

LAMBOURN VALLEY FLOOD FORUM MINUTES

10th January 2022

On-Line Conference

		Action
•	<p>Attendees</p> <p>Denise Kinsella - Thames Water Shelley Hartnoll – Thames Water Holly Sutherland – Thames Water Andrew Gorton – Eastbury Howard Woollaston – WBC / Eastbury Rachel Carden – Upper Lambourn Stuart Clark – West Berkshire Council Carolyn Richardson - WBC Clive Hooker – WBC Emily Merrit - WBC Paula Saunderson – Newbury Oliver Steed – Lambourn Martyn Wright - East Garston Steve Ackrill – Great Shefford PC Nick Voysey - Great Shefford</p> <p>Apologies / Did not participate</p> <p>Karen Nelson – Thames Water James Potter – Eastbury Richard Hancock – Environment Agency</p>	
•	<p>Minutes from Previous meeting</p> <p>Agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
•	<p>Great Shefford ‘Bypass’ Flood Alleviation Scheme</p> <p>Immediately prior to the meeting, Richard Hancock provided the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To summarise what we have been up to since the last forum meeting and the next steps over the next few months;• Nov 21<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Re-established a project team to provide Susan with	

	<p>formal support from our Projects and Contract Management teams who routinely run EA projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engage with our consultant and contractor who will deliver the project. ○ Decision taken to use a “design and build” approach to the project, this is the simplest and fastest method we can use to get the project delivered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dec 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interactive Planning Meeting held with EA teams, DEFRA Procurement and suppliers to assess the programme of works ○ Outline Business Case (OBC) redrafted as an EA delivered project ○ Procurement strategy updated in line with OBC revision ● Jan 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Risk Register Review meeting was held last week (I haven’t caught up with Susan since the meeting though). ○ Cost review is underway at present to understand the impacts of the change in delivery mechanism and current economic climate ● Feb 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outline Business Case to be sent for Assurance ○ Engagement with school required before end March 2022 as a condition of Department for Education funding. ● During the discussion, the EA were requested to provide a fixed a fixed timeline for completion of the project 	Richard Hancock / EA
●	<p>Sewage Issues in the Upper Lambourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shelly Hartnoll explained that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upper Lambourn Sewage: - Waiting to hear from WBC regarding permits to complete the work we need to do to disconnect the well, without causing disruption to the stable. Since the meeting TW have a possible date for the work with a road closure 7/3 permit for 2 weeks. ○ Nothing to work with regarding looking at water ingress into the sewage system due to the low groundwater and amount of water currently in the 	TW

	<p>system due to dry weather.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sewage discharge is not her personal area of expertise. However, sensors (EDM monitors) on the pumping station tells us when it discharges, and it maybe the ultrasonic sensor has been sending out false positives, so looking at a shield over the sensor to prevent the effect of leaf fall. We are keen to improve its accuracy. ● Howard Woollaston: Can TW provide a sewage discharge expert for the next meeting? ● Shelly we will look to see if a pumping station colleague would be able to attend Since the meeting TW have arranged for a colleague from the pumping station team to join the next meeting ● Holly Sutherland: Upgrade at Shefford works should provide a 90% decrease in decrease in phosphorous. Due for completion by the end of 2023. ● Martyn Wright: How effective has the lining work been in East Garston? ● Shelly: No change since last meeting. No groundwater to test the work that has been completed and its impact, at the moment, but we have engineers ready to investigate when needed. ● Shelly: The ATAC was put in proactively if the groundwater levels in Lambourn rise it is ready. ● Martyn: Groundwater can rise quickly. ● Andrew Gorton: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hopefully someone knows the time lag between rain and the groundwater rising? ○ Improvement at Shefford treatment works sounds significant. ● Holly: cost of new storm tank and treatment will cost around £6m. ● Andrew: You should spread the news about this, people would like to know about what you are doing to help them. ● Holly: We are currently wary of spreading the news too soon, but the work should start in May. ● Nick Voysey: Maybe WBC can publicise this in their regular email newsletters. ● Paula Saunderson: Good news stories are important. ● Shelly: Re The Bockhampton main, this is a separate project that will run to the East Shefford Treatment Plant. ● Andrew: Is it a new route? 	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW / WBC</p>
--	--	-------------------------------------

