

St. Mary Bourne Parish Council

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**Meeting to Discuss on-going issues with flooding & sewers in St Mary Bourne Parish.
Friday 17th May 2024
10.00am outside The Boundary, The Village Centre, St Mary Bourne, Hampshire, SP11
OLT**

Attendees:

Kit Malthouse MP,
John Penicud, Waste Water Operations Director Southern Water
Floyd Cooper, Program Manager, Wastewater Networks
Luke Griffiths, Flow Management Solutions
Janine Blandford, Environment Agency
Dawn Theaker, Environment Agency
Tom Thacker, Hampshire County Council
Sarah Reghif, Hampshire County Council, Flood & Water Management
Ed Makgill – Cllr SMBPC
Dave Burlison – Cllr SMBPC
Patrick Foote – Cllr SMBPC
Dave Peart – Cllr SMBPC
Clem Jones – Co-optee to SMBPC Flood & Emergency Group
Martin Briant-Evans – Resident
Maxine Owen – Parish Clerk & RFO

Introduction by Kit Malthouse MP (KM)

General welcome and an invite for everyone attending to introduce themselves. KM outlined the aim of the meeting was to ensure that progress was made in the parish to alleviate the issues that had been experienced this winter, and to understand what could be expected of Southern Water over the next 3 months. It was agreed it was a relief that there had not been a repeat of the flooding experienced in 2014, and some of this could be attributed to work done on the riverbed. KM asked Southern Water whether there had been any improvements since a similar meeting in 2021, and was advised there had been lots of investigation, but no specific actions.

Cllr Dave Burlison, SMBPC

It was agreed that over the last 40 years there had been numerous meetings to try and resolve the issues with Groundwater Infiltration into the sewer system. Everyone attending the meeting is looking for a permanent solution. Actions have been agreed at previous similar meetings but very few actions have progressed to completion nor provided anywhere near a permanent solution.

In 2018, and then a version in 2021 of Southern Water's Infiltration Reduction Plan (IRP) for the St Mary Bourne catchment is published – full of inaccuracies and uncompleted actions, and SMBPC's Flood & Emergency Group (FEG) have been asking SW's representatives for the latest version for months. Finally, four days before this meeting a Draft version was sent through to the FEG – 5 pages of draft, unlike the previous reports from 2014 & 2021 which amounted to about 40 pages including all appendices.

Floyd Cooper (SWFC) then made copies of the 2024 IRP available to the attendees.

Questions were asked of SW whether the actions from the previous reports were included in this new report, as there had been no update on those? Are the leaks identified in the new report the same as those identified in the 2021 report? SWFC responded that he would need to check that information as it was the responsibility of the Asset Team, and they were not in attendance. Jon Penicud (SWJP) advised that he would ensure this information was checked and feedback to the group.

SW were also asked when was the last time there was a survey of the sewers? Which survey were they using to make maintenance/repair plans from? Was the information up to date enough to be useful?

The S bend on the High Street in SMB was discussed, and SW advised they had a solution for that.

SWJP advised that much of the groundwater infiltration was from leaks on private property, but would be dealt with by SW working with the property owners.

Luke Griffiths (LG) from Flow Management Solutions advised the group of what they had been working on. He advised they were able to isolate sections of the sewer, manhole to manhole to find where exactly the leaks are. They have found 42 infiltrating leaks in the work they have done so far.

SWJP advised that the list in the current IRP is all approved, planned and funded. SW will wait until the groundwater levels have receded before starting work, but the group were advised that there would probably be a lot of disturbance through the summer as different sections get repaired.

SWFC then went through the list of planned maintenance/repair from the list explaining the plan about each part listed. It was noted that all the discussed activity planned was in St Mary Bourne village, so the clerk checked what was happening in Stoke with the problems there. SW advised that they were also planned but were on a separate list for action this summer, and the list would be shared with SMBPC. SWJP advised that approximately £800,000 had been allocated for the listed repairs. It was also advised that regular electro-surveys of the sewers were being done to identify any new significant leaks and catch any deterioration early.

The Clerk requested the SWFC provide a short explanation of the listed actions being taken this summer, so that it can be shared with the community. The same information is required for the plans in Stoke.

It was suggested that this meeting should be held again in September 24, so an update of progress can be shared with all.

Southern Water were asked whether they had budgeted for the road repairs. The roads have taken a real battering from the tankers, and serious damage has occurred to some parts of the verge, kerb stones knocked out etc. SWFC advised that SW would be repairing the areas where tankers had caused damage. SWJP advised that as Director of Wastewater Operations whether the repairs were paid from maintenance or capital budget, it was his responsibility.

SWFC advised that a group of houses would be reconnected to the relief sewer this summer.

All agreed that communication was the key to making the process of repair as smooth as possible, and SWFC would keep SMBPC up to date as things progress so the community can be kept informed. SW and the FEG agreed to have bi-monthly meetings to check on progress with the remedial tasks.

Cllr Ed Makgill, SMBPC

Cllr Makgill then raised the issue of the flood barrier at Spring Hill Lodge with the representatives of the Environment Agency (EA). Dawn Theaker (DT), advised that the whole system of Temporary Flood Defence systems nationally had been put under review in 2023. St Mary Bourne's requirement had passed the review, and would be continued as an option for deployment when required as in previous years. The representatives at the meeting were not quite the correct people for the meeting, but would certainly put SMBPC in touch with the correct people. The questions the FEG had for the EA would be better answered by the Flood Risk Department, and their details were shared with Cllr Makgill.

All then agreed that the meeting appeared to be a success, but the proof would be in the delivery of the actions listed by SW in the IRP. The group would reconvene at the End of September to review progress. SW & SMBPC would continue regular communication through the next few months as works happen in the valley.

Kit Malthouse thanked everyone for their time and closed the meeting.

Meeting close: 11:00 am

ACTION: Provide short explanation of list of actions from last page of the 2024 IRP – SWFC

ACTION: Provide task list /IRP to include remedial works planned for Stoke – SWFC

ACTION: Share information with community – SMBPC Clerk

ACTION: Organise bi-monthly progress meetings – SWJP & SMBPC Clerk

ACTION: Share schedule of works across the Summer – SWFC & Nick Davies (SW)

ACTION: Schedule September meeting for progress report – KM & SMBPC Clerk

Next Meeting 10am on 27th September 2024