

# Sandy Town Council

There will be an extraordinary meeting of Sandy Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 30 March 2015 commencing after the Policy Finance & Resources Committee at 7.30pm for the purpose of transacting the items of business below

A W Jackson, Town Mayor  
10 Cambridge Road  
Sandy SG19 1JE  
01767 681491  
24 March 2015

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING**

## **A G E N D A**

### **Apologies for Absence**

**1** To receive any apologies for absence

### **2 Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations**

*Under the Localism Act 2011 members of Council are not required to make oral declarations of interest at meetings but may not participate in discussion or voting on any items of business in which they have a Declarable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) and under Sandy Town Council's Standing Orders must leave the room for the duration of all discussion on such items. (All members' register of interests are available on the Sandy Town Council website or on application to the Clerk.)*

*This item is included on the agenda to enable members to declare new DPIs and also **those who wish to do so** may draw attention to their stated DPIs and also any non-declarable personal interests which they have declared under Sandy Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct and which may be relevant to items on the agenda.*

- i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests*
- ii) Non Disclosable Interests*
- iii) Dispensations*

### **3 Public Participation Session**

To receive questions and representations from members of the public.

### **4 H R Matters**

To discuss current office staging arrangements\*

**\* Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media may be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of this item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

# Sandy Town Council

You are hereby summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of Sandy Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 30 March 2015 commencing after the Policy Finance & Resources Committee at 7.30pm for the purpose of transacting the items of business below

A W Jackson, Town Mayor  
10 Cambridge Road  
Sandy SG19 1JE  
01767 681491  
25 March 2015

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS MEETING**

## **S U P P L E M E N T A R Y   A G E N D A**

- 1     The River Ivel Restoration Work** ✓  
To consider a proposal for removal or modification of weirs and embankments.
  
- 2     Sale of Chamber Table** ✓  
To consider offers for the chamber table.

Item 1

# River Ivel Restoration-Proposed removal or modification of weirs and embankments

Initial consultation

Issued May 2014

The Environment Agency is currently investigating options to dispose of structures which no longer serve their original purpose and, if removed or modified, could offer environmental benefits. This document outlines the reasoning behind and details of the proposal, how it's funded and the potential environmental benefits. This represents an initial consultation to identify interested parties and to gauge support.

## Proposal

Historic modification of the River Ivel for navigation, food production and flood protection between Tempsford and Arlesey have disrupted the natural functioning of the river and the ecology it supports. Many of the structures such as lock pens and weirs, as well as some of the flood embankments are obsolete and offer little flood risk benefit.



Lock Corner Weir, South Mills Weir and embankments downstream of Blunham Bridges.



The proposal is to preferably remove (where possible) or modify structures and embankments to restore the natural functioning of the river and the ecology it supports.

## Reasoning

These structures prevent the free movement of fish and other river wildlife. They also prevent the natural functioning of the river by impounding water, disconnecting the floodplain and disrupting the movement of sediment. The European Water Framework Directive (2000) became part of UK law in 2003 and establishes a framework for community action in water policy and an opportunity to plan and deliver a better water environment, focusing on ecology. This requires all water bodies to achieve Good Ecological Status (GES) or Good Ecological Potential (GEP) for Heavily Modified Water Bodies (HMWB) like the Ivel, by 2015. The Ivel is currently failing and a number of Mitigation Measures have been identified in the Anglian Basin Management Plan to prevent deterioration and achieve enhancement of the aquatic environment.

To be compliant with the European Eel Regulations 2009 all structures must allow free passage of eels, a species which is at an historical minimum and still in decline.

## Funding

In 2014/15 Grant-in-Aid funding has been allocated to deliver an Environmental Programme which focuses on contributing towards the delivery of Water Framework Directive objectives. Funding has been secured to undertake preliminary investigations including flood risk modelling, geomorphological assessments and ecological baseline surveys. Further funding for 2015/16 has yet to be approved but bids have been submitted to deliver the physical construction elements of the project. Opportunities for partnership funding are being considered.

