

# LAMBOURN VALLEY FLOOD FORUM MINUTES

15th May 2023

## On-Line Conference

		Action
•	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p>Denise Kinsella - Thames Water Shelly Hartnoll – Thames Water Karen Nelson – Thames Water Adam Fowler – Thames Water Howard Woollaston – WBC / Eastbury Rachel Carden – Upper Lambourn - Emily Merritt – WBC Emergency Panning Paula Saunderson – Newbury Oliver Steed – Lambourn Vicky Rieunier – Lambourn Martyn Wright - East Garston Nick Voysey - Great Shefford Steve Ackrill – Great Shefford Richard Hancock – Environment Agency Andrew Gorton - Eastbury Daniel Lavorchik – Thames Water Sue Tulloch – East Garston Chris..... – Lambourn Fiona Brewer – Project Groundwater Jed Ramsey – Project Groundwater Maell Jacmarq – Project Groundwater</p> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>James Potter - Eastbury Clive Hooker - WBC Gareth Knass – Great Shefford</p>	
•	<p><b>Minutes from Previous meeting</b></p> <p>Agreed as an accurate record.</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Great Shefford 'Bypass' Flood Alleviation scheme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard Hancock explained that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Shefford Scheme is due for planning determination 26th June.</li> <li>• Nothing of significance has been found by the archaeology, but the team are dating peat found at the lower end closest to the Lambourn.</li> <li>• If planning goes through, construction will start ASAP. The hope is to get the bulk of the work completed by mid December.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Howard: Disruption?</li> <li>• Richard: The work will be carried out in the fields, so the main disruption will be lorry movements, and diversion of two footpaths that cross the site.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>WBC</p> <p>EA</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sewage Issues in The Upper Lambourn</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelly Hartnoll: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tankering has hopefully finished.</li> <li>• Investigations have shown no increase in flows in Upper Lambourn, so works have stopped infiltration.</li> <li>• In Lambourn there has been a huge decrease in flow, but we have found some areas where we can do additional lining.</li> <li>• Surcharge of water for a couple of weeks following a deluge last week in Newbury road being investigated, to see if any issues.</li> <li>• Groundwater levels were significantly above threshold, but there was no need to deploy the ATAC last winter</li> <li>• Met Laura Farris to discuss sewage discharges in East Garston, following investigation. There has been a problem with the monitor, discharge was 4 hours and two minutes not 92 minutes. Have made a modification, and we have had had tankers in East Garston. The levels are falling, so we hope to stand them down.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Martyn Wright: When did the tankering start?</li> <li>• Shelly: We were not discharging for 42 hours, in the lead up</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>	

