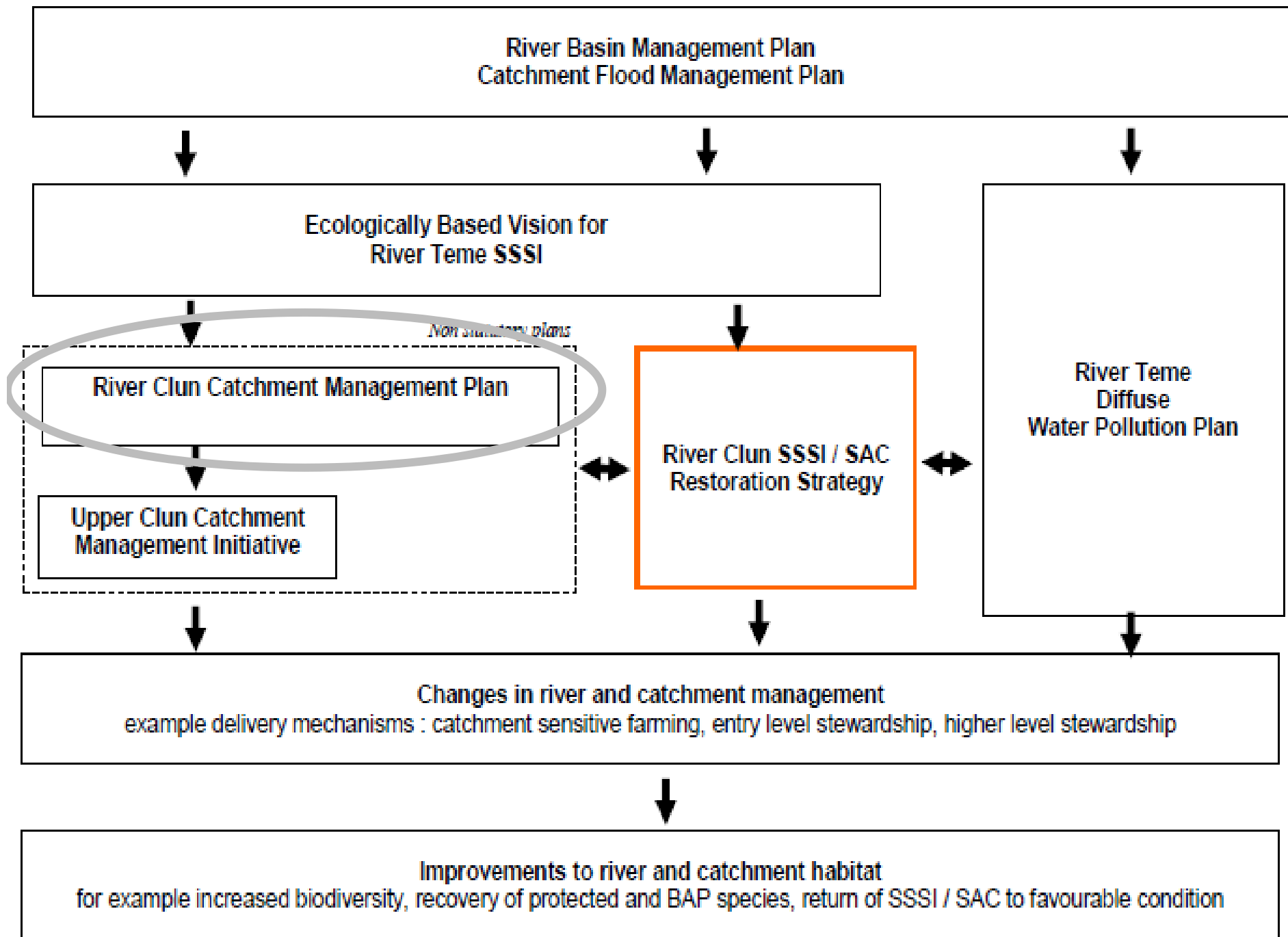


Clun Catchment Partnership

3 July 2012



Caring for Rivers in the Clun Catchment – Discussions with local communities 2012



Three community meetings were held to raise awareness of the Clun Catchment and the issues affecting it and to gather people's views on the future of the catchment.

