes

In terms of addressing the question in the Catchment Guide:

- Engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, from councils and owners to recreational clubs and local action groups
- Prompted debate on whether the action plan is able to improve the Water Framework Directive (WFD) status of the water body itself. Whilst some suggested actions were not directly linked to this (i.e. recreation and access), these could be indirectly linked e.g. recreational canoeists suggesting actions that include safe access and egress points for people to encourage canoeing may not seem to be directly related to WFD status. However, the project board suggested that they would hope to engage them in 'catchment paddle-overs', which could include conducting surveys for pollution and habitat quality.

Key Lessons: An online presence and the opportunity for stakeholders to contribute online can lead to an action plan that derives input from a larger range of stakeholders than traditional methods.

+ Further information

Links to further information about the experience:

Website: <http://www.ribbonlife.org>

For questions or clarifications about the Ribble Life Project, please contact:

Jack Spees (Ribble Rivers Trust), jack@ribbletrust.com

Helen Dix (Environment Agency), helen.dix@environment-agency.gov.uk

The Upper Thames

Question 7: What is the relationship between your catchment work and other partnerships or plans in the catchment?

Integrated Local Delivery (ILD) in Upper Thames Catchment

+ Background Information

In the Upper Thames Catchment prior to the pilot, there were a number of water related initiatives taking place. There was, however, no coordination of effort and much evidence of duplication and overlap of project activity from different stakeholders. The complexity of governance and lack of communication structure between partners created confusion and frustration for farmers/land managers and communities. Moreover a lack of integration of local knowledge within these initiatives meant farmers and communities were often left feeling undervalued and unable to contribute and influence project development. As a result their expertise and resources were not accessed to assist with the design and implementation of any resulting activities.

The pilot applied the Integrated Local Delivery (ILD) framework (developed by FWAG/CCRI/NE between 2004-2011), which is based on 8 core principles:

- Works at lowest appropriate administrative structure (parish/ward/district/catchment);
- Clarifying the roles of statutory and non-statutory partners;
- Delivering objectives at landscape scale;
- Supporting, valuing and respecting knowledge from the farming/local community;
- Using specialist facilitation to develop local management group;
- Basing the structure at the Parish Council level;
- Enabling inclusive multi objective delivery;
- Identifying funding opportunities and match funding.

Key Players: Gloucester Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and FWAG-SW, Gloucester Rural Community Council, The Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI), the National farmers Union (NFU), local Parish Councils, The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency and Natural England

+ Issues or challenges for the catchment

- Water quality issues such as phosphates and ammonia
- Sustainability of fisheries
- Joining up service provision.

+ What Happened

Key stakeholders and relevant strategies and plans were linked to the natural assets found within the catchment during the scoping phase. From finding an asset at a local level, e.g. SSSI, the scoping identified the local, regional, national and international policy frameworks that are attached to the protection of that asset. The further scoping comes back to identify the relevant partner contact whose duty or aim is the protection of this asset back at the catchment level. This process was carried out across the catchment as a whole, identifying all the relevant catchment stakeholders. This process can then be used again at a farm and parish level to identify all the locally relevant stakeholders at a parish level. The stakeholders, with their diverse range of objectives, funding and opportunity can be brought together in a simple framework that can link to parish planning. Each parish/ward in the catchment can then be engaged to lead on the protection of the water environment.

The Upper Thames

Question 7: What is the relationship between your catchment work and other partnerships or plans in the catchment?

What Happened (continued)

For the Siddington parish case study the:

- Management tasks were mapped and verified, using an open and inclusive approach, in this case the pilot Steering Group.
- A management group (and email circle) was developed, involving key local and statutory stakeholders.
- Linkages between stakeholders were embedded, with local adoption of responsibilities linked to the parish council and parish planning.
- The local management group identified and began prioritising the key tasks.
- Implementation and monitoring of tasks by the management group and embedding into the local community to allow long-term support is the aim during the delivery phase.

The above required the specialist facilitation of a Farming and Integrated Environmental Local Delivery (FIELD) Adviser, hosted by Gloucestershire FWAG. An accreditation programme is being developed with the Countryside and Community Research Institute, which will be open course to accredit advisers from and interested organisation wishing implement delivery through the Integrated Local Delivery Framework.

+ Outcomes

- FWAG-SW/ CCRI has started to develop a portal with GIS mapping that overlays relevant strategies, targets and modelling for every parish or ward within the catchment. This is a mechanism for identifying and joining partners together and finding the locally relevant contact to support local delivery.
- The application of a project framework for each water body, which targets actions to deliver against known WFD failures, by working with an all-inclusive partnership of stakeholders working to a spatial strategy
- The framework is designed to reconnect sustainable farm businesses and communities
- The Gloucester Rural Community Council and a FIELD Adviser hosted by FWAG-SW are providing facilitation to help rural communities in developing and delivering cross cutting environmentally sustainable parish and local plans.
- Funding has been obtained to roll out the ILD approach through the 3 year Water with Integrate Local Delivery (WILD) project where FIELD advisers will offer specialist facilitation in 14 parishes and 4 towns over the next 3 years.

Key Lessons: 1) Qualified, independent facilitators (FIELD Advisers) can inform, link and enable the process and engage with the local and national organisations. 2) Joining up delivery at the local level avoids duplication and wastage of resources.

+ Further information

Inspiring and enabling communities: The Integrated Local Delivery model for localism and the environment (Final Report) from The Countryside and Community Research Institute:

<http://www.ccri.ac.uk/ild/>

Contacts: Jenny Phelps (FWAG South West) Jenny.phelps@gloucestershirefwag.org.uk, Christopher Short (CCRI) cshort@glos.ac.uk