	<p>to tinkering, because the network was not showing overloading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martyn: But the man hole in Maberly's yard was discharging direct in to the river.</li> <li>• Shelly: That can't have been reported to us - It is not a way of us getting around problems at the pumping station</li> <li>• Karen Nelson: Will look at it.</li> <li>• Martyn: Information on API is wrong.</li> <li>• Shelly: At end of year, we go out and investigation, review discharges, to see if maintenance needed on CSO discharge.</li> <li>• Karen: We share our data immediately, so always risk that data may be spurious rather than accurate.</li> <li>• Rachel Carden: Did the monitor in the chamber work?</li> <li>• Shelly: Yes, we had done daily checks since January, and there was no indication in the system that there would be a problem. We have not been able to do in depth investigation yet. We need to make sure it was nothing to do with the Bockhampton pumping station. We are still in red zone, but expect levels to fall from now on as we move into Summer.</li> <li>• Rachel: When I phoned the contact centre I got little help.</li> <li>• Shelly: Better you email us, since our contact centre will not know about specific problems in your area.</li> <li>• Rachel: I was told in the past, that there was a way by which our problems would be directed.</li> <li>• Denise Kinsella: The system changed, so it could be that they did not know how to do that - Will investigate it.</li> <li>• Paula: We have had sewage problems in Newport Road in the Lower Lambourn area. Is there a way in which, when TW has given a reference number, there is a place where someone can go to ask questions?</li> <li>• Denise: If it relates to a specific property there will be a case manager.</li> <li>• Vicky Reunier: Is there anything to let people know about issues?</li> <li>• Shelly: Denise sends out updates to Parish Councils, this Flood Forum, and Penny Post, and we also do letter drops. Agree need to be quicker.</li> <li>• Vicky: It's the general overview that I find interesting.</li> <li>• Shelly: Have lots of updates that we can share.</li> <li>• Howard: Is there a simple way you can offer to residents, a way to help them with infiltration on their property?</li> </ul>	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>
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	<p>sediment into the river.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew: Why are some sections not being replaced?</li> <li>• Adam: It is based on investigation, and historical bursts, it seems that those sections don't need replacement. Sections not being replaced will be monitored.</li> <li>• Karen: We can't replace everything, but we do investigate every burst.</li> <li>• Andrew: No one likes the tankers. The speed they go causes concern, the tanker drivers do not always obey the 30 zone.</li> <li>• Karen: Agree. We have reduced flow into Bockhampton, but flow is still high, so needed more tankers. Have to bring in contract tankers to deal with peaks. Working on the speeding issue. Bockhampton pumping station is in a difficult spot.</li> <li>• Sue Tulloch: Took 3-4 days for sufficient tankers to deal with the issue.</li> <li>• Sue Tulloch: When will we find out when the roads will be closed?</li> <li>• Adam: Still doing investigations, so hope that we will find out whether will be in May or Summer holidays. Ideally want to do it in May half term.</li> <li>• Daniel Lavorchik: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Share with us the licence plates of problem tanker drivers.</li> <li>○ Regarding re-instatement of roads: A letter drop will be done down the valley as far as Shefford to residents, telling them how to complain if any of restoration is not adequate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>
	<p><b>River Level in Eastbury</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Weed cutting reduced levels.</li> <li>○ EA did a complete run, and levels fell significantly, so no flow onto back street after the weed cutting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chris: Is the ground water high?</li> <li>• Richard: Groundwater levels are going up, winter was 157% of average rainfall.</li> <li>• Martyn: Monitoring at Lambs cottage shows groundwater at the top end of average.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Project Groundwater</b></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jed Ramsey EA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This is a 6 year project funded by Defra, and we want to work with communities. The upper section of the Lambourn will be one of 9 pilot areas. Want to develop new ideas about what can be done, and to try them out. We have 34 partner organisations. Academic agencies and consultancies will be delivering the work.</li> <li>○ There will be updated National maps for ground water and we will create them and make them freely available.</li> <li>○ Have improved modelling.</li> <li>○ EA and Thames Water have a good network of groundwater monitors</li> <li>○ 4 years left on the project</li> <li>○ Want to trial new technology.</li> <li>○ Moving to natural flood management generally, but little has been tried with groundwater.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fiona Brewer, Engagement Officer for Lambourn Valley: Visited library and 50 people completed our survey. 90% of respondents had been impacted by flooding in some way. Let me know how we can work with local groups. Contact me on <a href="mailto:hello@projectgroundwater.co.uk">hello@projectgroundwater.co.uk</a></li> <li>• Paula: You have forgotten the lower Lambourn, it seems that somewhere or other we always get forgotten. I am Collecting photos to prove we have issue.</li> <li>• Karen: Love to know what the advice will be coming out the project, but we are worried about people pumping into the sewers.</li> <li>• Jed: last thing we want is to be putting groundwater into sewage.</li> <li>• Fiona: It is about working with community groups, each of the 9 pilot area communities has different problems.</li> <li>• Paula: Can you look at the urban area coloured red in lower Lambourn? Is it the wrong sort of groundwater.</li> <li>• Jed: Unfortunately we had to draw a line somewhere.</li> </ul>	EA  EA
	<p><b>Lower Lambourn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paula: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £40k has been allocated to WBC for a survey which will cover two bournes re surface water, but does not cover two others, or areas suffering recent flooding. Have photos taken over several years, and hope new</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	WBC

	<p>councillor will take this over.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard: All your good works will hopefully lead to greater investigations in the future. Clayhill suffers with all types of flooding. You are also impacted by the Kennet.</li> <li>• Paula: Needs to be a bigger focus on surface water management, for example, one office block is being turned into homes, it's all a complex picture.</li> <li>• Richard: The good news is that the study that Jon and his team will do will be the start of a journey.</li> </ul>	
•	<p><b>WBC Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emily Merritt: Nothing from emergency planning</li> <li>• Shelly: Are you, Emily, aware about whether WBC will install surface water management in Upper Lambourn? - Has anyone picked that up?</li> <li>• Howard Ditch &amp; drains have been cleared</li> <li>• Emily, not my area, but will take it away.</li> </ul>	WBC
•	<p>Date, Time and location of next meeting.</p> <p>September TBA</p> <p><b><u>By teleconference</u></b></p>	All