## Environmental benefits

The removal of uneconomic obsolete assets provides the greatest opportunity to restore the natural functioning of the river and the ecology it supports. The modification of embankments provides the opportunity to restore wetland habitats which have been lost or degraded by their physical disconnection from the river.

The removal or modification of these structure would reconnect 25 km of upstream habitat currently fragmented by these structures. Where removed this would result in a lowering of upstream water levels upstream of structures with more naturalised flows and some localised adjustment of the physical river form (morphology), as the river responds. The level of adjustment will be assessed and predicted prior to removal or modification, with measures put in place to limit and control the response.

The project will help prevent deterioration and enhance the habitat for fish and a range of river biota.

## Flood risk

The impact, if any, on flood risk will be assessed through modelling a number of flood scenarios.

## Share your views

We are interested to know what you think. Is this something you support or do you have any concerns? Please contact Ellis Selway (Technical Advisor Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology Team) at [ellis.selway@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:ellis.selway@environment-agency.gov.uk) or call 07833 094157.

Further consultation is expected once initial comments have been received and reviewed.

## Carol Baker-Smith

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**From:** Martin Pettitt <martin.pettitt@virginmedia.com>  
**Sent:** 25 March 2015 10:41  
**To:** Colin Osborne  
**Cc:** will.jackson662@btinternet.com; Carol Baker-Smith; Carol Baker-Smith; Cllr Caroline Maudlin  
**Subject:** Re: Ivel Restoration Project - Threat to divert the River Ivel at Sandy  
**Importance:** High

Hello Colin,

You have pre-empted one of the things that I was going to do today; Yes, most definitely this is a matter which should receive the **urgent** attention of Town Council, indeed of all of the town and parish councils who have land within the Ivel River catchment which could potentially be affected by what is being proposed.

I received the same email with attachments direct from Graham Inwood yesterday and only really got around to studying it all last evening. I had not previously read the newspaper article etc. which was published while we were on holiday.

I did attend an informal meeting along with David Sharman and a few others at Graham's house on 20 January where the EA was represented. The long term plans and the rationale behind them was explained and we then walked along Bridleway 8 and via Sandcast Wood across the field to look at Lock Corner Weir. At that stage I was not unduly alarmed for while I and I believe others present could not see how "historical restoration" would bring about benefits to outweigh any probable changes to the river course there was reassurance that **nothing would happen beyond the feasibility stage until a thorough and robust public consultation had then taken place.**

Graham Inwood's report really says it all and in fact I was approached by a member of the public last Friday morning while Jackie and I were at the Mill with our grand daughter feeding the ducks. He had got wind of the plans and was fearful that if these proposed changes were to take place then the whole character of the area would be destroyed, notably the river flowing through Sandcast Wood would cease to exist. It will be seen from Graham's report that he believes that in the next phase, 2015 - 2021 structural removals could begin as they are seen as "economically viable".

Will, The date for consultation to the next stage closes on Friday 10 April and our next scheduled meeting of STC was on Monday 13 April. However in view of the urgency and importance of the matter can this be added, even at this late stage to the agenda for the special meeting of STC next Monday evening? We might also consider inviting Graham Inwood to attend. It might mean a very long evening but in the exceptional circumstances I suggest quite appropriate.

Regards to all and bye for now.

Martin

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Colin Osborne](#)  
**To:** ["Martin Pettitt"](#)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 25, 2015 12:00 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Ivel Restoration Project

[Hi Martin,](#)

04

I know you were involved in a meeting on this but not sure what's happened since. Does it need to go to STC?

