22182 CVF response to consultation about Sheep's Green streams 5/10/25

https://engage.cambridge.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/watercourse-creation-on-sheep-s-green-lnr



We support the proposals.

Comments and Suggested improvements

We strongly support the idea of increasing the flow through Robinson Crusoe ditch. This is often very stagnant, with an excess of nutrient (which we gather comes from pumping out the cattle underpass under Fen Causeway)

It's important that you retain a shallow place on Robinson Crusoe Ditch (as there is at present at the N end), because sometimes cattle get stuck in the ditch in and we've had to shoo them along to the shallow end to get out.

We wonder why the stream from Robinson Crusoe Island is shown as dividing into 2 streams. Will there be enough water to keep both in healthy condition, or after a bit, will one of them actually take most of the water?

Ensuring good control over flow regulation will be important for both new streams (ie the one from Snobs Stream on the S of Fen Causeway, and the new one from Robinson Crusoe ditch). Otherwise they'll either be flooding the meadow or dry out.

We notice that the flow regulation for The Rush currently doesn't seem to work well, so for quite a long time earlier this year it seemed to be allowing too much water down the Rush. This was overflowing the bank and converting the area of Sheep's Green to its left into a wet, cattle poached mess. Maybe this flow regulator could be repaired as part of this project?

We would welcome more tree planting, in order to create quiet zones along the various streams, where the traffic on Fen Causeway would be less audible, and less visible than it is at present. This would benefit biodiversity and make pleasant places for the public to pause a while to enjoy nature. (We recognise that drivers sitting in traffic jams on Fen Causeway like looking over Sheep's Green, but we think some carefully positioned new planting should make little difference to them)

The path from the Granta Mill Pond to Mill lane is often congested, and with the new stream it will no long be possible for pedestrians or cyclists to bypass the bridge when its congested. We support the suggestion that it could be useful to have a wider footbridge than at present over the new stream, if that was possible. Repairing (or if possible, widening) the path would help those with mobility problems, because its currently very rough.