

# LAMBOURN VALLEY FLOOD FORUM MINUTES

19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## On-Line Conference

		Action
•	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p>Chris Tonge – East Garston PC Martyn Wright - East Garston Denise Kinsella - Thames Water Andrew Hagger – Thames Water Stephen Sanderson – Thames Water Shelley Hartnol – Thames Water Steve Ackrill – Great Shefford PC James Potter – Eastbury Heather Bond - Environment Agency Nick Voysey - Great Shefford Andrew Gorton – Eastbury Howard Woollaston – WBC / Eastbury Rachel Carden – Upper Lambourn Clive Hooker - WBC Nick Spence – Lambourn Oliver Steed – Lambourn Stuart Clark – West Berkshire Council</p> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Susan Servais – Environment Agency Richard Hancock – Environment Agency</p>	
•	<p><b>Minutes from Previous meeting</b></p> <p>Agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
•	<p><b>Great Shefford 'Bypass' Flood Alleviation Scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Steve Ackrill: Unfortunately we are no further forward than we were at the last meeting</li><li>• Heather Bond: I have just returned to Richard Hancock's</li></ul>	

	<p>Team. The EA are preparing to sit down with TW to see if they can take over representing the scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve: Had meeting with Susan and Alice</li> <li>• Nick Voysey: Why can't the EA release funds to Village?</li> <li>• Heather: Committee has decided that the EA can't release funds to anything other than a designated 'RMA' (Regional Risk Management Authority). Action: Heather to clarify.</li> <li>• Stuart Clark: WBC are an RMA. If Richard approaches WBC we would probably look at taking it on.</li> <li>• Howard Woollaston: When does it need to be done?</li> <li>• Stuart: In Summer</li> <li>• Howard: are we too late for this year?</li> <li>• Stuart: Yes, unless it is 'shovel ready'.</li> <li>• Clive Hooker: Don't see starting any time soon</li> <li>• Steve: Richard said that there is nothing in the EAs rules to say they can't give to a community led scheme, but equally nothing to say they can.</li> <li>• Clive: I am wondering if the EA committed?</li> <li>• Heather: It is actually one of our highest priority projects.</li> <li>• Nick: what are the action points? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ EA to find the RMA to take on the project.</li> <li>◦ Alter the business case to reflect that.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Stuart: Can we set up a three way meeting Thames, WBC &amp; EA – Action for EA</li> <li>• Andrew Gorton: Do we know which side of TW would be involved</li> <li>• Stephen Sanderson: No, need to find out</li> <li>• James Potter: WBC offered to take this on over a year ago, quite absurd.</li> <li>• Heather: At that time, we did not know we would not be able to pass over the funds, since there was nothing to say it could not be done.</li> <li>• Stuart: You need to be aware that WBC are looking to construct two schemes in Thatcham next year, so if we can't do the Shefford Scheme this year, WBC may need additional funds to do it next.</li> <li>• Heather : That might be why TW is preferred as the RMA.</li> <li>• Stuart: Richard needs to agree with my boss whether we can talk about it.</li> <li>• Heather will make sure that happens.</li> </ul>	<p>EA</p> <p>TW</p> <p>EA</p>
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**Comment [BH1]:** After the meeting Susan informed me that this was not correct. It is the National Project Assurance Service (NPAS) who reviews and provides advice on all EA projects within a certain budget range. We are working on providing more information on this and the process involved to send to you based on your second email, and will get back to you shortly.

