

Alfold Flood Forum

15 January 2016, Alfold Village Hall

Present:

The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP (Chair)
 Sarah Coleby, PA to Anne Milton
 Kevin Deanus, Waverley Borough Councillor
 Nick Laker, Waverley Borough Council
 Tom Pooley, Surrey County Council
 Abishek Sharma, Environment Agency
 Joan Forteach, Thames Water
 Andrew Hagger, Thames Water
 Will Randall, Thames Water
 Graham Purvis, Southern Water

Beverley Weddell, Alfold Parish Clerk
 Richard Bryant, Cranleigh Civic Society
 Liz Townsend, Cranleigh Civic Society
 Garry Fishburn, Alfold Resident
 Peter Hartley, Alfold Resident
 Richard & Janet Watson, Alfold Residents
 Trish Loveland, Alfold Resident
 Bryan Jelley, Alfold Resident
 Malcolm Skipp, Alfold Resident
 Malcolm Frost, Alfold Resident

<p>Parish Council:</p> <p>Beverley Weddell reported that following recent heavy rainfall, Alfold ditches appeared to be coping well, with the exception of large areas of sewage contaminated standing water in Alfold Sports Ground and surface water flooding on the A281. Dobba alarms had gone off in properties on Loxwood Road and one residential property and Alfold Sports Club had been flooded again with sewage.</p>	
<p>Thames Water:</p> <p>It was hoped that lining the pipes behind Clappers Orchard would relieve pressure on the pumping station during periods of heavy rain; this hasn't worked. Thames Water need to progress projects with Waverley and Surrey CC to prevent surface water getting into the sewage network and overloading the pumping station.</p> <p>A scheme had been identified that would be facilitated by the Care Ashore application for 400 houses at Springbok Estate. Work is now on hold awaiting the outcome of that application. The outcome of that planning application, and others, would not be known for several months and possibly years, and Anne urged Thames Water to proceed with projects and not rely on the developments coming forward.</p> <p>Another option being considered by Thames Water was a holding tank to be constructed in the sports ground.</p> <p>Non-return valves in residential properties are not working. They will be serviced and would also be assessed for suitability.</p> <p>Monitors had shown that partially blocked pipework on the A281 causes surface water to enter the system and overload the pumping station. Surrey Highways to advise when the jetting and a CCTV survey will be carried out.</p>	<p>TW to work with WBC and SCC to progress projects by Summer 2016.</p> <p>TW to service and/or replace non-return valves.</p> <p>SCC Highways to jet drains on A281 and carry out CCTV Survey. (APC to prompt Jason Russell and cc to Anne)</p>

<p>Some properties drain surface water into the sewage network, despite conditions for correct drainage applied to planning applications.</p> <p>Tankers had been deployed during the flooding to relieve pressure on the system. Residents urged that they be used more often.</p> <p>It was unclear whether the pumping station had failed during the recent flooding or whether it was simply overwhelmed. Alarms had failed due to the lack of a mobile phone signal. TW again stressed the need for flooding questionnaires to be submitted by residents to support their bids for funding.</p>	<p>APC to write to Head of Planning at WBC to request enforcement of planning conditions. Clr Deanus to pursue also. All cc to Anne</p> <p>TW to discuss methods of communication with residents to get the tankers out sooner, before properties flood. TW to submit a written report to Anne within a week.</p> <p>TW to check and clarify duty stand by operation of pumping station</p>
<p>Southern Water: Graham Purvis reported that the Drainage Area Plan is due in March. Planning applications – SW is not a statutory consultee but have requested all planning applications for comment – APC’s experience is that not all of them are reaching SW. Jetting of the system had been carried out in Alfold Bars. A micro pumping station is being built to service one or two properties to protect them from sewage flooding.</p>	<p>APC to write to Chichester DC and Waverley BC cc to Anne to follow up</p>
<p>Surrey County Council: The flood mediation scheme being studied by Atkins is at the initial assessment stage. The outcome of the report is due in March. The next step will be to put a business case forward for approval.</p>	<p>SCC to inform Anne when business case submitted so she can follow up.</p>
<p>Environment Agency Will be working with SCC once the scheme reaches business case</p>	<p>EA to provide presentation for residents at that stage</p>
<p>Bryan Jelley – asked about fining water companies</p>	<p>SC to send Minister’s letter previously received and request House of Commons Library briefing on case law.</p>
<p>Cranleigh residents report similar issues, and concern about any proposal to pump to Cranleigh sewage works and resulting discharge into Cranleigh Waters. The</p>	

<p>sewage works are already working to capacity, and EA have imposed a requirement on TW to improve the output to good ecological status. Anne confirmed that she was happy to review the need for a combined flood forum with Cranleigh at any time.</p>	
<p>NEXT MEETING:</p> <p>Friday 13th May, 10.45am, Alfold Village Hall</p>	