



Careful consideration over the last year of the long-term financial constraints facing the Conservators of the River Cam has resulted in a restructure of the organisation to make it more efficient and cost effective.

The Conservators decided that in order to secure the future of the Conservancy it was necessary to contract out the maintenance of the river rather than retaining an in-house team. River and Rural Ltd, a company formed by the present River Manager, tendered to do the work. Quotes were sought by Conservators from various other possible contractors, but none were competitive, either in price, or in the range of services to be provided. Accordingly, it was decided to enter into a contract with River and Rural to do all river maintenance work. The company will engage the two current Navigation Officers employed by the Conservators.

The post of Bailiff has remained vacant since 2019 and this role will be replaced by a Patrol Officer, who will also take on the function of Control Officer under the Byelaws. The Conservators will also recruit a part/time Clerk, a function previously fulfilled by the River Manager. This will enable the Conservancy to fulfil all its statutory functions.

A detailed Service Level Agreement has been negotiated between the Conservators of the River Cam, and River and Rural, which will ensure that the river from the Mill Pool to Bottisham Lock is maintained to the highest standard for the future safety and enjoyment of river users.

Catherine Hurst

Chair
Conservators of the River Cam