

## Alfold Flood Forum

13 May 2016, Alfold Village Hall

Present:

The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP (Chair)  
 Sarah Coleby, PA to Anne Milton  
 Beverley Weddell, Alfold Parish Clerk  
 Kevin Deanus, Waverley Borough Councillor  
 Nick Laker, Waverley Borough Council  
 Betty Ames, Alfold Parish Council  
 Richard Bryant, Cranleigh Civic Society  
 Richard & Janet Watson, Alfold Residents  
 Bryan Jelley, Alfold Resident

Adrian Erricker, Alfold Parish Council  
 Thames Water:  
 Joan Forteath, Parliamentary Liaison Officer  
 Will Randall, Operations Manager, Networks  
 Dan Garside, Operations Manager, Pumping Stations  
 Tim Beech, Asset Planning Manager  
 Tom Aspinall, Customer & Continuous Improvement Manager

<p><b>Parish Council:</b></p> <p>Beverley Weddell reported that things had generally been quiet on the flooding and sewerage front. A planning application for 55 homes had been approved (in spite of Cllr Deanus' strong speech against). Almost all her work over the past year has been on planning</p>	
<p><b>Cllr Deanus</b></p> <p>Reported that a survey had been carried out at the Club, but no follow up since.</p> <p>On planning generally, he commented that planning officers seem to believe SUDS is the answer, but when ditches overflow already (in this instance Planning Committee members did a site visit when the ditches were full!) there is clearly no capacity for more.</p> <p>Richard Bryant pointed out that recent planning applications in Cranleigh had been at the lowest point topographically, that officers and Planning Inspectors had shown continued disregard for local knowledge, the pumping station was behind on technology and struggling to keep up, and that there was a case for considering a failure to upgrade infrastructure before homes are built to be gross negligence!</p>	<p><b>Nick Laker to flag up issues to planning officers</b></p>
<p><b>Thames Water:</b></p> <p>Club: TW had commissioned WERM to carry out survey at the Sports Club. Recommendation: to install non-return valve and remove surface water drainage connection. The Club is next premises to pumping station, so any overflow will only happen there, not affect other properties.</p> <p>A site visit to Cranleigh sewage treatment works had been arranged for residents and planning officers. Capacity there was OK for now but not for the future. Discussion followed about the need for Thames Water to be robust in the terminology used when responding to planning applications.</p> <p>Bryan Jelley pointed out that planning permission was granted for Wildwood for an 84 room hotel and work would start in July, the development is due to join the sewerage system 100m upstream of Bryan.</p>	<p><b>TW to update Kevin Deanus</b></p> <p><b>Anne Milton to write to TW to request clarity in responses to planning applications</b></p> <p><b>All: flag up to Anne Milton any ambiguous statements by TW</b></p> <p><b>TW to check re capacity and restrictions and report to Anne Milton.</b></p>



<p><b>Water companies</b> Minister's reply stresses the need for water companies and local authorities to work together.</p>	<p><b>Beverley to post Minister's letter on PC website</b></p>
<p><b>Surrey County Council:</b> Did not appear, did not send apologies. The flood mediation scheme being studied by Atkins was due for report in March. The next step will be to put a business case forward for approval. If Atkins report supports investment, the business case is greater and funding is more likely – in which case all attendees will need to express strong support.</p>	<p><b>Anne Milton to chase SCC for Atkins update</b></p>
<p><b>Environment Agency</b> Did not appear, did not send apologies.</p>	<p><b>Anne Milton to chase EA for update</b></p>
<p><b>Springbok planning application</b>  Additional information had been sought from developers. Decision likely June or July</p>	
<p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b>  <b>Friday 14 October 1.00 pm Alfold Village Hall</b></p>	<p><b>All to put in diaries</b></p>