

Green Times

November Update

Ashford's Future and partners have been actively developing and delivering projects to promote environmental sustainability for the growth area. This newsletter provides an update of current projects and the focus for future work.

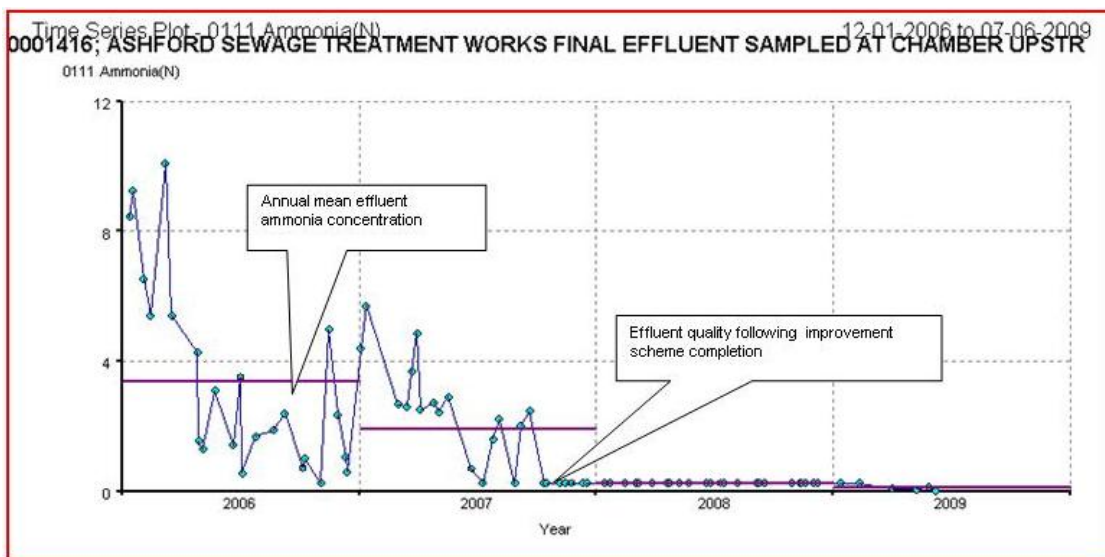
The last six months have seen significant progress towards developing a combined water and energy retrofit project, identifying sustainable energy options for Chilmington Green and significant improvements in water quality in the Stour.

Ashford Integrated Water Management Strategy Action Plan

The Ashford Water Group has continued to monitor progress made by all partners towards the aims of the Ashford Integrated Water Management Strategy ([AIMWS](#)) and action plan. The annual monitoring report was approved by the Ashford Water Group and highlights will be presented to the Ashford's Future Partnership Board in December. Southern Water have completed over £40million worth of improvements to the Ashford Wastewater Treatment Works at Bybrook, including a new sludge drying facility. South East Water has been completing a strategic supply loop to ensure sufficient supply as Ashford grows.

Water Quality

The Great Stour was found to be of 'poor' quality in a baseline Water Framework Directive Report. The report actually stated that the Stour, along with 76% of the UK's rivers, failed to meet 'good' status. The report was using data that did not include the recent improvements made by SWS to effluent quality (see below).



While the improvements at Bybrook contribute to reducing point source pollution of the river, diffuse pollution remains a possible cause for reduced water quality in the Stour. Defra have allocated funding to the Environment Agency to



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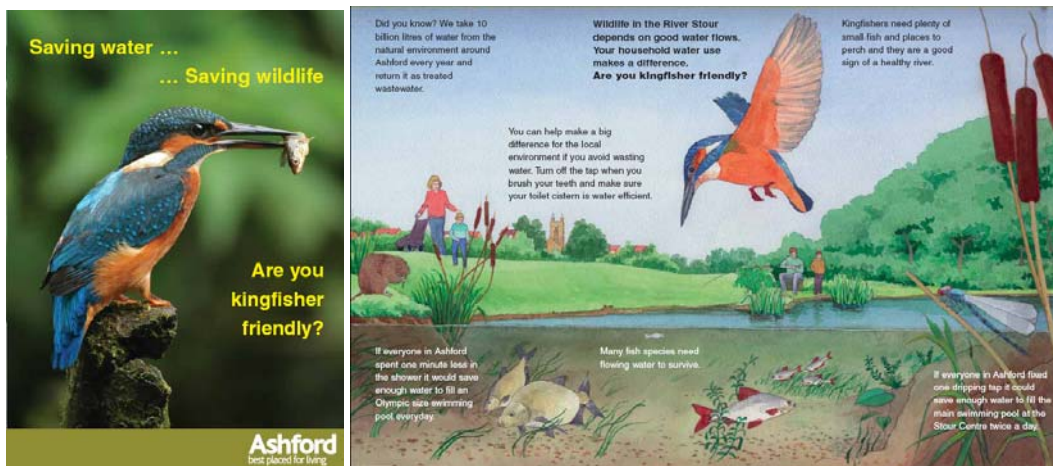
investigate the impact of sewerage misconnections on water quality. A pilot investigation is underway in Park Farm in partnership with SWS and Ashford's Future.

