

PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2015

TIME: 13.15 HOURS

VENUE: UCL, GOWER STREET, LONDON

Present:

Name	Affiliation
Dr Sarah Bell (Co-Chair)	University College London
Dr Eleni Tracada (Co-Chair)	University of Derby
Suzy Armsden	WATEF administrator, University of Brighton
Mindy Hadi	BRE
Cath Hassell	EcH02
Clive Coley	Independent management consultant
Neil Sephton	First Wessex
Dr Alison Browne	University of Manchester
Bill Kirkup	CAG Consulting

Apologies

Name	Affiliation
Kathryn Rathouse	KR Social Research
Simon Rice	HSGUK

Introductions:

Dr Sarah Bell began the meeting with asking everyone to introduce themselves – “why we are here and why we are interested”

Dr Sarah Bell is a Senior Lecturer at UCL in the department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering. Interested in urban water sustainability. Director of UCL Engineering Exchange which has been set up for better community engagement with engineering research. The exchange talks to local community to ascertain their needs and to endeavour to meet those needs.

Dr Alison Browne is a Research Fellow at the University of Manchester Sustainable Consumption Institute and Geography. She has worked on water efficiency for a long time. Whilst in Australia she worked on projects around the water industry. Since being in UK she has worked on Sustainable Practices Research Group project “Patterns of Water” which explored water consumption in homes in the South East, she has also worked on the Environmental Leapfrogging project with Unilever.

Bill Kirkup works as a management consultant and is not a water expert. CAG Consulting specialise in climate change, sustainability and community engagement. CAG deal with housing associations and try to get the residents to change their practices. They do a lot of work on energy efficiency. They are interested in what people do and how to get them to do it differently.

Eleni Tracada is Senior Lecturer in Architecture & Civil Engineering at University of Derby also until recently Head of Built Environment Research Group (BERG). University is now being restructured with new College of Engineering

and Technology being formed. The BERG group recently researched energy consumption and water efficiency and found other areas of water wastage. They have also recently undertaken a case study of Gypsy Romany sites in UK to see how facilities are working. Study to continue hopefully with aid of European funding - new applications for further funding will be considered in the following months.

Clive Coley – works as self-employed management consultant – he used to work for Energy Savings Trust but has since left. He has some experience of water industry from case study on behavioural change around community engagement. Main focus was on housing and water efficiency. Approach was to look at reducing waste and saving money. How to change lives and benefit communities.

Neil Sephton is the Green Living Senior Adviser at First Wessex. First Wessex is a housing association providing homes and services to communities with Hampshire and parts of Surrey. He works in a customer facing role focusing on behavioural change around water efficiency. First Wessex have over 20,000 tenants.

Mindy Hadi is an Occupational Psychologist at BRE – her interests in water efficiency are from the built environment point of view and also that of the people who use water looking at behavioural change in terms of sustainability etc. She studies water efficiency from a domestic and non-domestic viewpoint.

Cath Hassell is an expert in sustainable water strategies and formed EcH2O Consultants in 2004. EcH2O works with local authorities, developers, housing associations, water companies, community groups, architects and engineers, at both a strategic and individual site level, to successfully incorporate sustainable water and low carbon solutions into the built environment. Prior to this she worked in Construction Resources designing and implementing rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling and solar technologies for domestic and non-domestic use. Previously she worked as a conventional plumber. Has worked on a [Thames Water project](#) with schoolchildren from North and East London, and currently undertaking the 4 minute shower challenge study with over 3,600 school children.

Suzy Armsden is the WATEF network administrator and will be responsible for the administration of the Committee.

Terms of Reference & Scope

Discussion ensued around scope of activity for the Committee and what each member could bring to the table and what each member expected to gain.

Case studies: it was agreed that members should look for suitable case studies which could then be put into categories.

