

Alfold Flood Forum

20 March 2015, Alfold Village Hall

Present:

Sarah Coleby, PA to Anne Milton (chair)
Beverley Weddell, Clerk to Alfold PC
Kevin Deanus, Alfold Parish Council
Alan Whitehead, Thames Water
Hilary Murgatroyd, Thames Water
Jenny Elliott, Thames Water
Andrew Adams, Southern Water
Jean-Paul Collet, Southern Water
Mark Howarth, Surrey County Council

Helen Parkin, Surrey County Council
Nick Laker, Waverley Borough Council
Cllr Donal O'Neill
Jane Bromley, Clerk to Loxwood PC
Residents of Alfold and Loxwood
Apologies:
Anne Milton MP
Andrew Hagger, Thames Water
Environment Agency

Parish Council: Beverley Weddell reported that all the council properties affected by the December 2013 floods had been refurbished and were now occupied. Residents were still experiencing problems with rats that appeared to have been displaced by the recent ditch clearing. Residents had carried out clearance work to ditches behind Clappers Meadow and it was hoped this would be carried out again this year. (On a recent site visit, Surrey CC and Atkins were impressed at how the condition of the ditches had improved and there were no issues.)

The parish council had been informed that Thames Water had accepted liability for the flooding of at least one property, however, this was not the case for all residents. **ACTION: BW will gather information and pass to Hilary Murgatroyd, who will ensure that claims are properly cross-referenced and decisions made equally.**

Waverley Borough Council (WBC): Nick Laker reported that WBC now have a regular maintenance regime in place; all ditches in the village will be cleared every year in or around March. WBC had been clearing pipes that cross Loxwood Road and once this was complete, Surrey CC would take over responsibility for regular maintenance.

A resident commented that the verges where the ditches have been dug need to be levelled off and protruding tree roots removed. **ACTION: NL will report to Parks Department.**

Surrey County Council (SCC): Helen Parkin reported she had been working with residents to resolve issues in Rosemary Lane. A lot of work to clear ditches had been carried out by landowners, although she was researching further a couple of residents' concerns and would give an update at the next meeting.

SCC are also looking at the ditch and culvert where Loxwood Road meets Alfold Bars; consultants are compiling a study to see what options are available to relieve the flooding of properties in that area.

SCC have compiled their asset register. Gullies near the junction of the B2133 and A281 opposite Stone Hatch have been cleaned out and maintenance is now with Highways, who should ensure they're inspected. The road is still flooding so more work needs to be done.

Mark Howarth reported that management had agreed the programme and set budget aside for Atkins to put together a report of what needs to be done to maximise the outflow through Springbok. **ACTION: Once the programme has been put together, MH will advise timings.** The next stage will feed into a major analysis and hopefully take the large scheme forward, which won't be confirmed until all the studies have been carried out.

Environment Agency (EA): There were no representatives from the Environment Agency. Rachel Hopkins had yet to advise the outcome of the bids for a £15,000 study in Alfold and £50,000 bid for Loxwood.

ACTION: Rachel Hopkins to advise Sarah Coleby and Beverley when outcome of bids known

Thames Water (TW): Alan Whitehead reported for Thames Water:

- The broken manhole on Dunsfold Road near Compasses Mobile Home Park had been replaced and sealed.
- Work to install a liner to prevent surface water ingress in sewer behind Clappers Orchard was due to be carried out within the next fortnight.
- An additional system monitor was in place to understand what happens along the Horsham Road as the sewer feeds the pumping station.
- TW was reviewing details with a new contractor re the major scheme to divert the sewer locally around affected properties. Due to a major reorganisation internally, AW was unable to give timescales or further information at this time. Further information should be available before the next meeting.

Residents raised concerns about the number planning applications for large housing developments in the village. TW is meeting with the developers of several sites and confirmed that no new housing can discharge into the system at this time.

Jenny Elliott advised that residents with Dobba alarms do follow the instructions to phone TW when the alarms go off so that the calls get logged. She said that residents should not have been advised otherwise.

Residents are concerned that the drains are now filling much quicker during periods of heavy rain than they used to and the reasons for this should be investigated.

Southern Water (SW): Andy Adams reported that SW now had a drainage area plan and hydraulic model which identifies how the system operates and how rainfall affects the system. SW know they have flooding issues at the top end of Loxwood. The hydraulic model and plan is one aspect of the work to develop the scheme to address flooding. They have also been aware of sewer blockages in Pigbush Lane and have introduced an enhanced maintenance programme of sewer jetting.

SW are working with Thames Water and developers to discuss what improvements would be required to service development in Alfold if it proceeds. The water companies are consulted on all planning applications, are aware of the problems in the catchment and there is no capacity for additional flows, which means conditions are placed against applications which forces developers to agree improvements to the system before the properties can be connected.

A scheme has been identified to address the flooding at Alfold Bars where the 10 inch pipe going into a 6 inch pipe. All SW schemes need to undertake cost benefit analysis and this scheme is being priorities for the next asset plan. Cllr O'Neill raised concern about the environmental health issues of sewage flooding. **ACTION:** Andy Adams to provide more information about the scheme so that people have an opportunity to lobby for it.

Loxwood Parish Council: Organising a meeting with all relevant bodies and would be setting up a flood forum. The parish council was proceeding with a flood mitigation scheme with the help of funding from WSCC.

UK Power Networks: ACTION: AM to write to UK Power Networks to ascertain how often the power goes off in Alfold, what is the cause, and what is being done to address the issue.

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NEXT MEETING:
June/July TBA