

CRANLEIGH FLOOD FORUM

Note of Meeting: 12 October 2018, Band Room, Cranleigh

Present:

The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP (Chair)
Waverley Borough Council (WBC):
John Bennett, Planning Enforcement
Nick Laker, Engineers
Holly Appleby, Environmental Health
Harriet Brown, Thames Water (TW)
Nishad Sowky, Thames Water
Simon Moore, Thames Water
Soo Simmonds, Cranleigh Parish Council

Paul Hudson, Environment Agency (EA)
Tor Peebles, Surrey County Council (SCC)
Sarah Coleby, Office of Anne Milton MP

Parish Cllrs, including Angela Richardson
WBC Councillors including Liz Townsend and
Patricia Ellis
County Councillor Andrew Povey
Cranleigh Civic Society representatives
Residents

Apologies:

Sue Pennison, Drinking Water Inspectorate
(DWI)
Cllr Stewart Stennett

Cllr Jeannette Stennett
Cllr Mary Foryszewski

MAINS REPLACEMENT

Thames Water (TW) report that 5 km of pipe had been targeted for replacement in GU6, of which 3.9 km was in Cranleigh (extended from previously). More work is planned on The Ridgeway. Priority has been given to the worst performing pipes. Burst analysis shows a spike in 2013-14. Pipe burst rates are back to previous levels (2008) – this is an improvement, but 2008 levels were not acceptable.

Cllr Townsend said Thames Water had been dealing more quickly with incidents, but there were still too many bursts. Thames Water's response has much improved.

Thames Water reported they were continuing to survey underground (thus residents were probably not aware as this was not necessarily visible on the surface) on a 'find and fix' basis.

ASBESTOS PIPES

Waverley Borough Council (WBC) had taken legal advice on its role on water quality. The DWI consider that there is no evidence from the World Health Organisation to suggest dangers from ingestion of blue asbestos in water pipes. Sue Pennison had reported ahead of the meeting: "Apologies I am unable to attend this meeting due to operational needs. Update is that WHO have not yet added asbestos review to their workplan and have not yet confirmed their priorities for the 5th edition of the guidelines but they will be looking into this more formally in 2019." There was a request for the DWI evidence as it currently stands.

**ACTION: Adrian Clarke to write to WHO, copy to AM who will write also
AM to request DWI evidence and circulate.**

There was concern that, when pipes or water supply are tested, content test does not routinely include white or blue asbestos fibres, and is often carried out after the pipes have been flushed.

Testing last year had been reported previously to the Forum, as per this extract from meeting note: *Thames Water reported sampling pipe material at 5 sites.*

- *Water at 13 sites had been sampled and analysed.*
- *At 10 sites there were no fibres, 3 had tested positive for some fibres (2/millilitre at one and 1/millilitre at the others).*

- *TW tested under normal conditions to household supply, at the time of a burst and near the burst site, and after a flush of the system.*

(By comparison, 1 cubic metre of air contains 10 fibres. Some of these fibres would be occurring naturally, and this represents a very low concentration.)

TW reported that the internal surface of pipes examined after bursts had not degraded at the burst point. Concern was raised about the degradation causing fibres to leak into water.

Residents said they would like to see the timing of replacement of pipes by TW to coincide with work to supply new housing developments. There is a pilot in Croydon along these lines.

ACTION: TW and SCC and WBC Planning to work together. AM to write to all to request formally.

WATER QUALITY TESTING

There have previously been proposals to move the test sampling site. It was pointed out that there was a need to test and carry out a fish survey within a time scale, and this was due in 2018. The catchment group had not seen any decision. Cranleigh Society and Surrey Wildlife Trust should be involved.

ACTION: EA to report to Sarah Coleby to share with Forum members

LOVE YOUR RIVER

Residents raised again the issue of illegal dredging. The EA stated that the alleged work was not sufficient to justify action. For future reference, report any suspected offences to EA, so they can investigate or work with developer to remediate. The level of action would depend on hydromorphological damage, which is particular to each site.

SCC referred to Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act. Where work would need consent, the EA or Lead Flood Authority would consider whether remedy would do more harm, whether the work could be considered maintenance or new work, and refer to case law. EA highlighted the value of projects like Love Your River as an opportunity for local groups to talk to and work with landowners.

PLANNING

Thakeham Homes/Latimer/Clarion Housing site on Elmbridge Road: Residents expressed concern before and since the planning application that any work relating to development of Knowle Park Initiative could have a knock on effect at this site. They do not consider enough account was taken when planning was approved. Residents want reassurance by SCC and EA that SuDs are checked before, during and after permission to be fit for purpose, and that they and TW respond to planning applications strongly when justified.

Cranleigh Society reported that the site had been referred via Royal Sun Alliance to the wider insurance industry ahead of the industry's own flood forum meeting this month. It was suggested that risk lies with the developer – if prospective purchasers cannot get insurance, they will not get a mortgage.

ACTION: Richard Bryant to write to ask for report of outcome, and copy to AM to follow up and meet if necessary.

SCC reported that a new standard for SuDs emerged over the summer which will make sure that Planners and DEFRA have to communicate better, and places more burden on the planning and flood authority to work together. SCC is planning a training scheme with planning officers in all Surrey boroughs, which will need to be repeated to reflect turnover of staff. AM suggested that the Thakeham/Clarion site could be a good case study, and there was a need therefore to continue to monitor and support.

FLOODING DATA

SCC need better data on property flooding in Cranleigh, and asked for local assistance to provide information.

**ACTION: Cranleigh PC and Cranleigh Society to publicise
SCC (Tor) to provide point of contact for information**

Next Meeting:Friday 22 March 2019 10.30 am Cranleigh Band Room