

Southern Water Residents Meeting Thursday 6th October 18:15

Court Lane Infant School Hall

Penny Mordaunt MP – Thanked everyone for coming. Introduced councillors Simon Boshier (Drayton) and Lee Mason (Cosham). Introduced team from Southern Water (SW).

Have been meeting with SW every few weeks about local flooding and also about getting infrastructure fit for purpose, including storm overflow issues.

Have also having been having regular Southern Water Regional Forum meetings with Southern Water, other local MP's, Environment Agency, DEFRA, OFWAT, Local Authorities about getting money and infrastructure plans in place.

Also recently raised concerns with SW around their Beachbouy alert system and getting it to work better.

Have also made deputation to PCC and local Councillors about some of the planned developments which may exacerbate the flooding issues. Believe that all future planning should include flooding prevention.

Southern Water introductions:

Floyd Cooper – Operational Manager

Denise Cairns – Customer Case Lead Hampshire.

Victoria Glaysher – Customer County Manager

Duncan Clarke – Area plan lead. Looks after needs for flooding and prevention.

Dr Stephen Dart – Sewer Network Manager, East Hampshire.

Jason Masters – High Impact Team

Rena Perri – Stakeholder Engagement Manager for Hampshire.

Floyd Cooper – Want to address recent flooding. SW gets rainfall predictions and decides whether to send tankers out based on those predications. In the past rainfall there have been predictions for heavier rainfall, and no flooding has occurred. On the recent flooding SW did not put the tanker out as there was only 8ml of rain predicted, however in reality there was much more than this. Rain also fell in a short space of time and unfortunately it caused flooding. Takes full responsibility for this.

What can be done:

Sewer level monitors – SW currently doing a program on this, looking at where they can put them strategically. They bounce a sonar signal to tell the level of sewer. Currently going through a mass installation of the equipment and 22,000 will be installed by end of November. The monitors give a real time view of what is happening with rainfall in the sewer. This prevents them being caught out by unexpectedly heavy rainfall and means SW can automatically raise a job to get a tanker out.

They will be going in on Dysart, Station Road/Grove Road, Knowsley Crescent/allotments, Knowsley Road/Salisbury Road, Hilary avenue/Salisbury Road. This is not exhaustive, and they will put them in elsewhere if there is a need. **Floyd to find out when they are being fitted.**

Resident – raised concern about tankers turning up and parking outside their houses with lights on in the middle of the night and associated noise. Had tried to raise this directly with the drivers, who were very dismissive of concerns. Loud engine going for hours, and drivers have been turning on their driveways causing damage to drives and road surfaces.

Floyd Cooper - will organise visit and ensure the tankers are parking on Budd's farm and not on roads until need is there. Should not be happening.

Storm and wet weather notification.

SW are working out a way to share the forecast outlook with residents to allow them to prepare their flood barriers.

Resident – asked if residents could access the forecast from the SW website?

Floyd Cooper - advised he will investigate this. Acknowledged that the flood defences are not a perfect solution e.g when people are away and cannot get their defences up in time.

Penny Mordaunt MP - There is a civil contingencies alert system established in 2020/2021 which will send a message your mobile phone with an alert. It can be localised. Ed Argar MP is the minister responsible; Southern Water could put something to residents. **Penny will investigate**

Duncan Clarke – Spoke about the work SW have been doing and what they intend to do. Explained where the flooding is emanating from – London Road.

See slides on central road for images. In case where residents were having to live in their caravan, they have installed extra gully's and redirected the water to a much larger line.

Image shows that sewer system often gets blocked by debris, so they have raised an annual job to get them jetted, ensuring they are working to max capacity.

Explained that the prior option for a diversion via the allotments now not possible because of risk of flooding at very high tides following investigations in this area. Explained what the alternatives may be.

Dr Stephen Dart – Brought up the investigations with the culvert near the Network Rail line. Culvert crosses under the railway. Currently full of rubbish and rubble. It used to take the surface water from Salisbury Road and may be a viable option for reducing flooding in area. Currently in discussions with network rail to ask if they can use it. Due to meet with Network Rail on Wednesday 12th October.

Duncan Clarke -

See slides – Flood and coastal erosion risk management scheme

Been having conversations with PCC who want to make a policy that all new developments have permeable driveways. Trial on the Isle of Wight called the pathfinder project – looking at all the things that can be done to reduce storm discharges including tree pits, see slides. Hoping to start the tree pits then working towards water management plan for the next 5-15 years. Tree pits have solved the issue in another road in London even when there was a burst water main.

Penny Mordaunt MP – Asked if SW could give a sense of how long the work might take.

Dr Stephen Dart – Network rail deal with a Railway line that is very dangerous for doing work. Know from the past there is a lot of red tape. Need to have a conversations with Network Rail next week first week to get a better understanding of what the timescales might be and whether this is a possible option.

Residents – Explained their unhappiness about the length of time this was taking; how long term a solution this was i.e. culvert (if possible) but also what effects Tree Pits etc might have. There was significant concern from residents that the other mitigating measures mentioned might not be effective in providing the necessary or long term solution needed here.

Penny Mordaunt MP – Advised she will continue her meetings with SW to firm up a plan. But acknowledged that an enormous amount of work has been undertaken to find solutions. Last point is on planning, SW is statutory consultee. If they have a view, please express it at planning meetings because it helps the planning committee make the best decision.

Cllr Lee Mason & Cllr Mathew Atkins – Both have sat on planning committees. Agree that SW should provide input/raise their concerns about local development to the local authority. Without input/objections PCC would have no reason to consider rejecting developments.

Resident – queried if Court Lane pumping station working because there is a bad smell constantly. Has written a letter to residents which he provided to Penny.

Penny Mordaunt MP - will raise the issue and follow up after railway meeting, and also investigate the civil contingencies alert system.

End.