

CRANLEIGH FLOOD FORUM

Note of Meeting: 8 March 2018, Band Room, Cranleigh

Present:

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| The Rt Hon Anne Milton MP (Chair) | Nishad Sowky, Thames Water |
| Waverley Borough Council (WBC): | Paul Hudson, Environment Agency (EA) |
| Roy Gibb, Planning | Tor Peebles, Surrey County Council (SCC) |
| Nick Laker, Engineers | |
| Sarah Coleby, Office of Anne Milton MP | Parish Cllrs |
| Cyril Mitkov, Thames Water (TW) | Cranleigh Civic Society representatives |
| | Residents |

Apologies:

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| Sue Pennison, Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) | Cllr Liz Townsend |
| Richard Homewood, Environmental Services | Cllr Stewart Stennett |
| Beverley Bell, Clerk, Cranleigh Parish Council | Cllr Jeannette Stennett |
| County Cllr Andrew Povey | Cllr Mary Foryszewski |

Residents to make more use of Parish Council website to check information, and to funnel information about evidence of flooding through the Parish Council office.

MISCONNECTIONS

Thames Water confirmed that they respond to misconnection reports by visiting on site, serving notice on the householder, then follow up and enlist assistance of Local Authorities if enforcement is difficult.

ACTION: all to report likely misconnection (including evidence of sewage reaching ditches or local water courses) to Thames Water first, then provide reference number to Parish Council.

Cranleigh Waters: Thames Water had taken away from the previous meeting a commitment to investigate whether wet weather flow is 10 times the dry weather flow (when tank capacity is limited to 6 times dry weather flow). TW reported that it had not proved possible to confirm this, and they needed advice from elsewhere in the network.

ACTION: TW to report to next meeting

Sampling sites: the Catchment group had not discussed the introduction of additional sites at their last meeting, but would discuss on 14 March

ACTION: TW and catchment group to report to next meeting

Nightingales culvert: EA had replaced the grill and installed a camera. As a matter of course they can check cameras for build up of debris at the grill, and would also check at times of potential flooding. Some residents have keys. An EA officer had walked the brook, and written to residents on both banks to remind them of riparian ownership responsibilities.

Mains Replacement:

Thames Water was asked to provide an update on the mains replacement. Residents were disappointed that the list provided at the meeting included several roads outside the village area (Maples Drakes, Godalming Road, Satchel Hill Lane). 3.9 kilometres in total would be replaced based on risk, not necessarily on basis of asbestos.

TW's draft business plan and water resource plan were currently in consultation to 29 April, residents can take the opportunity to respond.

ACTION: TW to confirm percentage of pipe replacement.

Water Quality:

Thames Water clarified that it was not their responsibility to make a judgement. They follow the current guidance from the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) and World Health Organisation (WHO). They are working locally with Cranleigh Society and the Forum to test water and pipes, and results are good at 10 different sites.

Sue Pennison (DWI) reported by email:

My colleague in Public Health England has identified any studies (internationally), that is, peer reviewed published science since 1990 that are relevant to the concerns of the group. I am cross checking that it includes any published science brought to our attention through any members of this group. I have identified a contact in WHO to pass the information to, as WHO have indicated that they are to make a decision this year on whether to review asbestos.

ACTION: Sue Pennison to report to next meeting if she has made progress.

Cranleigh Society reported that local planning and environmental health authorities do not have insurance for asbestos related claims in future. Cranleigh Society and WBC EH had been discussing, and would be writing to Thames Water.

Love Your River is a project which Surrey Wildlife Trust is leading to upgrade the environment of Cranleigh Waters. A leaflet is attached.

ACTION: SWT to make sure Cranleigh Parish Council has information for website

The Environment Agency is joining in the project, and looking at barriers to fish passage. Cranleigh Waters has been heavily dredged in the past, and some areas have had remediation. The EA is writing to the nursery landowners; conditions on planning at Knowle Park to include remediation to the water course.

Cranleigh Society reported that a meeting was imminent with representatives of the insurance industry. They would discuss the industry's plans to compile a database of housing known to be being built in areas at risk of flooding. There were also issues about pre-purchase searches by solicitors and the information provided by local planning authorities.

Planning – Raising Standards:

Tor Peebles clarified that developers currently only have access to nationally available data when examining potential flood risk, and that they really should be required to conduct site visits to raise the standard of what they submit. Quality of reports currently varies hugely. Surrey tries to work at a higher level than nationally approved standard. Residents however continue to feel that planning committees don't understand enough, and planning officer do not place high enough requirements on developers. SCC is working to improve officer briefings, and to implement an education strategy for planning officers. Anne Milton commended SCC for this initiative. Residents want more opportunity to present evidence directly to planning committee. The decision to move responsibility for drainage from Borough Councils (where it sat with planning) to County Councils means that some historic joint knowledge was lost.

ACTION: Anne Milton to write to Planning Minister, about amendment to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). (Completed, Minister's reply accompanies this note).

Planning – Thakeham Homes:

To make sure that the developer is aware of local issues, Anne Milton and residents would like to meet Thakeham Homes. To attend also: Tor Peebles, WBC Planning officer, Cranleigh Society.

ACTION: Cranleigh Society to draft questions to ask, which should be supplied in advance

ACTION: Anne Milton to write to Thakeham Homes seeking a meeting. (Completed, date awaiting confirmation).

Next Meeting: Friday 12 October 10:30 Cranleigh Band Room