



Nene Valley Catchment Partnership

“the magic of collaborative action”

*Kathryn Hardcastle
Chief Executive Officer*

Issues in the Nene Catchment

Growth and development (2nd largest growth rate outside of London)

Mineral extraction

Water abstraction & sewage treatment discharge

Nature conservation – Upper Nene Gravel Pits SPA/SSSI

River modification

Agriculture

Our Partnership

- Total membership is 122 individuals, from 74 organisations and other interest groups
- Meetings at whole of catchment scale are rare
- No formal structure or chair
- No Agendas
- Often outdoors
- Very well attended
- Always include food!

What have we achieved?

Gained a clear understanding of the issues in the catchment

Produced the Nene Integrated Catchment Management Plan, created a database of over 1200 projects and developed a story map as a tool for all partners to access information and engage in and report on projects

Involved local communities in decision-making through deliberative processes

Worked out priorities for action with Partners

What have we achieved?

Delivered integrated actions that address local issues and protect local resources in a cost effective way

Established four working groups (so far) (thematic or geographic) who meet regularly and deliver collaborative projects

Delivered in excess of **25** projects in the last two years (reporting is challenging when everyone is delivering)

Built friendships and had a lot of fun

How?

Engaged partners and stakeholders early and actively sought opportunities for their involvement

Drew together organisations that might not otherwise have met

Prepared a draft plan purely for the purposes of stimulating conversation and to enable meaningful input from stakeholders

Provided opportunities for questions, input and suggestions during plan development (even at draft)

Recorded comments, including suggestions for improvement projects (environmental, aesthetic and access)

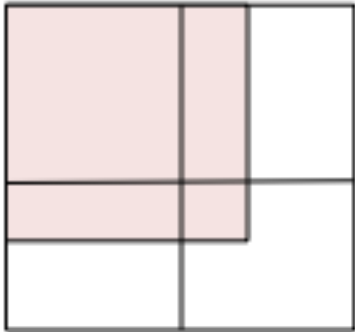
Created the Catchment Partnership on the back of this widely accepted plan

Qualities of a Partnership that delivers

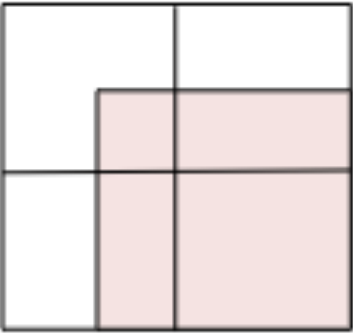
- Create a sense of shared ownership and empowerment *
- Based on mutual respect (supporting each partners strengths and weaknesses)
- Draw on many sources of wisdom and knowledge and incorporate all of these into decision making **
- Tackle multiple objectives simultaneously (win / win)
- Celebrate often!

Creating Shared Ownership and Empowerment

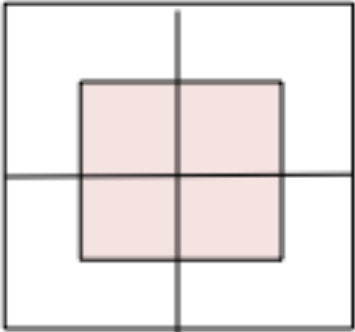
Who's Reality Counts?



Our Knowledge
We know and accept



Their Knowledge
They know and accept



Shared Knowledge
All know and accept

Creating Shared Ownership and Empowerment

The Spectrum of Engagement

		INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION				
		INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL		To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
	PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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Benefits of Partnership Working

Unravelling the complexities

Drawing on many sources of wisdom and knowledge

Tackling multiple objectives simultaneously

Incorporating many perspectives to decision making

The opportunity to find win-win solutions to problems

Creating a sense of shared ownership and empowerment

Lessons learned – practicalities

A dedicated lead / co-ordination role is essential

It's fundamental that the Partnership and it's role be understood and accepted

Local authorities and regulators need to be on board (at an appropriate level)

Proposals need to be integrated into strategies and policies

Resources go further when shared

Shared information increases opportunities for wider action

Governance is essential for plans to be formally adopted

Lessons learned – the human element

But ultimately;

- Be Authentic

'co-production implies that citizens can play an active role in producing public goods and services of consequence to them' Elinor Ostrom

- Break down the illusions of us and them / in and out!
- Share the problem, ask for help
- Sustainable partnerships rely on reciprocal relationships
- Dump the targets – most exemplar projects come from people overcoming institutional hurdles and operating outside of conventional working practice
- Rethink communication – technology removes us from direct human interaction, and our professional jargon can be alienating
- People are at the heart of the environment – involve them before decisions are made!