Cheers

Colin

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**From:** Roger Adams [mailto:rogerp.adams@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** 24 March 2015 20:52  
**To:** Colin Osborne  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ivel Restoration Project

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Graham Inwood" <[graham.inwood@gmail.com](mailto:graham.inwood@gmail.com)>  
**To:** "Roger Adams" <[rogerp.adams@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerp.adams@btinternet.com)>, "Elizabeth Adams" <[elizabetha.adams@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabetha.adams@btinternet.com)>  
**Subject:** Ivel Restoration Project

Roger, Elizabeth - can you please forward on to Colin Osbourne, thanks.....Graham

Hello everyone

The Ivel Restoration Project is aimed at removing weirs and structures from the river. As of **April 10** it becomes part of the next river basin management plan and **you will no longer have the opportunity to comment.**

Personally I am appalled that this is happening, it really appears to be an attempt to get this through underneath the radar. The 'Consultation Document' attached was published in May 2014, but not one local resident has been contacted. Not one Town Council has been informed. No fishing club has been given the opportunity to comment. Local businesses weren't consulted and local papers were not given it to publish. I was told by people at the EA that it was only circulated to Central Beds Council and to the Internal Drainage Board. I have spoken to members of both organisations at quite senior level, and concerned with matters relating to the Ivel, even they were not aware of it.

Attached is my article to the Biggleswade Chronicle, which they published last Friday. They asked the EA for comment which they have added, but they decided to take out most of my key points (shown in red), which weakens the article considerably. You have the original version and to be fair I have attached the article as published.

In the table below I have extracted a few key points from the proposals that are already on the wish list of affordable projects that will almost certainly go ahead between now and 2021. Apologies for not including the Ivel Navigation or tributaries.

I have included IVO179/180 to show that some thought is being given to improving water quality by removing phosphates. However at a projected cost of £3,000,000 per year to be borne by the Water Industry, I'll leave you to guess which measure won't happen.

Unique measure number	OS grid ref	Location, details, effects. Their comments in green, my comments in red
IV0163	TL1528750909	Blunham gauging station low cost baffles for fish passage
IV0161/164	TL1879144401	Modify or remove Franklins Mill Biggleswade weir, modify channel to historic course. <b>IPA back meadows and free stretch likely to change in character</b>
IV0165	TL1847442909 TL1842642983	Jordans Mill lock and weirs, bypass or fish pass. <b>Weir removal unlikely as it is again a working mill</b>
IV0170	TL1860746414	Re-connection to old course, bank reprofiling at Seddington gravel works – <b>B&amp;HAC Ltd lakes may be affected</b>
IV0174	TL1703148743	Mill Lane/Baulk bridge, remove weir – no effect if Lock Corner weir is removed. <b>So they realise the school stretch will dry up</b>
IV0175	TL1741448565	Lock Corner, downstream New Road, remove weir. <b>KAAC School stretch ceases to exist, Sandy Mill Pool will largely disappear in time, silting up to become another straight section of river</b>
IV0176	TL1559050222	South Mills, remove weir. <b>Upstream will increase in gradient downstream through Blunham Park will change in character</b>
IV0177	TL1576253019	Tempsford Saw Mill, remove two weirs. <b>Direct connection to the Gt Ouse, alien species allowed upstream.</b>
IV0179/180		Phosphate removal at Sandy & Biggleswade STW

If you have any concerns about the level in general or your local stretch in particular, say it now by filling in the form and sending it to the EA by **April 10**. Details of how to do this are in the article.

Regards.....Graham

07785 283131

please note new landline number 01767 449483



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[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## Carol Baker-Smith

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**From:** Barry Groom  
**Sent:** 24 March 2015 13:30  
**To:** Carol Baker-Smith  
**Subject:** FW: Ivel Restoration Project  
**Attachments:** Lock Corner Weir article Mar 2015 Biggleswade Chronicle.doc; Biggleswade Chronicle article Ivel Restoration Project (1280x1142).jpg; Ivel Restoration Proposal V2.pdf

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**From:** Graham Inwood [mailto:graham.inwood@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** 24 March 2015 13:06  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients  
**Subject:** Ivel Restoration Project

Hello everyone- please forward this on to anyone who may be interested

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Personally I am appalled that this is happening, it really appears to be an attempt to get this through underneath the radar. The 'Consultation Document' attached was published in May 2014, but not one local resident has been contacted. Not one Town Council has been informed. No fishing club has been given the opportunity to comment. Local businesses weren't consulted and local papers were not given it to publish. I was told by people at the EA that it was only circulated to Central Beds Council and to the Internal Drainage Board. I have spoken to members of both organisations at quite senior level, and concerned with matters relating to the Ivel, even they were not aware of it.

