

St. Mary Bourne Parish Council

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Meeting to receive and update on issues with flooding & sewers in St Mary Bourne Parish and progress with the Action Plan.

Friday 27th September 2024

9.30am The Main Hall, The Village Centre, St Mary Bourne, Hampshire, SP11 0LT

Attendees:

Kit Malthouse MP,
Floyd Cooper, Program Manager, Wastewater Networks
Joseph Whitehead, Project Manager, Southern Water
Nick Davies, Programme Sponsor, Waste Water Asset Strategy & Planning, Southern Water
Ed Makgill – Cllr SMBPC
Dave Burlison – Cllr SMBPC
Dave Peart – Cllr SMBPC
Maxine Owen – Parish Clerk & RFO

The Parish Council attendees were disappointed that John Penicud: Director of wastewater operations was not in attendance, as we were unaware he would not be attending this meeting. Southern Water were aware of his non-attendance. The Parish Council attendees voiced their disappointment, as we had all cleared our diaries for this important meeting.

Introduction by Kit Malthouse MP (KM)

General welcome and an agreement from all that the meeting would focus on a progress update from Southern Water and any questions generated from that.

Floyd Cooper (SWFC) distributed a copy of the Action List Summary September Update (attached as Appendix 1 to this summary). The document was initiated by SMBPC to keep the community updated with plans and progress and is published on the Parish Council Website as updates come through.

It was agreed that an additional column should be added to the table to indicate where appropriate progress on each action point, ideally as a percentage. It was also agreed that a map of progress with surveying and lining would help with communication and understanding from the community and Southern Water agreed that they would contact the contractors to provide this.

ACTION: Request Digital Map of progress from contractors – **Joseph Whitehead (SWJW)**

ACTION: Percentage Progress to be added to Action List document – **Floyd Cooper (SWFC)**

SWFC advised that the contractor had reported that the sewers downstream of Stoke are still fully charged with sewage/ground water, and this was hampering progress on certain tasks. The group discussed the current groundwater levels, and that they should be in fall until about mid-November, so there was a window of opportunity until then for making repairs.

Southern Water are investigating a new technology which should help with some of the tasks where currently excavation to do works is required and this excavation is still below the water table. Any trenches built are filling with water and hampering progress. SW will be trialling a new process using a resin to hold back the ground water so works below the water table are possible. Knowledge of the exact details of how the new technology works was not in the room,

but it is being tested this week (Week Commencing 30.09.24). The engineers involved in the project are reasonably confident the new technology will work.

The surveying of the sewers has proved that man-hole sealing is key to the success of the project, and that the pipes are generally OK. Much work moving forward will be the work from man-hole to man-hole sealing where groundwater is getting in. SW plan to work from Ibthorpe through to the pumping station by the viaduct. Work on this has already started and is shown in the Action List Update document (Appendix 1).

SW stated that all the major tasks left (The work at the BVI, Gangbridge Lane & specific work at the ford in SMB) were always scheduled for when the groundwater is at it lowest in October and November, although the new resin technology may enable the window of opportunity for fixing the issues to be extended.

The result of the resin technology testing should be available at the end of the first week in October.

ACTION: Communicate outcome of Resin Technology testing - **SWFC**

Cllr Burlison enquired as to whether the new Groundwater Infiltration Reduction Plan (IRP) promised for the end of September 2024 was near completion. SWFC advised it was imminent and would check and report back.

ACTION: Update on expected date of Infiltration Reduction Plan Document - **SWFC**

SWFC advised that there were a few hold-ups in fixing issues where negotiations were going on between SW and residents, but most of these were close to resolution and would allow certain task to progress quickly. The Parish Council offered support with this if there were any sticking points they could support in.

SWFC did advise that there would be tankers in the valley over the next few months to enable charged sewers to be emptied in line with access requirements of the groundworks teams.

All agreed that communication was working well between SW and the PC and should be continued.

Next Meeting: To be arranged