

Lower Otter Restoration Project Stakeholder Group Statement of Meeting

Meeting of: Wednesday May 9, 2018, at 10.00am

At: East Budleigh Village Hall

The stakeholder group noted Option 3, Big and Little Marsh floodplain restoration, has emerged as the favoured option for the project team. This was also the option most favoured by the public following an exhibition in 2017, with 62 per cent supporting this option. A public exhibition about the preferred option is likely to be held in late autumn 2018.

The Environment Agency and Clinton Devon Estates remain committed to the project, despite not being awarded funding by the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

Funding options including the Regional Heritage Lottery Fund and the cross-Channel Interreg VA fund are being explored.

Computer modelling to predict how habitats and associated key species will change and develop in the estuary under Option 3 is continuing. This modelling suggests that Option 3 would not increase flood risk to properties and infrastructure, although flow speeds will initially increase at the estuary mouth which may deepen and/or widen the channel, reducing flow speeds again.

Analysis of the contents of the old tip raised no areas of concern in respect of potential leachates.

Technical studies and negotiations are on-going with South West Water over the potential impact of Option 3 on ground-water, and a sewerage overflow pipe.

Preliminary options for an embankment for South Farm Road, with suitable culverts, have been sent to Devon County Council, as Highways Authority, for discussion, although detailed technical drawings have not been developed.

To allow time for a replacement playing surface to be prepared, the Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club asked that consideration be given to an earlier, separate planning application for the new pitch prior to any other work getting under way, should the project proceed.

Ends