Attached is my article to the Biggleswade Chronicle, which they published last Friday. They asked the EA for comment which they have added, but they decided to take out most of my key points (shown in red), which weakens the article considerably. You have the original version and to be fair I have attached the article as published.

In the table below I have extracted a few key points from the proposals that are already on the wish list of affordable projects that will almost certainly go ahead between now and 2021. Apologies for not including the Ivel Navigation or tributaries.

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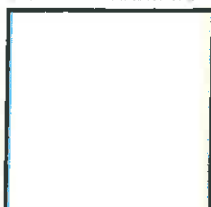
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If you have any concerns about the Ivel in general or your local stretch in particular, say it now by filling in the form and sending it to the EA by April 10. Details of how to do this are in the article.

Regards.....Graham

07785 283131

please note new landline number 01767 449483



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### Threat to divert the River Ivel at Sandy.

The weir at Lock Corner on the River Ivel has been earmarked for demolition. Located half way along the stretch from New Road to Sandy Mill Pool, it sends the main flow of the river around the land at the rear of Tesco's and through the Sandcast Wood, bordering onto Sandye Place Academy, before entering the mill pool at The Riddy nature reserve. Under what is known as 'The Ivel Restoration Plan', Lock Corner weir is regarded as 'obsolete'. Along with most other man-made structures throughout the course of the river, including weirs at Tempsford Sawmill, Southmills in Blunham, and Franklins Mill at Biggleswade, it is in line for removal.

These works are linked to improvements required under the European Union Water Framework Directive which has given rise to management plans for all river catchments throughout the UK. Under this legislation, all artificial structures affecting the river are seen as having a negative impact on the environment. Additional pressure to remove 'obstructions' from river valleys comes via the European Eel Regulations 2009, a reaction to declining eel numbers throughout the continent. Targets have been set to reinstate eel numbers returning to the sea in order to breed and, amongst other measures, it is deemed necessary to remove all barriers to eel migration, either by demolishing them or by constructing some form of eel pass allowing elvers to access the upper reaches of our rivers.

The Ivel Restoration Plan was published in May 2014, but apparently only circulated to Central Beds Council and The Internal Drainage Board. Most members of the public are likely to be unaware of either this project or of The River Basin Management Plan under which it was proposed. Consultation on the next phase of the RBMP is open until April 10<sup>th</sup>, when key features for the period to 2021 will be firmed up. Many people and organisations affected by proposals in the plan could well find measures are put into practice without even knowing they had the opportunity to 'have their say'.

Much of the content of the RBMP is of course beneficial, dealing with all perceived and identified threats to the river environment. Various forms of industrial and domestic pollution, nitrate leaching from farmland, phosphate discharge from sewage works, low flow rates through abstraction, the spread of alien species and not least the need to deal with flood risk to property are all covered. The issue of flooding featured in the Flood Risk Management Plan, this too included aspects of the Ivel Restoration Plan. Unfortunately consultation on the FRMP closed in January, it is now too late to comment.

Similarly, removal of man made structures from the river basin is not all bad, some of our most unsightly rivers flow through 'concrete jungles'. Others like stretches of the Ivel are simply beautiful as they are, yet sadly the 'scoring system' that determines if an improvement has been made by getting rid of a structure does not take into account the loss of amenity value to local residents. Removal is specified as the preferred action in virtually all cases, whatever the impact on the local environment.

