

PENNY MORDAUNT MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR PORTSMOUTH NORTH
Ground Floor, 1000 Lakeside
North Harbour
Portsmouth
Hampshire PO6 3EN

11th October 2022

Dear Resident

Re: Community Meeting – 6th October 2022 – Flooding in Cosham and Drayton and Farlington

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the Community Meeting at Court Lane Infant School on the 6th of October 2022. At the end of the meeting, I promised residents I would write to them with an update with details of where the minutes and slides can be located; particularly, for those who were unable to attend.

If you would like view the minutes and the slides you can do so by visiting my website at:

Insert Link here

Southern Water apologised for the further flooding experienced by residents in early September and explained that the decision not to deploy was taken based upon the predicted rainfall. The threshold for tanker deployment has now been lowered and Southern Water discussed with residents how they could better notify them for preparedness in the event of significant rainfall. I explained that I would be looking into whether the Civil Contingency Alert system might be able to help here.

Southern Water are currently installing Sewer Level Monitors across the network (this is due to be completed by the end of November). The monitors enable Southern Water to determine the flow of water in real time and will help with tanker deployment. Southern Water are intending on installing monitors in Dysart Avenue, Station Road and Grove Road, Knowsley Crescent and the allotments, Knowsley Road and Salisbury Road, Hilary Avenue and Salisbury Road.

Southern Water explained that the option of a diversion via the Salisbury Road allotments is not possible because of the risk of exacerbating flooding particularly at high tides and so Southern Water have been exploring alternative options.

Southern Water have located a disused culvert on Network Rail land which they believe was previously used to divert rainfall from Salisbury Road. Southern Water are currently exploring with Network Rail whether this could be reinstated and brought back into use and have promised to provide an update on progress regarding this to residents.

Additionally (and if use of the culvert is not possible), Southern Water have also been exploring other options which would help to either slow down the speed of the flooding or help with the flow of water and its containment during peak rainfall. Southern Water explained that they have been working with other pathfinder projects within the wider network (where similar flooding is being experienced) and are seeking to use the data and solutions provided by these in Cosham and Drayton and Farlington.

These include:

- Disconnection of surface water into the sewer network where possible
- Yearly inspection, clearance and jet washing of the sewer system to ensure all debris are removed and water can flow freely.
- Regular maintenance of the gulley system
- The use of tree pits (outlined in the slides provided by Southern Water)

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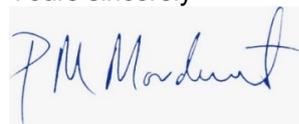
- The use of containment tanks to store the water often referred to as Smart Water Butts (outlined in the slides provided by Southern Water)
- Other possible mitigating measures such as the use of permeable driveways, pavements etc to provide natural soakaways for the water.

Residents also raised their concerns in respect of the behaviour of tanker drivers parking on Court Lane, and the extent of the smell that has been emanating from Court Lane Pumping station. I am aware that many of the residents affected spoke with Southern Water about this following the meeting. I will be continuing to pursue this with Southern Water.

As explained previously, I have been having regular meetings with Southern Water in respect of progress and will continue to do so – I will keep you informed. I am very cognisant that residents who attended the meeting expressed their concerns at the length of time it was taking to achieve a solution. The impact upon residents is understood; however, it is important that the solutions outlined during the meeting are fully explored and understood in order to avoid exacerbating the flooding being experienced by residents.

I would like to thank you all for your continued patience.

Yours sincerely



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