

LAMBOURN VALLEY FLOOD FORUM MINUTES

2nd February 2026

On-Line Conference

•	<p>Attendees</p> <p>Vicky Rieunier – Lambourn – Chair of LVFF Howard Woollaston – WBC / Lambourn / Boxford Paula Saunderson – Newbury Clay Hill Chris Harris – Lambourn Martyn Wright - East Garston Nick Voysey - Great Shefford James Potter - Eastbury Paul Bacchus – WBC Dave Glover – WBC Emergency Planning Natalie Ford – Environment Agency Richard Hancock – Environment Agency Linda Bowden – Great Shefford Oliver Steed – Lambourn Dan Rampton – Weston Fiona Brewer – Project Groundwater Rachel Carden – Upper Lambourn Denise Kinsella – Thames Water Saffron Dzioban – Thames Water Jenny Pearson – Thames Water Sami Gabriel LJ Bow</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Clive Hooker - WBC / Downlands Glyn Thomas – Shaw + Donnington Great Shefford Parish Council</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Minutes from Previous meeting</p> <p>No comments</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting began with introductions and explanation of technical issues in running this particular meeting. Richard Hancock introduced Natalie Ford from the Environment Agency who will replace Richard in future meetings. Vicky outlined the meeting's structure, emphasizing the importance of clearly defining actions..
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Lambourn Parish Flood Group Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lambourn Parish Flood Group update revealed that despite recent heavy rains, roads and ditch systems have held up well, with groundwater levels being monitored. The group awaits feedback from Thames Water on their section, and Chris Harris raised a question about ditches, which was directed to Paul for further discussion. • Chris raised a new application to install a gateway near Lambourn, highlighting concerns about the inadequate drainage report. Paul Bacchus agreed to follow up on the matter and mentioned that any works affecting ordinary watercourses require formal consent. They also talked about the West Berkshire Council's ability to provide additional services like drain clearing, which Paul explained is not currently available due to logistical constraints and potential disruptions to planned works. Paul advised against parish councils employing third parties for such services, suggesting instead that they report blocked or silt-filled drains on the council's website to increase maintenance frequency. • Chris reported a concern about a retaining wall built into the river and requested that action taken by the Environment Agency. Richard offered to follow up on the matter if Chris emails him with details.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>SAGLUV Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin provided an update on SAGLUV, highlighting improved cooperation with Thames Water and some progress in addressing groundwater flooding issues, though challenges remain in East Garston where three properties have sewage issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Issues in the Lower Lambourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paula will compile a list of about 30-40 items for updates. Thames Water agreed to provide Paula with the relevant email addresses to direct specific matters appropriately. The conversation also touched on the need for a presentation on flood alleviation schemes for North Newbury and Shaw, which should include Shaw and Donnington due to the involvement of Love Lane in Shaw Parish. Additionally, they addressed concerns about using the Shaw gauge to measure water levels, noting that the gauge might not accurately reflect water entering the Spout ditch. • The group discussed water flow patterns and flooding concerns in the

	<p>Vodafone site area. Sami Gabriel explained that the spout ditch, which terminates at the end of his garden, showed significantly higher water levels than are indicated by the gauge, with water discharging into the Lambourn. Paula expressed concerns about residents' understanding of the situation and requested a meeting to present the outputs from the Clay Hill study and discuss NFM funding. Paul Bacchus stated that he would not sign off on proposed breach works near Dean Way, as he believed they would be ineffective and a waste of money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group discussed two main topics: a meeting with parish councils and a pollution issue in Northbrook Stream. Paula requested a meeting with key stakeholders about Northbrook Stream pollution by the end of February, as they identified six potential sources and multiple agencies are involved.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Thames Water Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group discussed contact details for Thames Water, with Jenny confirming that Saffron Dzioban and Denise Kinsella are the primary contacts for operational issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>EA Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard announced his departure from the group and introduced Natalie Fall, his most experienced flood risk officer, who will take over his responsibilities. Natalie has been with the Environment Agency for 18 years and looks forward to working with the group to find solutions for flood issues. • Richard provided an update on the current flood risk situation, noting that January rainfall was significantly above average, and groundwater levels are rising. The Environment Agency issued its first groundwater flood alert for the Og Valley on January 23rd, and more alerts may be issued in the coming month. • Richard also mentioned that the Kennet and Lambourn modelling outputs have finally been received, and he plans to review them with some group members in person, including Paula and James Potter.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>WBC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting covered updates from West Berkshire Council, including ongoing flood alert situations and drainage network mapping efforts. Paul Bacchus discussed various drainage projects and survey work being conducted in the Lambourn area. • Dan Rampton raised concerns about blocked drainage pipes on the road between East Shefford and Weston, which Paul agreed to investigate further. • The group discussed issues with the online reporting system for flooding, noting that reports often disappear without resolution. • Paula mentioned that a new flood reporting leaflet would be distributed to

	residents in her area.
•	<p>AOB</p> <p>The conversation ended with Nick and Howard expressing gratitude to Richard for his decade-long contributions to the Flood Forum.</p>
•	<p>Summary of Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Harris (Environment Agency): Email Richard (Environment Agency) details about the reported retaining wall in the river for follow-up on enforcement action • Jenny Pearson (Thames Water) /Saffron Dzioban /Denise Kinsella: Send Paula their email contacts and roles so Paula can direct queries appropriately • Paul Bacchus (West Berkshire Council): Arrange meeting with key members of Clay Hill, Shaw, and Donnington Parish Councils and forum members to discuss Clay Hill study, NFM funding, and Dean Way by end of February • Richard Hancock (Environment Agency): Meet with interested members (including James Potter and Paula) to review Kennet and Lambourn modelling outputs • Dan Rampton: Send Paul Bacchus details about the blocked pipes/flood issues on the road between East Shefford and Weston for investigation • Paul Bacchus (West Berkshire Council): Flag issues with West Berkshire reporter problem system performance
	<p>Date, Time and location of next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday May 11th, 2026 <p><u>By On-Line Conference</u></p>