

LAMBOURN VALLEY FLOOD FORUM MINUTES

16th October 2023

On-Line Conference

		Action
•	<p>Attendees</p> <p>Karen Nelson – Thames Water Adam Fowler – Thames Water Howard Woollaston – WBC / Eastbury Rachel Carden – Upper Lambourn - Paula Saunderson – Newbury Oliver Steed – Lambourn Chris – Lambourn Jonah Maddocks – WBC Emergency Planning Martyn Wright - East Garston Nick Voysey - Great Shefford Richard Hancock – Environment Agency Andrew Gorton - Eastbury Jon Winstanley WBC Daniel Lavorchik – Thames Water Mark Hayes-Newington</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Steve Ackrill – Great Shefford Gareth Knass – Great Shefford Vicky Rieunier – Lambourn Emily Merritt – WBC Emergency Panning Shelly Hartnoll – Thames Water Paul Bacchus WBC flood and drainage James Potter - Eastbury</p>	
•	<p>Minutes from Previous meeting</p> <p>Agreed as an accurate record.</p>	

•	<p>Matters Arising From Last Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manhole in East Garston raised in last meeting remains outstanding 	TW
•	<p>Great Shefford 'Bypass' Flood Alleviation scheme</p> <p>Richard Hancock explained that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction start delayed due queries in planning sent to WBC, decision delegated to planning officer should help to speed process. 11kv electricity cable by SSEN needs to be diverted during construction. They have met site agent and the necessary agreement has now been signed Agreement has been reached for the funding to be carried over to next year. Look forward to hearing from planning office in next two weeks. Nick explained that he had been informed by Steve Ackrill that the Greenham Common Trust are aware of the delay, and that it is not an issue in relation to the £30k due to come from them towards the cost of the scheme. Howard: How long will construction take? Richard: About six months. Work will start ASAP in the spring. Howard: You have a working site? Richard: Yes, by the filling station 	EA EA EA
•	<p>Lower Lambourn</p> <p>Paula explained that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are plans for a Newbury flood and drainage group. There will be a study to explore what needs to be done to mitigate surface flood risk in Clayhill ward. Jon Winstanley: We have three vacancies in the flood and drainage team which have been approved. Paula: we have two rivers, high water levels, and also a surface water drainage issue. Where the river is underground, there is a lot of pollution, and restricted flow. Paula: going to arrange for Karen to do site visit. 	WBC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Nelson: Someone has been witnessed in the industrial area polluting with oil. • Paula: Residents got fed up with lack of action and haven't been reporting incidents. People need to start reporting. 	TW / Paula
•	<p>Sewage Issues in The Upper Lambourn</p> <p>Karen Nelson explained that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been out doing investigations over the summer, everything contained in the channels, except in May and August when storm flooding. So we now believe that we have dealt with the issue of ground water infiltrating the sewage system • We will therefore look at rain to drain to deal with the storm flooding issue. • Our next focus will be Eastbury, and East Garston where will be getting quotes for lining. • If we get a wet winter we will have to tanker in East Garston. • We might also deploy the filter unit in Lambourn. • We are monitoring ground levels. • Martyn: My measurement of ground water levels are at the highest for this time of year during the last 10 years. Can you get additional lining work done ASAP? • Martyn: Has any work been done to identify properties pumping into the sewers to prevent flooding of basements. • Karen: We have to get quotes. We have identified 4 properties which we will investigate when we have wet weather. • Howard: Do WBC have powers to investigate? • Martyn: At meeting last week, it was said local authorities have the powers. • Jon: Under building regulations it is a miss-connection • Karen: I can't tell someone where to put the water, but Can get someone to turn off their pump • Richard: Land drainage act is out of date and non specific on this point • Howard: Should be able to discharge straight into the river. • Richard: •Should be able to pump to river to protect the property • Karen: Water from basement would be clear. • Chris: Can you pump onto a highway? • Jon: No, that is not allowed, since it might lead to it getting 	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>