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelly: Yes, and avoiding tennis courts etc. Dormouse & bat surveying has been done, and the project has been signed off. It is a really big project and will take time. • Andrew: How different is the route? Has an agreed route been approved? • Shelly: There is a map, and I will gather the info and share it. • Denise Kinsella: Maybe Stephen Sanderson can come along and provide an update. (Subsequent to the meeting it was confirmed that Stephen will attend the next meeting). • Rachel: Does Laura Farris know about the £6m project. • Shelly: We keep it under the radar until it has been confirmed, and will take it up with Laura at our next meeting with her. 	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Discharge of untreated sewage into the River Lambourn at East Garston and other locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately prior to the meeting Richard Hancock provided Nick with a request to formally pass on his apologies to Martyn Wright for being slow to respond to his enquiry. He explained that he has been very grateful that Martyn has given him the time to respond without chasing. Richard has sent over some information today, that Heather had originally put together for the group in 2020 but appreciated it is a lot of data, so if there is anything he can help to clarify he would be happy to put some time aside to talk to Martyn on the phone. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Issues in the Lower Lambourn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paula Saunderson: Are Thames Water aware of issues in the Lower Lambourn? • Shelly: not at the moment. <p>Paula: Consider Lower Lambourn eastern side of A339.</p> <p>Paula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant gap in terms of flood management plans from WBC on this section of the river. • Have prepared a paper • Quite densely built on and building continues • Not clear how impact of ongoing development on 	

	<p>theses issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a meeting with Stuart & John Winstanley • 5G upgrade seems to have created a lot of surface water. • Residents would appreciate info on flooding and sewage. • Lambourn management plan went down to Bagnor. <p>Paula: It Would make sense to have a separate forum for Clay hill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holly: We are planning large upgrade of Newbury road pumping station • Shelly: Happy to contact you with updates. • Stuart: WBC will support any flood form • Carolyn Richardson: Agreed. Need to sort out with Stuart re new forum for Newbury, and how this would relate to lower Lambourn • Paula: Would appreciate a more direct way of reporting flooding • Howard: Agree seems like a need for a separate forum, but boundary should be A34 not A339 	<p>WBC / Paula</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Flood Wardens Meeting</p> <p>Subsequent to the meeting Emily provided the following information:</p> <p>The Lambourn Valley attendees we had at the West Berkshire Flood Wardens meeting on November 30th were:</p> <p>Stuart Gourley, Lambourn</p> <p>Paula Saunderson, Newbury/Lower Lambourn</p> <p>Steve Ackrill, Great Shefford</p> <p>James Potter, Eastbury</p> <p>Oliver Steed, Lambourn</p> <p>Emily also asked that if there are any further Lambourn Valley Flood Wardens which we may be missing from the WBC Emergency Planning lists that we please do send them across so WBC are able to add them to their lists of flood wardens.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>WBC Update</p> <p>Stuart Clark: West Lambourn property level protection approved by the EA, and will approach residents in terms of interest in having these measures fitted.</p> <p>Oliver: what is it?</p> <p>Stuart:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood doors, non return valves and self closing airbrick covers. • Residents don't pay. • Looked at various options, which were not viable, this is our fall back <p>Rachel: What type of flooding does it protect?</p> <p>Stuart: Surface water flooding only.</p> <p>Rachel: So many properties not eligible presumably.</p>	<p>WBC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface water puddle in Garston • Stuart: Will investigate. • Paula: A lot of standing water on bottom road from Boxford to East Shefford, a lot of timber taken out near the motorway, maybe contributes to issue. • Stuart: Send me a map of where the problem is, will have a look at it. • Rachel: Can trees be removed without permission? • Stuart: Send an email • Rachel: Pretty sure WBC would need to issues a licence, so removal of trees could be illegal. • Nick: Lambourn is an SSSI. 	<p>WBC</p> <p>Paula</p> <p>WBC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Environment Agency Update</p> <p>Immediately prior to the meeting Richard Hancock advised that:</p> <p>Groundwater Situation</p> <p>Groundwater levels are significantly lower compared to this time last year. Levels at most sites were at their lowest towards the end of November/during the first two weeks of December. This is nearly a month later than normal. Levels are now rising at most sites but remain significantly lower than this date last year,</p>	

	<p>for example:</p> <p>Upper Lambourn - 8m lower</p> <p>South Fawley - 5m lower</p> <p>Northfield Farm - 2m lower</p> <p>Effective rainfall for the winter period so far 1 October - 3 January = 62% of the long term average. This winter has so far been significantly drier than average. Next two months weather is critical to see what happens with groundwater recharge this year.</p> <p>The outlook for December 2021-February 2022 is for Groundwater levels to be 'normal' across the country with 'below normal' conditions possible in some locations. In summary, this is a positive picture so far.</p> <p>General points:</p> <p>Richard advised that his team is still smaller than half the size it was last year but he was given permission to recruit before Christmas. He will be interviewing candidates soon, so hope to have someone in post during March.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Date, Time and location of next meeting.</p> <p>Date to be advised (probably April 2022)</p> <p><u>By teleconference</u></p>	<p>All</p>