**Comment [BH2]:** Update on this, Susan and I are working on the three way call. We have Stuart and his manager on board and are currently waiting to hear back from Thames Water to make sure we have the right people attending from their side.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outstanding Issues Concerning Eastbury Flood Alleviation Scheme</b></p> <p><b>Eastbury Flood modelling:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Potter: Please update us on progress.</li> <li>• Heather: The modelling done post installation of the Eastbury FAS did not show significant change from the previous data, but acknowledge that the previous data needed updating. The original modelling was conducted in 2007-<del>or 2009</del>. "Budget is in place" to remodel the whole Lambourn valley and <del>expect we hope</del> this <del>can</del> be done by March 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action: <i>EA to advise whether this date relates to finance approval or modelling finished.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• James: The EA map does not show any areas 'benefitting' from flood defences.</li> <li>• Heather: A national team is currently considering removing those areas benefiting from flood defences, from flood information maps, since <del>these have</del> been found not useful and sometimes misleading. The timescale on this is "by end of year").</li> <li>• Heather: EA remodelling whole of hydrology in the Lambourn valley, to provide most accurate representation of flood maps during year 21/22. Heather to be the senior leader, and <del>will share timeline as to when results will be available.</del></li> <li>• James: Would be great if done by next March</li> </ul> <p><b>Trash screen for the Eastbury FAS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather: Asset now added to 'flood runs', so will be investigated when flood risk returns. Still looking at installing a <del>flood grill</del> trash screen, but there is a potential safety issue. Will be checking on blockages in the village.</li> </ul> <p><b>Trash Clearing EA Permit charges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James: We have raised this issue via the LVFF previously as it seems unfair to charge communities for doing the right thing. The application procedure is very complex and the EA has a charging scheme.</li> <li>• Howard: Crazy that if volunteers are charged for clearing the river</li> <li>• James: Last time it cost me £230. EA should waive</li> </ul>	<p>EA</p> <p>EA</p> <p>EA</p>
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**Comment [BH3]:** This date relates to the model being finished. We have financial approval right now. I am currently writing the model scope and colleagues are pinpointing the consultant who will conduct the works for us.

**Comment [BH4]:** We hope to set up a consultant for the work by this summer, and have a timescale and plan by the autumn

	<p>these charges, it stops people like us doing work. Was quoted £960 by EA to continue taking silt out, it is absurd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather: You are right that the charges are more appropriate for larger schemes</li> <li>• James; It is not fair to charge community groups £1,000 to do work the EA should do. We have many years of history of doing good work.</li> <li>• Heather: Will send email to staff members responsible for issuing these permits, and give you the contact who makes these decisions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Action: EA to provide relevant person contact details</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Martyn Wright: System is fundamentally wrong, we will have to involve Laura Farris. We are doing the EAs' work, after all.</li> </ul>	EA
•	<p><b>East Garston Sewage Pumping Station Discharges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martyn: What are the terms and conditions are applied to the consent to discharges at the SPS?</li> <li>• Heather: Colleague says SPS should only discharge during an emergency, and we are aware that TW breached the permit in Spring 2020.</li> <li>• Martyn: Are there a list of conditions under which it can discharge?</li> <li>• Stephen Sanderson: Can discharge after a big storm, or snow melt, but groundwater infiltration is not included in the permit. Pump station failure is also allowed. East Garston did hit a threshold, another group in TW are looking at it, and will report back to the EA.</li> <li>• Martyn: Will the sewage pipe repairs you have been and will do fix it?</li> <li>• Rachel Carden : Surely each emergency has a time limit?</li> <li>• Stephen: Yes, the EA will be monitoring.</li> <li>• Heather: Will check on the time dimension issue, and number of events.</li> <li>• Martyn: Recently witnessed a dog playing at discharge point. Can we have a warning notice at these discharge points?</li> <li>• Rachel: Same issue in Lambourn.</li> <li>• Nick Voysey: This is a public health issue, and a failure by TW or Parish Councils who knew about this problem, and did nothing to warn the public could have very serious</li> </ul>	

