

LAMBOURN VALLEY FLOOD FORUM MINUTES

21st September 2020

On-Line Conference

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| • | <p>Attendees</p> <p>Chris Tonge – East Garston PC Denise Kinsella - Thames Water Karen Nelson – Thames Water Andrew Hagger – Thames Water Stephen Sanderson – Thames Water Steve Ackrill – Great Shefford PC James Potter – Eastbury Stuart Clark – West Berkshire Council Heather Bond - Environment Agency Nick Voysey - Great Shefford Andrew Gorton – Eastbury Howard Woollaston – WBC / Eastbury Carolyn Richardson - WBC Sam Frankilin WBC Oliver Steed - Lambourn David Hunt – Welford Rachel Carden – Upper Lambourn Clive Hooker - WBC Nick Spence – Lambourn</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Susan Servais – Environment Agency Richard Hancock – Environment Agency Gareth Knass – Great Shefford Will Riggall - Lambourn Claire Rowles – Boxford</p> | |
| • | <p>Minutes from Previous meeting</p> <p>Agreed as an accurate record.</p> | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <p>Great Shefford Flood Alleviation Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Ackrill: Still looking at community lead scheme, good meeting with Susan Servais & Alice Roberts. Should have business case and legal agreement by end of October. • Prior to the meeting Richard Hancock confirmed that he will shortly answer a previous question from Nick Voysey about the threshold for introduction of temporary flood alleviation measures in the Wantage Road | <p>Steve / EA</p> <p>EA</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <p>Lambourn , Upper Lambourn & Eastbury – Sewage pipe network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel & Howard have met Thames Water (TW) in upper Lambourn. • Rachel: TW are keen that riparian owners do their own bit. TW accept that they need to move to only treating sewage water. However admit that can't prevent flooding this winter. New Person at TW Steve Sanderson, new head for Lambourn Valley sounds promising. • Stephen Sanderson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At Aldbourne set up an infiltration taskforce, Lambourn valley getting a lot of attention. Used to manage by postcode, but have now changed to catchment, so I am responsible for whole of Lambourn Valley from upper Lambourn down. ○ In terms of Great Shefford some private water infiltration problems identified, and one connection problem resolved. ○ Approved leak proof liner for East Garston, hope for completion Oct. ○ Eastbury full sewer clean in early October approved, but may need road closure. ○ Lambourn: Planned maintenance cleaning going on, and will be done annually on all critical areas of sewage. Once groundwater gets to 130m then we start getting flooding. Short time to get a camera in, before water gets too deep. Can now isolate sections of sewer with a balloon, and then pump out. Dean Tech have identified 41 infiltration spots, and have identified a number of | |

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| | <p>areas for leak proof lining. Infiltration near Aintree is still there, suggesting that it is coming from the Lambourn, and hoping to deal with this before wet weather comes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In upper Lambourn not such a problem of infiltration, but it is a surface water problem, going into the surface water system. Riparian owners are responsible for surface water ditches. WBC came to review choke points. Root cause is groundwater. Sewers work in normal conditions, but can't work with groundwater. In Upper Lambourn trees in the ditches etc are a problem. Stewart of WBC might be able to design the problem out at one point of trouble. ○ Key for TW is to get the groundwater into the river, but don't want to create flooding downstream, so working with the EA. ○ Have a number of monitors to measure flow and depth. Will pick a number of key points, throughout the valley where we can install sensors. ○ ATAC unit in Lambourn is turned on when the sewage system is polluting watercourse with solids. Decision driving this is to stop the environment getting worse. Meeting WBC to see how far can design out the problem. New unit will take out solids, and reduce ammonia levels. Low levels of ammonia last winter were indicative of groundwater infiltration. I will keep coming out until the problem stops, but you may still need tankers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Howard: Thanks for comprehensive background. ● Stephen: Very concerned about new potential building developments in Lambourn. Karen working on looking at IQ maps to see what developments are going on. No point in getting sewage network right, and we are then sent back to square 1 by new developments. ● Rachel: Triangle in Bockhampton Road, New gallop removing trees, ● Howard: New gallop removing trees, has gone beyond planning consent. ● Stephen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Surface outflow identified at the gallop | <p>TW</p> <p>TW / WBC</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to get surface run of the Lambourn clear right through Lambourn. ○ Next to the sports field, and by Bockhampton SPSS are big pipe dog legs, but don't want to approve straightening the sewers until modellers have evaluated whether that might cause a new flooding problem. So no solution on that this year. ○ Priority is to get the river, and groundwater out of the sewage system. ● Karen (TW): We have identified that there are some areas where we need higher spec standards. Hopefully you will see the fruits of the restructuring, with Stephen in charge. ● Steve: You found surface water getting into sewers at Great Shefford was that everything? ● Stephen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I only started to cover the Lambourn valley after the events of last winter when I was covering Aldbourne, but problems higher up the valley will impact you in Shefford. Will speak to Shelley to understand your situation, so we understand where the network backs up. We need to get more savvy about tanker usage as they are expensive. We will have a look at how the Lambourn valley recovered. Will come back to you. ○ Will come to all the individual parishes. I am responsible down as far as the East Shefford Sewage works ● Karen TW Work in Eastbury and East Garston in plan should help Shefford. Making steps in Winter readiness. ● Clive: Surprised you did know about problems in East Garston with water coming up in toilets, which may be raised in Commons. ● Stephen: Have met Laura. Have started in upper Lambourn, And working my way down the valley to Shefford sewage works. £29k of lining approved for East Garston. ● Clive: If we insert lining will it reduce sewage diameter? ● Stephen: No, it will not, just reduce ingress of infiltration. ● Clive: In my village liner quickly caused blockage ● Andrew Hagger: Lining creates a higher velocity pipe. ● Clive: Tankers are not a solution. | <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen: All pipes will fail with infiltration spots. Sewers are designed to take groundwater, but not to the levels we have seen. • Clive: Want to see you addressing ingress in East Garston and Great Shefford. • Stephen: Absolutely. • Steve: Majority of groundwater problems in Shefford are due to the Wantage Road stream, not the Lambourn. • Stephen: Will have a look. • Rachel: It's not just the river it is all the springs and tributaries. • Karen: Unit in Lambourn could not prevent flow downstream. If we move water quicker it will impact downstream. • Steve: When you emptied your tankers at East Shefford works it made things worse, but when you took them elsewhere it was an improvement. • Karen: Best option is no tankers. • James: Happy to explain Eastbury scheme to TW (Stephen). • Oliver: When would you use filtration unit to put water into Lambourn, and prevent sewage on the streets. • Stephen: Would be a last resort. We learnt a lot from last year, about if needs to be deployed. • Rachel: ATAC Unit in upper Lambourn would take out clean water. • Stephen: If that changes the situation downstream that would be expensive . We will try different things, until the problem goes away • Rachel: ATAC units are better than tankers because less noise, and put cleaner water back in. | <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>James</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <p>Water Quality Monitoring Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Bond gave an interesting and informative presentation on the water monitoring of the Lambourn performed by the EA, and the resources available to the public to interrogate the information. • Currently overall water quality on recent monitoring has been shown to be 'moderate', but as regards chemicals there is a 'fail'. • <i>Further details concerning how to use these resources was provided subsequent to the meeting and is enclosed with</i> | |

