

Alfold Flood Forum
19 June 2015, Alfold Village Hall

Present:

The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP (Chair)
Beverley Weddell, Clerk to Alfold PC
Betty Ames, Alfold PC
Cllr Kevin Deanus, Waverley Borough Council
Nick Laker, Waverley Borough Council
Laurence McCammick, Waverley Borough Council
Mark Howarth, Surrey County Council
Andrew Hagger, Thames Water
Huw Thomas, Thames Water
? Thames Water
Andy Adams, Southern Water
? Southern Water
2 x Springbok
Alfold Residents

Apologies:

Environment Agency
Cllr Simon Thornton, Environment portfolio holder, WBC

Parish Council:

Loxwood now have their own Flood Forum, which has met once.
No further residents have reported to Beverley about insurance claim issues, and she will now pursue on behalf of Bryan Jelley.

Thames Water:

Work was underway by Springbok, where ground water was getting into pipe, which would now be lined.
The monitor in place on Horsham Road was showing benefits from work done so far.
Thames Water is now into its new investment period, using new contractors; it is recognised that any scheme has to work with potential development.

Southern Water:

Continuing to work with Thames Water, including meeting to talk about planning applications.
Following discussion with residents in Alfold Bars, had completed camera investigations.

Resident:

A paper shredding contractor comes through the village regularly, the lorries are not covered, paper flies around and gets into drains.
Action: Resident to give details to Beverley, who will pass to Cllr Deanus to pursue.

Resident:

Reported that a 12 inch pipe reduces to a 6 inch pipe; Beverley confirmed that Thames Water had put in the pipe to be helpful – but residents anticipate that water will back up in the ditch with heavy rain.
Action: Residents to take photographs, and to alert Beverley who can do the same, so that there is evidence to pursue.

Surrey County Council:

Mark Howarth reported that SCC have investigated 1700 home flooding incidents. Their consultants Atkins are gathering data. Knowledge of the issues at Alfold is now fairly thorough, so data should be good, and the report is due to be published in August.

Action: Mark to provide weblink to Beverley to publish on Parish Council website.

He confirmed that £15,000 had been allocated for flood follow up work, and it was likely to take 4-5 years to achieve the big scheme needed to hold water back. A meeting would take place shortly between SCC, Atkins and Waverley.

SCC had met their Sussex counterparts at Alfold Bars, but the problems there mostly affect homes on the Sussex side.

Action: Beverley to send note of first Loxwood Flood Forum to Mark to keep him updated.

Resident (Bryan Jelley):

A gully truck had visited since the previous meeting but missed some as they were obscured, and the road was collapsing.

Action: Thames Water to check following meeting.

Mark Howarth emphasised the need for residents to report issues, as the statistics helped him to ensure priority.

Action: Beverley to ensure that link to report is on Parish Council website.

Waverley Borough Council:

Nick Laker reported that inspections were now taking place monthly by the countryside team.

Action: Nick to provide map for Parish Council website.

CCTV surveys of culverts had identified a break by Forge Cottage, repairs were under way.

UK Power Networks:

Sarah Coleby reported that UK Power Networks had confirmed work was in hand to improve supply locally, in particular to raise the number of isolators so that power supplies could resume more quickly to surrounding areas once a problem was identified.

Action: Sarah to send letter to Beverley to publish on Parish Council website.

Springbok:

Care Ashore propose to refurbish and build, to provide 20 bungalows and 60 care beds at Springbok, plus 375 houses. Storage lakes are planned to hold water back, and it was recognised that managing water run off was key. The development could include a new pumping station, which would send waste to Cranleigh for treatment, rather than Loxwood, and bypass Alfold pumping station altogether. They proposed also to upgrade 1.8 miles of power cables into the village. They would aim to bring both online before any new homes were occupied.

Thames Water – would need to be very sure Cranleigh treatment works could cope, bearing in mind any planning applications there too.

Alfold Parish Council – will hold public meeting once Waverley BC validate any planning application.

Resident:

There had been no progress on remedying verges and banks where ditch work had been completed.

Action: Nick Laker to pursue with Parks Department.

Resident:

Yellow grab bags had been left on the common.

Action: Cllr Deanus had emailed the enforcement officer for details, and would continue to pursue.

Next Meeting:

October 2015 – date to be confirmed.