	<p>implications if there was a public health incident.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Action: TW to action notice boards.</i></li> </ul>	EA
•	<p><b>Sewage pipe network:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Great Shefford</b></li> <li>• Stephen: Groundwater and river levels not in sync over the winter. In Shefford one property had sewage discharge in a private cover. Found fat blockages. For Five properties looking at a flip (non- return valve + pump system), which will protect these properties. Shelly looking at it. We welcome the Great Shefford flood alleviation Scheme</li> <li>• <b>East Garston</b></li> <li>• Stephen: Lining / chamber sealing work could not be done to protect one property since groundwater too high. Now plotted in for 17th May.</li> <li>• By Isolating the SPS, we were able to hear something pouring into the network. Currently looking at a repair on a customer's chamber. Hoping that fixing this may change the way the network works.</li> <li>• <b>Eastbury</b></li> <li>• Stephen: Rising main repair completed over a weekend. SPS did not break out of pump all year.</li> <li>• Andrew: We did not see the sewage in houses and gardens that we saw in 2020, other than the pothole by the bridge.</li> <li>• Stephen We will find out where there water is infiltrating from. This year will flood plate all the above ground assets.</li> <li>• Stephen: River staying down, was it due to the flood alleviation scheme? Have been working with the modellers, since we were puzzled that river did not reach the expected level.</li> <li>• James: Flood defence did not kick in this year.</li> <li>• Stephen: So we are potentially back into the position of Spring 2020. We will need to get out during the summer to investigate root causes. Will work with the community.</li> <li>• <b>Lambourn</b></li> <li>• Stephen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sewers did go high so we were watching them daily. River Lambourn spilled into Newbury Street 12th Feb. Upper Lambourn pump kicked in then,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>

	<p>perhaps causing the problem. Lining carried out at Goose Green. Need permit for traffic management to allow lining in High St.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Still finding infiltration in Lambourn.</li> <li>○ Problem with surface water infiltration in Upper Lambourn. Could not investigate as under water.</li> <li>○ Will seal resin chamber, and found mass flow from two properties.</li> <li>○ Hopeful fixing these issues will solve Lambourn, but will deploy the ATAC next year as a precaution.</li> <li>○ Bockhampton rising main is too be replaced between Lambourn and East Garston.</li> <li>○ River level saved us this year.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rachel: Was a good indication that TW emergency response did not change the river level. Believe fast flow kept the river level lower.</li> <li>● Nick Spence: Think that the lack of flash storms may have helped.</li> <li>● Stephen: Will be doing more sealing in Upper Lambourn.</li> </ul>	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>
●	<p><b>Flooding Issues 2020 /21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nick Spence: Clearing out the ditch by Malt Shovel, and trash collector would help.</li> <li>● Howard: Jockey Club have been doing the work.</li> </ul>	
●	<p><b>WBC Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stuart: Have been offered a grant to install property level protection West Lambourn.</li> </ul>	
●	<p><b>TW Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stephen: Shelley Hartnol will be taking over from me as your contact. I will be working in Engineering on the Bockhampton Rising Main regeneration.</li> <li>● Howard: Many thanks for all your efforts.</li> </ul>	
●	<p><b>Governance - Admin</b> No discussion.</p>	
●	<p><b>Website</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No progress since last meeting</li> </ul>	

•	<b><u>Lambourn Valley Flood / Emergency Response Plan</u></b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No discussion</li> </ul>	Sub- group
•	<b>AOB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Scheme.</b></li> <li>Rachel: Want to know what legally can be done, without the requirements for permits, whilst maintaining SSI status.</li> <li>Heather: EA has guidance can provide you, and will share it.</li> <li>Rachel: Can I have something concrete that I can share with others.</li> <li>James: As soon as you mention SSSI you need a permit</li> <li>Rachel: Neighbourhood development plan can't protect the river if it does not have the permits. Need to know what we can do, since people often fall foul of it.</li> <li>Chris Tonge: Understood you have to let water flow as it arrives.</li> </ul>	EA
•	<b>Items outstanding from Previous meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None discussed</li> </ul>	
•	Date, Time and location of next meeting. Date to be advised (probably September) <u><b>By teleconference</b></u>	All