

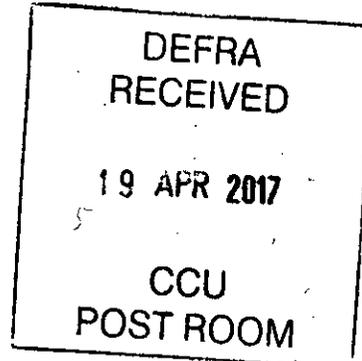
1 Tarrant Wharf
Arundel
BN18 9NY

Dr Therese Coffey
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,
Area 3C Nobel House,
17 Smith Square,
London
SW1P 3JR

31st March 2017

Dear Dr Coffey,

Reference Number LDC 2505



We write as Co-Chairs of the Arun Valley Vision Group, which was established in January this year following your discussions with Nick Herbert MP and with the terms of reference attached. In brief, the Group has been tasked to carry out a new community-based project to develop a sustainable, long-term vision for what interested stakeholders and the wider community want for the Arun Valley in West Sussex and how it can be achieved and managed, and to report with recommendations by January 2019.

At its first meeting on 15th March, the steering group which has been established to lead the project discussed your letter of 15th February to Nick Herbert explaining that you have now agreed to proceed to the second stage of the abolition process for the Arun drainage district by publishing notice of the relevant draft order in the London Gazette and it was reported that any objections to the making of the order should be made by 5th April.

Members of the steering group appreciated that this proposal has been on the table for some time, that the continued existence of the current arrangements is anomalous in the national context and that there is support locally for the proposed abolition. We have no mandate to object to the proposed order.

However, we do feel that we should draw to your attention the fact that the work which we have been charged to lead, and which has only just got under way and will not be completed until the end of next year, may well produce proposals to put in place new arrangements for the management of internal drainage in the Arun valley.

In this sense, the proposed abolition of the Arun drainage district might be regarded as unfortunately premature and could result in a lacuna between the discontinuation of one set of arrangements and the coming into force of another. We very much hope that you will bear this in mind in considering the future steps which you decide to take.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'John Godfrey'.

Dr John Godfrey and Gill Farquharson
Co-chairs of the Arun Valley Vision Group

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gill Farquharson'.

Arun Valley Vision Group (AVVG)

Terms of Reference (March 2017)

Aims of the Arun Valley Vision Group

- The Arun Valley Vision Group (AVVG) will carry out a new community-led partnership project to develop a sustainable long-term 'Vision' for what interested stakeholders and the wider community want for the lower Arun and how it could be achieved and managed.
- Reflecting our sense of pride and place in the Arun Valley and its special qualities, our aim is to provide a landscape-wide context for the consideration of flood management issues.
- Working collaboratively we will aim to find a sensible and affordable balance between the needs of conservation, land management and protection of people and properties against flood risk as time passes.

Objectives of the Arun Valley Vision Steering Group

- Working together to understand the strategic challenges and opportunities that exist within the Arun Valley.
- Production of a strategic long-term 'Vision' (including an action plan) that identifies agreed outcomes and details what on the ground activity is needed in order to achieve them. The 'Vision' and action plan will focus on working in partnership and implementing actions that will seek to reduce flood risk, improve water resources and water quality and identify opportunities for improved nature conservation, access and recreation in the Arun Valley.
- Ensure that work to improve rivers and reduce flood risk in the Arun Valley is well informed by evidence/data and best practice. Ensure that the work of the steering group and wider partnership takes account of all relevant plans and strategies that include the Arun catchment area.
- Co-ordinate and integrate existing collaborative groups and activity with relevant aims into the Arun Valley 'Vision' where appropriate.
- Maximise the use of steering group resources/skills and develop a funding strategy identifying key funding sources.
- Direct and oversee the work of any task and finish groups in order to deliver work on the ground that achieve the agreed outcomes.
- Ensure effective communication and engagement by adopting a joined up approach to engagement with communities, government and MPs.
- Ensure completion of all of the above at the latest by January 2019

Membership responsibilities

Members of the Arun Valley Vision Steering Group commit to:

- Work collaboratively, using an honest and transparent approach.
- Regular meeting attendance, avoiding delegation.
- Contribute to agenda setting and agreeing the direction for the group.
- Share organisational priorities for managing flood risk
- Bring strategic issues raised within their organisation to the group for discussion.
- Feedback relevant information to colleagues within their organisation.
- Developing and communicating partnership key messages externally.

Ways of working

- Agenda items will be led and owned by a variety of organisations.
- Actions will be delivered by all group members.
- Discussion will focus on issues relating to flood risk management, which are within the control of the represented organisations.

Meetings and secretariat

- **Frequency** - The Arun Valley Vision Steering Group will meet approximately every 6 weeks. The frequency of meetings will be reviewed as the project progresses. Where members agree, additional telecons or meetings may be arranged.
- **Location** - A programme of meeting dates and locations will be agreed in advance.
- **Chair** - The group will be independently co-chaired by Dr John Godfrey and Gill Farquharson.
- **Secretariat** - The Environment Agency will provide the secretariat for the group, including distributing papers before the meeting, producing action notes and issuing external communications about the partnership. All group members are expected to contribute to meeting papers for agenda items on which they are leading.

Steering Group Members

Name	Organisation	Endorsement
Dr John Godfrey	Independent Chair	
Gill Farquharson	Independent Chair	
Gordon Wilson/Joss Carter	Environment Agency	
Kate Rice	Southern Water	
John Archer	Arun and Rother Rivers Trust	
Jayne Field	Natural England	
Claire Kerr	RSPB	
Tony Whitbread	Sussex Wildlife Trust	
Peter Knight	Duke of Norfolk Estate	
Adrian Waller	Amberley Landowners	
Matt Jackson	West Sussex County Council	
Tom Ormesher	NFU	
Roger Spencer	Arun District Council	
Anne Harriott/Derek Waller	Arundel Town Council	
Matthew Woodcock	Forestry Commission	
Jeremy Burgess	SDNPA	