

St. Mary Bourne Parish Council

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**Flood & Emergency Group Meeting with Southern Water  
Action Progress Meeting  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
4:30pm at The Committee Room, The Village Centre, St Mary Bourne**

Present from FEG: Dave Burlison(DB), Patrick Foote (PF), Clem Jones(CJ), Ed Makgill(EM), Maxine Owen(MO), Dave Peart(DP).

Present from Southern Water (SW): Jon Penicud(JP), Floyd Cooper (FC), Steve Court(SC), Barry Woodham(BW), Scott Diamond(SC).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None. A customer service representative from SW would have normally been in attendance, but Bobbi Wilmot is currently on secondment. JP & FC agreed to take any actions required of Customer Service.

2. **SW Update of Action List:**

FC shared an action plan with the group. The plan is a detailed week by week schedule of works. MO will request a copy from SW as the printed version was hard to read.

Some actions have already been completed (Knapp Cottage), and the survey of the sewers is progressing well from Ibthorpe downstream.

All agreed that the groundwater had now subsided considerably and was flowing well through Stoke to Garston. Glenn Derrington is checking levels and working with CJ.

It was suggested by FC that a quick online weekly catch-up would be useful, especially for the PC to have up to date information enough to be able to communicate with the community when and where there is likely to be disruption with traffic lights or short road closures.

Detail of the issue with the sewer 90 degree bends solution was discussed, and as a first trial fix the 90 degree junctions would be smoothed off to a smoother angle to see if that solves the problem.

FC cautioned the group that SW were finding issues with permissions where Listed Buildings are close to planned works, and there may be some delays because of this.

During the meeting it was realised that clarification would be required to understand the exact locations of planned works, the FEG use residents' names, and SW use house names, sometimes sewer junctions, road junctions etc. It was agreed naming conventions should be clarified and agreed.

**ACTION:** Request digital copy of action planner from FC – **MO**

**ACTION:** Naming conventions agreed – **ALL**

3. **SW Infiltration Reduction Plan (IRP) update/ issue date**

JP advised that a new IRP is with the EA for approval at the moment, and the target is an approved version to be made available in September 2024. JP will ensure a copy was shared to the FEG at that time. He clarified that the timing of the publication of this document would not delay the action plan as it is now.

4. **Current Water Levels along the Valley**

CJ updated the group on the groundwater level data. CJ to be advisor to SW on local information gathered over the years which helps with an accurate prediction on levels after heavy rainfall, and the lag between rainfall and its appearance in our catchment. JP is keen to use ALL information available.

5. **Over-pumping**

SW advised that over-pumping was not typical in the area. MO advised that even the mention of the phrase in the community breeds negativity and an assumption that the river is being polluted. Any over-pumping from sewer to sewer would need a clear explanation to the community, and works with permits from the EA have little credibility with many in the area.

EM raised the concern that there appeared to be a white tide-mark left on the banks of the Bourne at the high-water mark, All agreed this would be for the EA to investigate.

**ACTION:** Raise with EA – EM

6. **Stakeholder Management & Customer Service**

SC advised that there are two Customer Service Managers responsible for Hampshire. Any issues from the St Mary Bourne catchment should come through SC bypassing the call centre for now. With the planned weekly catch-up issues should be easily logged and resolved.

7. **Ground Water Strategy and Preparedness for Winter 2024**

This it was agreed will be discussed at a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

8. **Contingency Plan should SW Action List not resolve long-standing issues**

Although it is hoped that the Action list for this summer and beyond should address many issues that happened through 2023/24 Winter, there may be the need for tankers again this winter, particularly if not all remedial works are able to complete before the groundwater rises again. With the improved knowledge of the sewer flow, from experience and surveys etc and how it is affected by Infiltration and inundation the siting of tankers will be well planned and minimal. The goal would be to site them with the least impact on the community with the greatest impact in the sewer. It was agreed that ideally when all works are completed there should no need for tankers at all.

9. **Pan-Parish Meetings**

DB updated the group on a Pan-Parish meeting he had attended in the Thruxton/Kimpton catchment.

The need for a Pan-Parish meeting in our catchment is probably not necessary, as SW are managing flow from the St Mary Bourne Pumping Station, to ensure that Longparish does not flood. Opening up more capacity at the Barton Stacey pumping station will also help Longparish, but there is little to gain from joint meetings with Longparish, St Mary Bourne & SW at this point. Communication lines have already been opened with councillors in Longparish.

10. **Any other business**

The group discussed what appears to be a freshwater pipe at Spring Hill house. It was agreed that the Flow Management team would take a look at this while surveying on 12<sup>th</sup> July to try and understand whether it is freshwater, and map it so ownership and responsibility can be established.

**ACTION:** Investigate Pipe at Spring Hill House – **Flow Management Solutions**

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

Suggested Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 4:30pm in St Mary Bourne