Exploring Feasibility of Development in Canal District

Ashford's Future, Environment Agency and Canal District Landowners have been working in together to develop a 2D Flood Risk Model for Ashford. Mott MacDonald were appointed to complete the work in June and have been progressing to complete the model by February 2010. The model will convert the existing 1D flood risk detail for Ashford into a 2D model. Once the model is complete partners can use it test different development scenarios. It can be used to test the feasibility of development within the Canal District and a South Stour flood defence, and design for Willesborough Dykes Nature Park.

Savings on Tap

The Savings on Tap water efficiency retrofit project for existing homes has generated over 50% uptake for water efficiency visits in an Ashford neighbourhood. Each household was offered a free water use audit, leak repairs and installation of selected water saving measures. In some cases additional work such as tap or cistern replacement was undertaken where the potential savings justified this. Following the installation phase, participating households were sent feedback on the project, and a leaflet and tea towel providing a number of behaviour change messages linked to the local aquatic environment.



Monitoring by Southeast Water continues for the Saving on Tap new homes trial at Singleton. The measures in place in new homes have seen water use reduce by 15-20% and the early results from the trial are being used by Defra for revisions to the Code for Sustainable Homes water calculator.

Sustainable Energy Generation

Ashford's Future appointed Arup to develop a sustainable energy business case for Chilmington Green, following on from the previous [Sustainable Energy Feasibility Study](#). Stages 1 and 2 of the project have been complete, updating the SEFS findings and promoting initial options to key stakeholders. Two workshops were held with developers and



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community forum in September detailing the initial findings. Wind power, CHP and solar PV came through as the most financially viable options for the site. Phase 3 will develop a robust business case for the preferred option and will be developed in parallel with masterplanning the Chilmington Green AAP. Delays in appointing masterplanners have necessitated a pause in the project. We hope to continue this work in the New Year.

Combined Resource Efficiency Retrofit

Applying experience from the successful Savings on Tap water efficiency retrofit project, Ashford's Future, Environment Agency & Kent County Council are exploring the feasibility of developing a combined water and energy, resource efficiency retrofit project in Ashford. The partnership appointed CEN to develop a design for a pilot combined retrofit project. This included identifying which neighbourhoods will have the most potential for carbon savings, and how best to test the principles for a long term programme in a pilot project. We are in the procurement process for implementation of the pilot water and energy resource efficiency pilot and hope to commence this in February.

Ashford successfully secured funding from the Technology Strategy Board to complete three feasibility studies for using new technologies to deliver high levels of carbon reduction in council owned housing stock. The initial feasibility studies have been completed and we have applied for funding to implement high intensity retrofit. If successful work these exemplar retrofits will commence in March.

Waste Management & Recycling

Remade's Ashford Construction and Recycle for Ashford projects continue to focus on commercial waste management.

The construction project remains on target to divert 30,000 tonnes of material away from landfill with 16 companies signed up to the project and a further 14 sites identified. Case studies, the Sustainable Construction Product Information Cards and the Construction Recycling Directory were launched at the Construction Expo on 30th September 2009.

The Recycle for Ashford project continues to signpost businesses towards recycling solutions for commercial waste. The second year of project delivery has seen the launch of a dedicated web portal which can be viewed at www.remade-southeast.co.uk/ashford. The web portal contains information and downloads (including the construction support literature).

River Restoration

In parts the Great Stour has chalk stream characteristics. Past management on the Great Stour, has changed the habitat and river characteristics, affecting the river ability to support fish and to cope with low flows during dry summers. During 2008/09 the Environment Agency has been restoring the river to a more natural condition. An example can be seen at Henwood just upstream of the M20 motorway. where the river bank has been re-profiled and planted with native plant species improving the habitat for wildlife.



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Before

During



Monitoring Ashford's Sustainability

Ashford's Future is continuing to work with Exeter University on Ashford Integrated Alternatives, which focuses expertise from 5 institutes on integration of water and energy infrastructure to maximise sustainability using Ashford as a case study.

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