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| | <p><i>these minutes as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>A pdf version of the presentation, plus the PowerPoint version as it has more details in the speaker notes.</i> ○ <i>The two excel spreadsheets of data that had been shared.</i> ○ <i>A pdf summary report of the Lambourn, which will be the same information as can be found in the Catchment Data Explorer website.</i> ○ <i>A map of the sampling points</i> | Heather Bond |
| • | <p>WBC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuart: Going to walk ditches in upper Lambourn • Rachel: Any news on additional culvert? • Stuart: Need to remove silt from Lambourn. Have sent report to EA. As an SSI there is a problem with permits for dredging. Clear that silt has accumulated. I am keen to get in there and dredge downstream of the road. • Heather: Will ask to ask Richard. • Howard: We must not also forget problems in Boxford • Stuart: That is EA since it is main river • Stuart: Have a paper being written by a Scientist at Compton that says that activating groundwater scheme would lower ground water and prevent tankering in Pang Valley. Might work in Lambourn valley also perhaps. • Andrew: 99% sure that Compton Groundwater scheme idea won't work for Lambourn. • Subsequent to the meeting Heather Bond spoke to her colleague Emily Webster and provided the following additional information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>West Berkshire Council commissioned an environmental study which recommended that wide scale dredging should not be undertaken as it would adversely affect the features for which the River Lambourn SSSI is notified and will impact on the features for which the River Lambourn SAC has been designated.</i> ○ <i>The sediment sampling analysis completed as part of this environmental study revealed that the zone of excess siltation is actually extremely localised. Only one short reach (approx. 10m in length) of the River Lambourn through Lambourn village</i> | EA EA WBC / TW |

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| | <p><i>suffers from excessive silt deposition; immediately downstream of Newbury Street. This was attributed to the over-wide nature of the channel at this location, although the reduced channel gradient at the outlet of the road culvert is also considered a contributing factor.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The environmental study made several recommendations for alleviating fine sediment deposition:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>A single episode of very careful, local sediment removal completed manually by hand (i.e. no use of machinery) in order to ensure only the top layer of fines is removed, preventing any disturbance to the underlying gravels.</i> ▪ <i>The use of gravels (of the type that would occur naturally) to infill the depressions created by silt removal.</i> ▪ <i>Clear sediment from the surface water pipe outfall on the right bank. Benefits will be very short-lived however.</i> ▪ <i>Plant in-channel marginal vegetation and use pre-planted coir rolls to narrow the channel, allowing velocities to increase at the outlet of the culvert, subsequently reducing rates of fine sediment deposition.</i> ▪ <i>Long-term recommendations for a number of land use management practices.</i> ▪ <i>EA staff in the Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology team have reviewed the reports and consider that the recommendations need to be given further thought. Coir rolls, for example, will die if left to dry and of course the river is ephemeral in Lambourn – it dries out each year through the summer months.</i> ▪ <i>The EA agreed with West Berkshire Council that we would complete a joint site walkover next summer (2021) when the Lambourn is dry, to fully assess which options might be feasible.</i> | EA / WBC |
| • | Governance - Admin / WBC Support | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussion. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress since last meeting | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Lambourn Valley Flood / Emergency Response Plan</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussion | Sub- group |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AOB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items outstanding from Previous meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None discussed | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date, Time and location of next meeting. | <p>6:00pm Monday 18th January 2021 <u>By teleconference</u></p> | All |