

LAMBOURN VALLEY FLOOD FORUM MINUTES

13th January 2025

On-Line Conference

		Action
•	<p>Attendees</p> <p>Howard Woollaston – WBC / Lambourn / Boxford Clive Hooker - WBC / Downlands Richard Hancock – Environment Agency Paula Saunderson – Newbury Chris – Lambourn Jonah Maddocks - WBC Martyn Wright - East Garston Nick Voysey - Great Shefford James Potter - Eastbury Paul Bacchus - WBC flood and drainage Linda Bowden – Great Shefford Louisa Freeman – Great Shefford Mark Hayes-Newington - Boxford Oliver Steed – Lambourn Dan Rampton – Weston Glyn Thomas – Shaw + Donnington Fiona Brewer – Project Groundwater Rachel Carden – Upper Lambourn Vicky Rieunier – Lambourn Shelly Hartnoll – Thames Water David Blundell – Thames Water</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Carolyn Richardson – WBC Emergency Panning Emily Merritt – WBC Emergency Panning Jonah Maddocks - WBC Emergency Panning Jon Winstanley - WBC Sue Tulloch Piers Allison – Pang Valley Flood Forum</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Minutes from Previous meeting</p> <p>No comments</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Matters Arising From Last Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not discussed 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Great Shefford 'Bypass' Flood Alleviation scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Hancock: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September lost due to weather, BAM (EA Contractors) expecting pipeline to be in place by end of this month, and in addition it will take a few weeks for the off-take completed. Until then, the EA will be able to pump into the completed pipe if needed. Would have like to have finished before Christmas. • Howard Woollaston: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits? • Richard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 properties will see direct benefit with less risk of flooding, more properties will benefit from less flowing through their gardens, which will create capacity in the system to clear groundwater. • Groundwater rate rise on most of boreholes stopped. 10inches / 250ml lower than same place last year. Second half of November / December and dryer than average, giving us breathing room. Every dry week getting us closer to end of February is helpful. • Paula: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will development near Spring Meadow be helped by flood scheme? • Richard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No property built after 2010 will be eligible for government support • Paula Saunderson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you see plans of new developments for flood risk? • Richard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We get sight of new developments. 	<p>EA</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>General Situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martyn Wright: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will we get a breather until September if groundwater does not rise? 	

	<p>investigate again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard: Middle Lambourn? • Mark Hayes-Newington: Meadows very wet, and have been so all through the year. This has not been the case previously in the last 20 years. • Dan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking good here in Weston. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Sewage in the Upper Lambourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelly Hartnoll: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two incidents of water out of manhole in upper Lambourn, one was surface water, other was 'cake' (thick sludge at top of chamber) that needed moving, using tankers. Almost certain a number of properties are connected for rainwater ○ Believe lining from Upper Lambourn has worked, but need to revisit laterals from next Monday. ○ Have identified infiltration at pump station in upper Lambourn. ○ Groundwater levels have fallen significantly recently and are 2 metres lower than at the same time last year. ○ ATAC is switched off. Can't turn ATAC on since not enough water in the system. Will only be used if persistent rain. ○ Need to investigate at Tuffs farm to check lining installed in 2022. • Howard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If lining is not sealed, does this reduced flow through pipe? • Shelly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We now make sure that we have end caps and 'top hats' and revisiting all lining done in 2022. ○ Water above red threshold, but system is coping, and ATAC not needed. ○ Have lined in Eastbury, but have had no issues. ○ Shefford: No issues, but have had some infiltration ○ Weston: Have had two tankers out, and found a lot of infiltration last year, and have money for lining. • Rachel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are problems with text messaging • Vicky: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sheepdrove road investigation? 	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No water to investigate, needs higher groundwater levels and high rainfall to investigate. • Vicky: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follow-up TW Roadshow? • Shelly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not at the moment, but Denise will get the ball rolling. • Martyn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Estimate groundwater 20cm higher than in 2023 when we had tankers. Looks like we are in a better position. How effective has relining been? • Shelly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last year pump station ran 24 hours / day v 3 / 24 hours generally, currently 7 / 24 hours. Looks really good, but have still identified groundwater infiltration. • Martyn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where have you found infiltration? • Shelly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Station Road, and Back Street. Have to be careful, quite a bit is private. 	TW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Lower Lambourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paula: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See videos of pipe street manhole. It looked to be surface water rather than sewage. • Shelly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy is monitoring. • Paula: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outfall entered into 'swap' project. • Shelly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is not the case of foul water / surface water misconnection, so not eligible for swap. • Paula: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have now reported pollution incidents for Bond riverside, oil petrol diesel coming from a business and road run off into your system and getting into the brook. • Shelly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can't do anything if it is road run off, but you have had water quality testing. • Richard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report through us using incident hotline it helps to 	