	<p>frozen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martyn: If properties alongside the river, it should be OK? • Richard: Yes, not strictly legal, but very unlikely to be prosecuted. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Bockhampton Main</p> <p>Daniel Lavorchik explained that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project was finished last month, and has been decommissioned and the contractors are tidying up. • Howard: Will it be able to take 90 additional houses? • Daniel: Should do • Karen: What was done was to prevent leaks etc, can't promise that there will still not be issues elsewhere. • Howard: Membury service station waste goes through there? • Daniel: Yes • Andrew Gorton: Groundwork affected the tracks, esp. Manor track, grips were removed, but have now been replaced. However, hardcore was used to renew the surface, which is not best option since it makes it easy for a lot of water to flow down the track. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>WBC Update</p> <p>Jon Winstanley explained that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WBC will be out checking for problem areas during the winter. • Property level flood works in Lambourn should move forward with additional team members joining shortly. • Will be looking at Clayhill • Paula: Any chance of getting flood assets on GIS? • Jon: Yes, working on it, and it will show when last inspected. • Howard: Road flooded again between Woodspeen and the office units • Jon: Will Ask the team to have a look at it. • Paula: Have asked council re natural defences • John Maddocks: The annual flood wardens meeting will be on 28th November and Blue Nimbus local resilience for Thames valley multi partner meeting held in September 	<p>WBC</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Gorton: Eastbury flood prevention association sent email to TW asking if pollution has lead to excessive vegetation • Karen: Believe that we have sent out a response • Rachel: Huge build up of vegetation in Lambourn as well, by Woodbury a cut by EA reduced the water level by 1 foot. Need a cut twice a year only – Can EA do that • Richard: Will ask the question on the cut • Rachel: Flood warning system monitoring station is not working. • Richard: Last I heard on monitoring is that waiting parts. • Paula: How would industrial pollution be monitored • Richard: Not aware of constraints on what those samples are tested for. When people aren't reporting it is a problem for the EA as well, and the weight of reports does matter. • Paula: Don't get feedback when we do report • Richard: If you report via the web there is an option to ask for a call back. I Will send the link • Rachel: Should The river be dredged on Eastbury side of the fire station? River is still running, so some people have not been able to clear various places, which may lead to problems. • Richard: Wet spring and early summer has artificially extended the season. • Karen: TW have a route to report pollution on line with a two hour response time. • Paula: Have concerns about vegetation coming downstream due fallen willows. • Jon: No plans currently to do silt clearance, and have no funding for it. • Rachel: Has been done in the past, Can you look at it? • Richard: It is too wide there, so does not naturally scour when water is lower. Therefore Stuart felt that if it could be narrowed at that point that might be natural solution. Might be funding to do something. • Andrew: A lot comes down the tracks • Richard: Likely to be part of the problem • Chris: The problem is silt coming from the road promoting grass, and Riparian owners don't have the ability to remove 	<p>EA</p> <p>EA</p> <p>EA</p>

	<p>it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel: Any updates on project groundwater? • Richard: Attended a meeting looking at how ground water is monitored and will be notified, people from 'project groundwater' will be attending. • Martyn: Might be worth sending out a reminder to all parishes along the Valley that the LVFF exists. • Martyn: Why do we not rename the LVFF Flooding and Pollution? • Nick: We need to keep the focus on flooding, and do our best to get some results on that, since other groups such as ARK are concerned with water quality, and as a voluntary group we simply don't have the resource to take on anything additional. • Paula: In the lower reaches, we will be part of a new Newbury flood & drainage forum • Martyn We need for signs regarding sewage discharges • Karen: We have signs and happy to put them up. 	<p>Howard / Nick</p> <p>TW</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Date, Time and location of next meeting.</p> <p>Provisionally January 2024</p> <p><u>By teleconference</u></p>	<p>All</p>