



Loxwood Parish Council

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LOXWOOD PARISH COUNCIL FLOOD FORUM Meeting 10.30am 24th November 2017, Main Hall, North Hall.

Attendees: Parish Councillors: Tony Colling (Chair); Chris Agar; David O'Brien; Rick Kelsey. Gillian Keegan MP; Graham Purvis (Southern Water); Andy Townsend (Environment Agency); Duncan Keir (Chichester District Council, Flood Engineer); Kevin Macknay(WSCC); Malcolm Frost Ifold resident; approximately 25 Loxwood residents who are members of the Loxwood Flood Forum. Gary Rustell, Operation Watershed.

Clerk: Jane Bromley, Clerk, Loxwood Parish Council

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** Cllr Colling thanked Gillian Keegan MP and all the representatives for attending and introductions were made.
- 2. Apologies.** Dominic Henley, CDC and Parish Councillors: Annette Newman and Simon Laker.
- 3. Overview of Flooding and Sewerage issues in Loxwood and actions taken so far.** Cllr Colling made a power point presentation of the history of the progress made since the flooding of December 2013.
- 4. Minutes of the Meeting of 30th September 2016 and actions arising**
The minutes were discussed. The action to assess the Ifold situation was still outstanding.
- 5. Environmental Agency - Andy Townsend- Update.**
AT gave details of what the EA had been working on over the last four years. Loxwood was part of an ongoing investigation into the mitigation of flooding that 7 other parishes in the south east were in and so was a lot better off than some parishes. In partnership with WSCC an initial investigation into the feasibility of mitigation had been looked at and funding from Central Government had also been received for this. Following this an appraisal had been undertaken by Mott MacDonald to look at the benefit cost ratio of a solution and Loxwood had fallen below the required number of 1 at this stage. It was conceded by AT that some of the assumptions used in modelling might not accurately reflect reality but he felt that the scheme was too far from the value to be successful even if some empirical data were used.
The Contractors Mott MacDonald had drawn up a long list of separate mitigation measures that could be considered at a lower level. These measures could be funded by means away from Central Government funding and might be achieved more locally. AT advised that the EA could support this more local approach firstly by

setting up a workshop to consider long list and sort out what might work best and was most achievable. AT advised this workshop could take place over the next 2 months. AT advised that he would advise some suitable dates for the workshop.

ACTION AT

Cllr Colling suggested a questionnaire should be sent around the parish to ask residents of their experience of flooding and AT would draft the questionnaire.

ACTION AT

Ifold and Plaistow residents were to be included with the questionnaire. The questionnaire and Long List to be circulated and the workshop advertised.

6. WSCC – Kevin Macknay – Update

KM described the work that had been carried out by WSCC to the drainage system. The drains behind Oak Grove were being looked at by a contractor who had the equipment to be able to deal with the problem there. A blocked pipe along Station Road was being looked into. If pipes need relining it may be possible to apply for funding from Operation Watershed to get this work done. KM was to supply the dates that this work was going to be carried out. **ACTION KM**

7. CDC- Duncan (standing in for Dominic Henley) –Update.

CDC had not received any notice of new issues since the last meeting but were keen to be kept involved.

8. Southern Water – Graham Purvis - Update.

A drainage area plan for the Loxwood area had been completed and a consultant was now to look at the infiltration problem and costings for this were being put together for the work to be carried out in the period 2020 to 2025.

In the meantime some actions for short term improvement had been identified and these could start next year.

TC asked whether the larger pipes required for new developments in Loxwood were attenuation pipes and CP confirmed they were.

GP advised that with the Alfold Clappers meadow development Thames Water had been told they could not use the Loxwood sewerage system. GS advised there were no immediate plans to upgrade the sewers and pumping stations.

9. Any other business.

GK MP advised she wanted to be kept up to date with progress and would relay the details she had learnt about today in her meetings with the EA and WSCC. She may also be able to help when funding issues arose.

The meeting ended at 12.30pm