**CORPUSTY & SAXTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

**07894 061571 Clerk to the Council;**

**c.sparishclerk@gmail.com Amanda Yacoubian**

 **Mulberry House, The Green**

 **Edgefield, Norfolk, NR24 2AL**

**River Bure management plan**

This plan relates to that short section of the River Bure that adjoins Corpusty common, referred to here as ‘the bank and the river’. This plan recognises the value of the River Bure as a chalk river (A Priority Habitat under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) and that it supports/has the potential to support a number of Priority Species including otter, water vole and brown trout.

The purpose of this plan is to guide the Parish Council (‘PC’) when considering any future actions that might affect the bank and the river with a view to ensuring that any work is undertaken in an environmentally sympathetic manner.

In order to conserve and enhance the biodiversity value of the bank and the river the PC will work, as far as possible, with natural processes. In practical terms this means:

* Allowing natural recovery of the river- i.e. letting the channel adapt to the existing flow regime of the river and encouraging channel sinuosity where this can be achieved.
* Maintaining natural (i.e. not artificial) bank substrate and avoiding bank reprofiling.
* Maintaining a vegetated margin along the river. If necessary, the vegetation should be partially cut back rather than removed in its entirety.
* Retaining woody material in the channel except where it is causing a major blockage to flows.
* Should the channel need desilting, this should be restricted to the centre of the channel retaining undisturbed margins along both banks. No gravel should be removed from the channel.
* Cutting of the bank-top vegetation to the river edge should be managed, leaving some sections uncut and others cut.

The bank and the river should be inspected regularly, and the outcome of such inspections reported to the PC. This should be a standing item for reporting at the May PC meeting each year.

If, following such inspections, it is thought that works are necessary to the bank and/or the river, advice should be taken from an appropriate body, for example the Norfolk Rivers Trust.

If, subsequent to receipt of such advice, it is thought that works to the bank and/or the river are required, the following shall apply:

* It should be established whether such work needs authorisation from the Environment Agency, to include referring to the Gov.UK website information on Flood Risk Activity Permits (FRAPs): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits>. Guidance is available here: [Owning a watercourse - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse)
* No work that requires a Flood Risk Activity Permit (or registered exemption) from the Environment Agency should commence until such time as the necessary permit or exemption is obtained.
* All work should be carried out by appropriately qualified contractors.
* On no account should gravel be removed from the channel.
* If removal of silt and sand from the channel is advised, a waste exemption will be required for the disposal of any material arising from desilting: [Register or renew waste exemptions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-your-waste-exemptions-environmental-permits). This is separate to the requirement for a FRAP.
* It should be established whether any planned planting of bankside trees and shrubs (i.e. within 8m of the Main River) needs a FRAP from the Environment Agency, by checking with the EA’s Partnerships and Strategic Overview (PSO) team.
* Should it be intended to use herbicides in or near the bank and river, an authorisation from the Environment Agency will be required: [Application to use herbicides in or near water - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-use-herbicides-in-or-near-water)
* When planning or undertaking any work on the bank and/or the river the PC shall take account of all relevant environmental legislation, such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the need to comply with this legislation. In particular work should be avoided in the bird breeding and fish spawning seasons and pre-works surveys should be undertaken to determine if protected species are present. If present then suitable mitigation measures are to be incorporated into the work programme. It should also be established whether a protected species licence is required from Natural England.
* Invasive non-native species (‘INNS’), especially Himalayan balsam, should be controlled. Hand pulling before it sets seed is the preferred option. Working parties should be arranged each spring and summer for this purpose, and the community should be encouraged to continue this control on an ad hoc basis.

This management plan should be reviewed periodically, by reference to an appropriate body, for example the Norfolk Rivers Trust.