

# LAMBOURN VALLEY FLOOD FORUM MINUTES

25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## On-Line Conference

		Action
•	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p>Denise Kinsella - Thames Water Shelly Hartnoll – Thames Water Andrew Haggard – Thames Water Stephen Sanderson – Thames Water Adam Fowler – Thames Water Luke New – Thames Water Howard Woollaston – WBC / Eastbury Rachel Carden – Upper Lambourn Stuart Clark – West Berkshire Council Emily Merritt – WBC Emergency Planning Clive Hooker – WBC Paula Saunderson – Newbury Oliver Steed – Lambourn Martyn Wright - East Garston Steve Ackrill – Great Shefford PC Nick Voysey - Great Shefford</p> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Richard Hancock – Environment Agency</p>	
•	<p><b>Minutes from Previous meeting</b></p> <p>With one correction, agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
•	<p><b>Sewage Issues in The Upper Lambourn</b></p> <p>Shelly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ground water levels have been low, but we did however reach our trigger level at one point, so deployed an ATAC in Lambourn.</li><li>• The well diversion in upper Lambourn at the Malt Shovel was completed removing the connection to sewage system, with a diversion to the ditch. Obviously, this has yet to be</li></ul>	

	<p>tested in a high water situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued with Network checks looking for clear flows to identify ingress into the system, originally weekly now fortnightly down to Great Shefford. Have identified no evidence of clear water running through the network. The investigation is conducted by lifting manhole covers.</li> <li>• Planning lining along Wantage Road, Great Shefford, which we hope to complete before the winter.</li> <li>• Howard: A recent WBC meeting raised the issue of sewage from TW into Lambourn.</li> <li>• Shelly: Identified one discharge in Newbury St., Lambourn, which did not go into the river as far as TW are aware of. Incidentally, we provide monthly updates to Laura Farris.</li> <li>• Howard: In which case, why are we getting told that there is an issue from Government about this?</li> <li>• Paula: The Lambourn catchment has failed with PCDEs (from building, furniture, Sewage), plus one other chemical. It seems not nitrogen &amp; phosphates</li> <li>• Lambourn sticks out like a sore thumb on the map.</li> <li>• Howard we need EA to address this.</li> </ul>	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>TW</p> <p>Richard Hancock / EA</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Great Shefford 'Bypass' Flood Alleviation Scheme</b></p> <p>Immediately prior to the meeting, Richard Hancock provided the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susan Servais, our Senior User (project lead for local FCRM teams) and Lucy Jenkins, our Flood Resilience Engagement Advisor visited Shefford C of E Primary School to complete the School Engagement which was a requirement of the Department for Education funding that we secured in 2019. This included a DfE presentation which included awareness of flood risk in general and the local area, a short summary of what the Great Shefford Flood Mitigation Scheme will be and also an awareness of our Flood Warning Service. Among other activities, the children seemed to enjoy the 'poo tank' – which is essentially a fish tank filled with tea and the sorts of objects one can find in flood water. The aim is to highlight the risks of playing in flood water. The school have posted some photographs from our visit on the weekly blog... Friday 4th March — Chaddleworth, St. Andrew's &amp; Shefford Church of England Federated Primary School (csfschools.org)</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denise: It goes direct to GS treatment works. We will endeavour to stick to timetable, but can't guarantee it.</li> <li>• Luke New: East Garston Pumping station has monthly visit from technicians and a routine clean once every six months, but these can be done at shorter notice if needed.</li> <li>• Martyn: The Issue has been pumping from the pumping station directly into the river</li> <li>• Luke: The work that Shelly has done in East Garston should have made a difference, and there have been no discharge for a long time. Some historic 'discharges' were in fact due to leaves falling on the sensors, giving false discharge readings.</li> <li>• Luke: I cover the area from Cotswolds to Reading.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pumping Station Issues / Resilience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luke New: East Garston Pumping station has monthly visit from technicians and a routine clean once every six months, but these can be done at shorter notice if needed.</li> <li>• Martyn: The Issue has been pumping from the pumping station directly into the river</li> <li>• Luke: The work that Shelly has done in East Garston should have made a difference, and there have been no discharge for a long time. Some historic 'discharges' were in fact due to leaves falling on the sensors, giving false discharge readings.</li> <li>• Luke: I cover the area from Cotswolds to Reading.</li> <li>• Paula: Any problems down near junction with Kennet?</li> <li>• Luke: I am not aware of any</li> <li>• Howard: Are you confident infrastructure of pumping stations will be resilient for next 15 years?</li> <li>• Luke: We have checked all the pumping stations in the valley.</li> <li>• Howard: But 100 extra units will be erected in Lambourn and a further 500 are coming near the A34.</li> <li>• Clive: There was a problem in West Ilsley.</li> <li>• Denise: That may have been a problem with one of the monitors. We have monitors throughout the system that tell TW about any blockages.</li> <li>• Clive: how are they powered?</li> <li>• Andrew: Batteries</li> <li>• Rachel Carden: Pumping stations often at low points, and so are therefore vulnerable to surface water.</li> </ul>	<p>TW</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelly: At upper Lambourn we did have pumps to deal with surface water at that point . Since then have done a lot of work, but that has yet to be tested.</li> <li>• Howard: Will you still need to deploy the ATAC?</li> <li>• Shelly: It is a great bit of kit providing a comfort blanket.</li> <li>• Paula: Does TW have anything going on in the Lower Lambourn?</li> <li>• Denise: Nothing like what is being done in the upper Lambourn.</li> </ul>	TW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Issues in the Lower Lambourn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paula: Clayhill Ward does not have a surface water management plan.</li> <li>• Denise: If you go to <a href="http://utilities.digdat.co.uk">utilities.digdat.co.uk</a> you can find assets of TW, but you need to come from an official address (i.e. a Gov.uk address).</li> <li>• Stuart: WBC Have applied for SWS management plan for Clayhill, but it does only cover surface water not rivers &amp; sewage.</li> <li>• Denise: There is a groundwater management infiltration strategic management plan for Lambourn, but not Clayhill.</li> <li>• Paula: So as long as groundwater does not infiltrate the system you don't have a plan?</li> <li>• Andrew: I Can send you a map of TW assets for Clayhill.</li> <li>• Paula: Flood reporting: WBC will make emergency reporting as a priority. I Have asked the Environment team at WBC to provide education on water usage.</li> <li>• Paula: We have had had pollution on Northbrook stream, with dead fish, and oil pollution seen today.</li> <li>• Paula: We have a number of cumulative planning applications on the top of watercourses.</li> </ul>	<p>WBC</p> <p>WBC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Nutrient Neutrality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Howard: In the Test Valley this directive has had a major impact on planning applications.</li> <li>• Paula: A number of pollutants are high for the Lambourn ( Paula to provide listing). Incidentally Eastleigh have purchased a piece of agricultural land for 'offset'.</li> <li>• Immediately prior to the meeting Richard Hancock provided the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I haven't been able to discuss this with my colleague who leads on this but I will speak to</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Paula