What resources are available? Maybe CIRIA can provide technical data and some ideas?

http://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Resources/Free_CIRIA_publications/Resources/Free_CIRIA_publications.aspx

As the Committee has a diversity of both academic and industry members, perhaps we can find case studies where best practice is being demonstrated or perhaps a change in best practice is being demonstrated. **Kathryn Rathouse may be able to assist us with this.**

We could gather information about “Smart Cities” and we could also gather information from water companies around who is dealing with Smart City data, trying something new, looking at the future. At the University of Manchester their urban lab is called ‘The University Living Labs’ <http://universitylivinglab.org/> and data is gathered.

We need to find out how people interact with water rather than look at technological solutions – we need to look at behavioural change; sometimes water efficient technologies do not work. The case studies we look at need to be repeatable and scalable.

Our use of water is influenced by the environment in which we exist. We need to look at ways we use water – are there case studies out there which show how understanding the need for water efficiency has led to a different approach? For example, case study between London Sustainability Exchange and Thames Water around faith based water use <http://www.lsx.org.uk/docs/page/2857/Hinduism%20and%20H2O%20FULL%20case%20study.pdf>

Influences do not have to be geographic e.g. over the past five years use of dry shampoo has increased. This is possibly due to social marketing or cultural needs not necessarily that people are thinking about water efficiency.

Case study in Italy where Romany Gypsy families found water to be scarce in their sites – showers were made available only to their children going to local schools– but local authorities, although against allowing them to use the showers in the sites, enforced taking a shower before classes to all Romany Gypsy children. They deliberated that these children had to be washed and checked by teachers in school premises only (not at home). There is often discrimination against different cultures where water scarcity exists i.e. in water stressed areas.

Perhaps map out under following headings

- Individual behaviour
- Technical innovation
- Geographic
- Social community

Actions: Alison Browne to draft out one page diagram; everyone else to brain storm different examples of case studies. It may be there is a project we can find which is not a case study.

Lower income families use less water – 96% of housing association tenants are on benefits. Housing association tenants pay communal water charge not metered. A lot of water is used in SE England for watering of gardens whereas lower income families will wait for rain – middle income families in SE England like to water their gardens. Housing associations do not want water meters they prefer to issue their tenants with a communal bill which means everyone pays the same regardless of water use. Water companies should be able to provide relevant data on water meters (perhaps Southern Water/Portsmouth Water?).

Policy Briefing Note:

Committee need to decide what policy briefing note would consist of

- What works and what does not work?
- Behavioural approach – barriers need to be identified – gaps need to be identified
- Needs to be something which is targeted and specific which could be taken up by DEFRA/DCLG
- Recommendations for mandatory water efficiency products to be included in local planning.
- How legislation could help behavioural change and who needs to do what

Perhaps additional funds for water efficient products could be captured from water bill? Currently OFWAT tells the water companies what to do – we need to go above and beyond this – what do we think can be done to improve? People have different views about water however there is a cultural view that energy and water are linked. Who is policy briefing note for? There is a Parliamentary group on water <http://www.appg-water.co.uk/index.html>. There

is a need to look at available case studies and identify where we think there is a big gap. Look at BREEAM regulations – code for sustainable homes <http://www.breeam.org/page.jsp?id=86>

Key Recommendations:

Recommendations for local authorities and impact. We could provide more research on how to change to a more sustainable use of water. We could ask water companies to provide case studies and maybe think about inviting a water company to become a member of the Technical Committee – maybe Thames Water?

Different approaches for different areas – water stressed areas versus non-water stressed areas e.g. SE England v Northern England.

Water, energy, food NEXUS

Regional approaches to water efficiency for example, in SE England rainwater harvesting makes sense whereas in Scotland for example it does not. After decline of water code many local authorities put rainwater harvesting into local planning rules. Local councils are influencing water efficiency.

Actions:

- Next meeting to be face-to-face at UCL in April – Suzy to send Doodle poll for availability
- Meeting prior to conference to be telephone meeting (June?)
- Everyone to look at other possible members of Committee and propose to chair
- Everyone to send case studies examples so that we can discuss at next face to face meeting in April.