	<p>build the evidence base – if we don't get reports can't act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paula: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting report fatigue. Not acceptable that all these pollutants in an SSSI, a follow up study in what has been determined as London Road issue. Gullies are cleaned routinely. • Paul: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keen on retro solutions around Newbury. Going to look at funding options for the study. • Paula: Does study look at flooding and pollution of properties on A4? • Paul: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speculate scope will be volumes of water and pollutants. Can't give timeline. • Paula: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newbury Forum not functioning properly yet. • Howard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Berks going from 500 to 1000 new houses / year how will TW cope? Likely that they will be looking at Lambourn and Pangbourne. 15,000 new units in next 15 years. • Shelly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding huge amount of infiltration in Hambridge Lane. Newbury Station floods with 10-15mm of rain. At Theale new development causing series problems, we are not statutory consultees on new developments. • Paula: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone has taken requirement for TW to be consulted out. • Shelly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are worried that TW have not made comments, on new developments come to me. If there is a development that impacts our capacity, the developer has to pay, that is why we have a development plan. • Paul: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TW are not statutory consultees, but do expect developers to contact them as to whether they have capacity. TW can't refuse the connection. But can cause a pause in the development. • TW will not do upgrades if a development is not due 	<p>EA</p> <p>WBC</p> <p>WBC</p> <p>WBC / TW</p>
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	<p>during the next 3 years. New housing demands will make this complicated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glyn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spout ditch not much different to last year, and well over banks, won't take much for gardens to be flooded. Where are we on breach repair? 20 house dreading rain. • Paul: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When drawings complete will speak to contractors, if costs >£10k can do this year, will see if something can be done next year, but can't promise. • Glyn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will need to be done in the summer. • Paul: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardens are a lower tier of risk to properties and people. The breach would have happened in January, irrespective. Looking into it because it is influencing frequency of flooding in the area. • Paula: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had 25cm rise in water within 24 hours of a recent storm, does not seem to be less, now groundwater levels are less. Can I have a special meeting to discuss all this? • Howard: Send your points to Richard / Paul. 	<p>WBC</p> <p>WBC</p> <p>WBC / EA</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>WBC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A new grip and ditch programme. We have mapped thousands of new grips. Gully cleansing at end of 4 year cycle, have been reviewing effectively. Gullies may have a different cleansing cycle from 6m - 4years. Optimistic things will improve significantly in next 4 years. ○ North Newbury study should be completed in next month, and should be helpful for Clayhill 	<p>WBC</p> <p>WBC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested previous meeting that flood wardens should have own email address. • Paula: 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at amending the website, but it is WIP, and will make sure it is circulated when there is progress. • Rachel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed agencies should have regular meetings together. • Paul: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have met TW and Richard several times, scheduled meetings are a good idea, but we are already coordinating much more than previously. • Rachel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be nice to know what the outcomes of these meetings are. 	WBC / EA / TW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Date, Time and location of next meeting.</p> <p>TBD, provisionally May</p> <p><u>By teleconference</u></p>	All