	<p>them probably not until next week now but will send Nick an update, if they have anything to add to the below. If the group would find it useful(?), I will also ask if they may be able to attend a future meeting to talk about this but I have to stress their team is worse off than my own, in terms of lack of resources at present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nutrient neutrality has come from the Environment Act (2021) as one of several, new or updated tools including the increased requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain on projects and three new schemes under Environment Land Management scheme, to support authorities in our responses to planning applications.</li> <li>○ NN is led by NE, as you can see from the information that Howard shared.</li> <li>○ It provides a new methodology and tool for EA statutory consultees in the planning process (in this case our Environment Management teams) and colleagues in Local Planning Authorities, to calculate what additional nutrient load may result from a new development and how this may impact designated sites.</li> <li>○ This will provide quantitative details regarding what impact this may have upon water quality in that catchment and designated sites within them, that the developer/development will then need to demonstrate how they can mitigate this in order for their proposal to be deemed acceptable or appropriate.</li> <li>○ Where designated sites are close to or already have unfavourable nutrient conditions, this may* give greater weight to withhold permission for development.</li> <li>○ *It must be noted this is a new, untested tool and we do not yet know how or what impact it may have on planning process.</li> </ul>	<p>Richard Hancock / EA</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>	<p><b>WBC Update</b></p> <p>Stuart Clark: West Lambourn property level protection - Been allocated a grant for £300k for property protection from old coachworks to Newbury St. Will be contacting residents.</p>	<p>Stuart Clark / WBC</p>

	Howard: Can you send be a note for the Lambourn parish council meeting later this week.	Stuart / WBC
•	<b>AOB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
•	Date, Time and location of next meeting. Provisionally 18th July  <u><b>By teleconference</b></u>	All