If Lock Corner weir is removed, the river flowing through the Sandcast Wood will almost certainly cease to exist. The drop over the weir is greater than the depth of the river feeding through the wood. Clearly therefore almost the entire flow of the river will in future carry on in a straight line down what is known as The Dead River, the flood relief overflow channel leading downstream to Sandy Mill Pool. Part of our local heritage will be gone. The historic black and white photographs of Victorian Fayres in the grounds of Sandye Place will have even less meaning to future generations if there is no river there any more.

Alternatives to removal do exist -- fish passes, rock ramps, bypass channels for example. It could even be said that the perceived barriers do not really bar passage, eels always used to find their way to the headwaters of the Ivel catchment. The Doomsday Book records eels caught by the ton each year from our river, when mills and weirs were more numerous than today. Have modern day eels forgotten how to get past such obstructions? Or are they just not arriving back into our river systems from the open sea? Then there is the argument that weirs on the river are so far doing a good job of keeping alien species out of the Ivel. Do we really need alien mussels, killer shrimps, or even zander and catfish invading our local river from the Gt Ouse?

Despite not being circulated to the general public, the Ivel Restoration Plan is about to receive funding for the next level of studies and modelling, and is already a key element of the RBMP proposals due to be firmed up after consultation ends on April 10. 'Structure removal' features strongly in the wish list of measures that are seen as economically viable and demolitions could well be carried out in the next six year phase of the plan between 2015 and 2021.

There is still time to add your comments to the consultation. To do this you need to complete the form supplied by the Environment Agency, which can be found on their website using this link

[https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/wfd/draft\\_plans/consult?pointId=s1405417862790#section-s1405417862790](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/ho/wfd/draft_plans/consult?pointId=s1405417862790#section-s1405417862790)

You can register to reply on line or download the form by clicking 'Response Form' at the bottom of the text on the above web page. You do not need to understand the plan in detail, or to answer all the questions. Just add your thoughts in one of the available boxes, for example under Environmental Report Questions in boxes 2 and 3 on page 9. Then send it back by any means shown at the end of the form.

**You have until April 10<sup>th</sup> to 'have your say'.**

# FOR DESTRUCTION UNDER PLAN

BY LUKE GARDNER  
luke.gardner@press.co.uk  
@Luise\_Chronicle

**The weir at Lock Corner on the River Ivel in Sandy has been earmarked for demolition.**

Located half way along the stretch from New Road to Sandy Mill Pool, it sends the main flow of the river around the land at the rear of Tesco's and through the Sandcast Wood, bordering onto Sandycroft Academy, before entering the mill pool at The Kiddy nature reserve.

Under what is known as 'The Ivel Restoration Plan', Lock Corner weir is regarded as 'obsolete'.

These works are linked to improvements required under the European Union Water Framework Directive which has given rise to management plans for all river catchments throughout the UK.

Under this legislation, all artificial structures affecting the river are seen as having a negative impact on the environment.

An Environment Agency spokesperson said: "Over the



**HAVE YOUR SAY:** The weir at Lock Corner on the River Ivel in Sandy is earmarked for destruction under 'The Ivel Restoration Plan'.

supports. We're currently in the early stages of talking to everyone with an interest in the river, to see if any changes could be made to help the river function more naturally.

"Part of this is looking at structures in the river, such

part in the consultation should email [anglian-rbd@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:anglian-rbd@environment-agency.gov.uk) or the River Ivel restoration project on [anc.enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:anc.enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Concerned resident, Graham Inwood, said: "The Ivel

which it was proposed.

"Consultation on the next phase of the RBMP is open until April 10, when key features for the period to 2021 will be firming up.

"Many people and organisations affected by propos-

is about to receive funding for the next level of studies and modelling, and is already a key element of the proposals due to be firming up after consultation ends on April 10.

Structure removal features strongly in the wish

Good morning Anne, I have just spoken to my potential customer for the table he says he will give me £5000 for it he is a good customer of mine so I don't want to miss it for him , if I have to pay nearer or at his figure then I will have to and maybe not make any profit but at least I keep him happy please keep in touch. Many thanks. Nigel

Sent from my iPhone

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