Lydbury North 26 April 23 people attended

Bucknell 29 May 20 people

Clun 28 June 22 people



Contributions by:

- Phil Holden – introduction to Shropshire Hills AONB
- Mike Kelly – special qualities of the Clun Catchment and issues affecting it

- Gill Meehan - Natural England, Land Management & Conservation Adviser
- Mike Morris - Severn Rivers Trust
- Dave Edwards - Shropshire Council, Flood and Water Manager
- Andrea Jones – local resident and ex-farmer
- Stuart Gamble – Environment Agency
- Ken Downward – Catchment Sensitive Farming Initiative Advisor
- Wayne Davies - Natural England, Land Management & Conservation Adviser
- Clare Davies – AONB Farming Officer
- George Cebo – local resident, Bucknell
- Malcolm Smith – Clun Parish Council
- Fiona Gomersall – Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- Emma Buckingham – Severn Rivers Trust
- Michael Whithouse – Land, Life & Livelihoods

Workshops

- Used the 'Ripple' methodology
- Discussions on tables, three stages:
 - What do Rivers mean to you?
 - In an ideal world, how would you like the river to be?
 - What needs to be done to achieve this vision?

49 people left contact details to find out more or be involved more

What do rivers mean to you?

- Wildlife – plants, birds, trees, otters, dippers, grey wagtail
- Beauty, scenic value, relaxing, tranquillity, therapy, movement, change, seasons, walking, access, enjoyment, swimming, paddling, babbling sounds, comforting, standing on the bridge watching it flow
- A natural corridor, river valleys form the wider landscape. Rivers deteriorated, then improved
- Built heritage – bridges, buildings.
- Brings communities together – informal gatherings, communities there because of the river
- Traditionally a source of energy, e.g. mills. Also power of flooding.
- Productive part of farms – most fertile areas, water for livestock
- Fishing – bullheads, tickle trout, used to be more trout & salmon

In an ideal world, how would you like the river to be?



- A healthy, functional river, as natural as possible. Stony bottom, low nutrient levels, clean, unpolluted, young, healthy trees, wildlife, free of alien species, diversity/complexity – riverbanks and river bed, wetland areas, meanders, deep pools and islands. More water throughout the year, less flooding, re-wetting the uplands, sustainability of farming and land use
- All to take responsibility – farmers, Severn Trent, sewage works, residents, etc. A unified approach to improving conditions, well managed rivers by all. Adequate monitoring in the right places.
- Better access – riverbank paths, children playing, more fishing, teachers involved, rivers made more important to public.
- Young people working on the land – opportunities/jobs/training
- Reinststate old meadows and water meadows whilst protecting agricultural economy

What needs to be done to achieve this vision?



What needs to be done to achieve the vision?	Who needs to be involved?
Good bankside management. Coppicing, allow deadwood, plant other species - Willows	Natural England AONB
Wetlands and meanders. Gravelly river bed, reduce sediment, plant more varied trees, restore bogs and marshes in upper areas and create buffer strips	Experts - EA Agencies working together with land managers and NE
Re-wetting uplands – blocking drains and ditches	Farmers, EA, NE
Funds, schemes and advice to assist farmers to achieve it (HLS/CSFI)	Natural England, DEFRA, Catchment Sensitive Farming
Tackle invasive and alien species through coordinated action	Agencies, authorities, volunteers
Clean up sewage treatment works – reed beds, sensible locations for works	Severn Trent Water, EA, SC. SRT
Septic tanks – registration, improvement, advice and guidance	Householders, owners, SC, EA, LLL
Using eco-products (phosphate free) – Monitor phosphates and awareness campaign (surveys, leaflets, samples)	EA, AONB
Management of run off from development Less tarmac and concrete	Local council – planning & development/flood teams
Strategy for roadside and maintenance	EA, Shropshire Council
Research, monitoring and assessment, reduce pollution	Households, sewage works, EA, STW, SC, NE, landowners, community, WI

What needs to be done to achieve the vision?

Who needs to be involved?

More recreational use – improve access to river, permissive paths, improve existing rights of way, guided walks, education

Rivers Trust, landowners, community, statutory bodies, AONB, Rights of Way, funders (DEFRA)

Incentives to encourage traditional land management skills

Acton Scott, Shropshire Council

Involve the public (events and activities) and help people to enjoy and connect with the river

SC, Veolia, schools, AONB

Up to date information for visitors on FWPM, history, wildlife, etc.

Local community, AONB, tourism groups

Economic use of river – alder coppicing, fishing, wildlife walks/swimming

Landowners, businesses, tourism

Utilise for power, identify mill sites and approach owners

EA

Opportunities for communities throughout the Clun Valley to support and protect the river

More groups like Land, Life & Livelihoods and Down to Earth projects, AONB, SWT

Clun Catchment Management Plan

Proposed structure



- Introduction
- Catchment overview
- The status of waters in the Clun Catchment
- Rebalancing water resources
- Pearl Mussel issues
- Habitats and species issues
- Farming and agriculture issues
- Climate change issues
- Action Plan