

Note of Meeting
Friday 31 January 2014, Alfold Village Hall
Alfold Flooding and Sewage

Anne Milton MP (Chair) (AM)
Hilary Murgatroyd, Thames Water (TW)
Alan Whitehead, Thames Water (TW)
Andrew Hagger, Thames Water (TW)
Jenny Masding, Chair, Alfold Parish Council
Beverley Weddell, Clerk, Alfold Parish Council and Loxwood Parish Council
Kevin Deanus, Alfold Parish Council
Ian Tomes, Environment Agency (EA)
Justine Glynn, Environment Agency (EA)
Stuart Copping, Surrey County Council (SCC)
Mark Howarth, Surrey County Council (SCC)
Nick Laker, Waverley Borough Council (WBC)
Residents of Alfold and Loxwood
Apologies: Cllr Mary Foryszewski

Thames Water reported they had completed a joint study with Southern Water, looking at pumping stations and including a modelling exercise. It had reported after Christmas suggesting 8 options. Once these were costed, they would report back at the next meeting; a joint venture may be needed.

Alfold Parish Council had been looking at riparian ownership and where ditches or streams needed clearing. Parish Cllr Kevin Deanus had been mapping where homes were affected. Residents must let Parish Council know of any blocked ditches or culverts.

Waverley Borough Council reported some improvements over time. The area was very flat and there was a need to look more at shifting local water to the river – in some places very little fall.

It was pointed out that at Sprinbok water has to drain uphill.

During power cuts the pumping station stops. Thames Water said there should be a back up generator, residents said there isn't one. **ACTION: Thames Water to investigate and resolve.**

Long term power issues locally. How many power cuts had there been in Alfold? What action was being taken by providers to improve this situation? **ACTION: AM to pursue.**

Surrey County Council which had highlighted the need to document land ownership.

Southern Water – were unable to report as there was no representation. Action: **AM to write to Southern Water.** (Done)

Resident at 5 Clappers Meadow reported that she regularly clears the gully.

ACTION: WBC to remove bags of debris.

Residents queried why local roads were not swept, as the residue contributes to blocked drains.

ACTION: WBC to investigate and report next time.

Residents reported that when it rains downstairs toilets cannot be used. A Loxwood resident said an independent engineer had calculated that the flow in sewers increased 100 times during wet

weather! TW acknowledged that they needed to identify where surface water was getting into the system and prevent this. They had studied the problem but needed more specific information.

Who has the information? TW have maps of sewers. WBC have maps of the ditches the Council maintains. SCC reported that a fire in the 1980s destroyed drawings, replacement is long overdue.

ACTION: TW, SW, SCC, WBC to collate information, residents to supply local information to Beverley and she will pass information on as appropriate.

Where does responsibility lie?

- Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for main rivers
- Surrey County Council (SCC) for surface water
- Thames Water/Southern Water for sewers.
- All come together in Surrey Flood Partnership Board (and a similar board in Sussex). Bids can be made for research and projects. Next deadline is 21 February. EA and SCC to bid for action for Clappers Meadow. AM said she stood ready to write in support if agencies/authorities asked.

EA reported exceptional rainfall: In November/December/January double the average, and on 23 December one month's average rainfall in one day. Rainfall had been the heaviest in 100 years.

Loxwood is within a different watershed, so in a different EA region. **ACTION: Ian Tomes (EA) to speak to colleagues.**

All residents present were urged to report any issues to the Parish Council as well as any historic local information about water courses, culverts, drains and ditches. A number of residents who have lived in the area for a long time were encouraged to collect and report information.

Next Meeting: Friday 11 April 2014 10.30 am – **ACTION: Beverley to book Village Hall**