



Worplesdon Flood Forum Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held as a hybrid meeting on Friday 5 November 2021 at
10.30am

Present (in person or via Zoom):

Ms A Adams – Resident	Cllr B McShee – Guildford Borough Council
Ms J Ashton – Resident	Mr G Melly – University of Surrey
Ms H Barnsley – Guildford Borough Council	Cllr N Mitchell – Worplesdon Parish Council
Mr & Mrs Bridger - Residents	Cllr J Messinger – Worplesdon Parish Council
Ms D Brown – Office of Angela Richardson, MP	Mr J Morley – Resident (ex-Thames Water)
Cllr A Creese – Worplesdon Parish Council	Ms H Myers – Pirbright Parish Council
Mr A Dillon - Resident	Cllr R Nagaty – Guildford Borough Council
Mr S Ashall – Office of Angela Richardson, MP	Mrs Angela Richardson MP (Chairman of the Flood Forum Meeting)
Mrs V Fear – Worplesdon Parish Council	Mr B Shirley – Guildford Borough Council
Mr & Mrs Jeffreys - Residents	Mr A Treasure – Surrey County Council
Mr S Knight – Resident	Mr P Trevena – Worplesdon Parish Council
Mr J Lewis – Surrey County Council	Mrs G White – Worplesdon Parish Council
Ms J Longman – Environment Agency	Cllr K Witham – Surrey County Council
Mr & Mrs McIntyre - Residents	
Cllr A McShee – Guildford Borough Council	

Apologies:

Cllr D Bird – Worplesdon Parish Council	Mr T Gamble – Activate Learning, Merrist Wood College
Mr A Bolton – Surrey Wildlife Trust	Mr P Giles – Surrey County Council
Cllr R Brothwell – Guildford Borough Council	Ms S Lamnea - Resident
Ms A Keeping – Thames Water	Ms C Mason – Thames Water
Cllr P Cragg – Worplesdon Parish Council	Mr I Parr – Environment Agency
Mr R Everest – Resident	Mr T Peebles – Surrey County Council

Meeting commenced 10.33am

Mrs Angela Richardson MP introduced herself as Chairman of the meeting, and welcomed all those present, in person and online, to the meeting. Residents were reminded that for items to be added to the Flood Forum agenda, reporting codes from the appropriate authority should be included with their requests. This allows the agencies involved to address the issue/s more effectively.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Some items were covered out of agenda order due to the potential for these items to be related/linked to each other, and an additional item was included.

Pitch Place



Map: A322 Worplesdon Road, Pitch Place



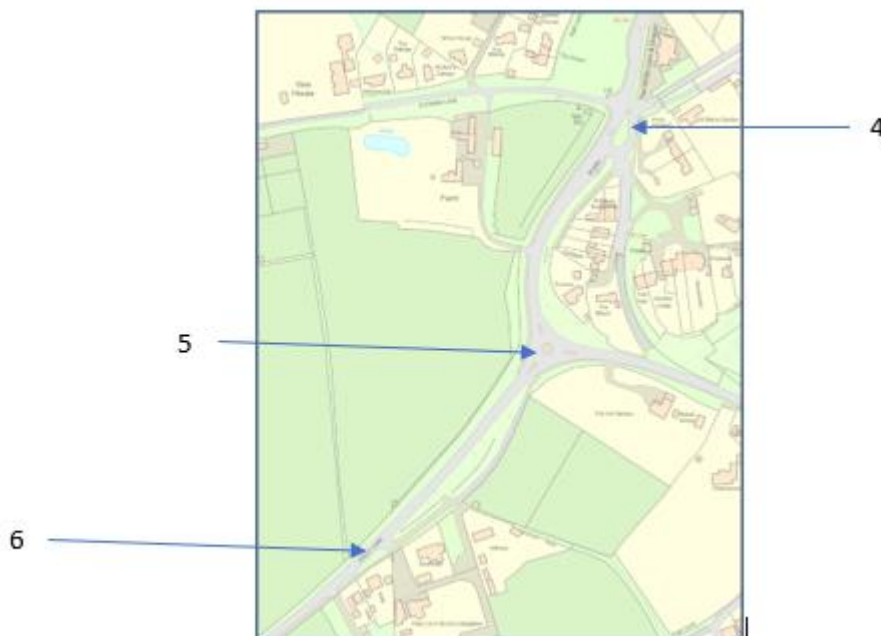
Photo taken outside Honda garage (August 2020)

Agenda Item 3 - Location: Former Ship Inn public house/Honda garage, Worplesdon Road

Issue: Significant flooding has historically occurred at this location. We understand from Jason Lewis of Surrey County Council that a replacement pipe is required, including an inspection chamber.

2021 Comments/Action: Jason Lewis (SCC) stated that this has been jetted since August. A significant blockage has been cleared – mostly due to tree roots. This location will need monitoring and is likely to require clearing again in 2 years.

Worplesdon



Map: A322 roundabout junction with Holly Lane, Perry Hill

Agenda Item 4 - Location: Flooding of service road beside the White Lyon and Dragon



Photographs showing the puddle, although the rain had ceased over 12 hours prior to these photos being taken, so the water had significantly receded by this point

Issue: The large puddle is continuing to collect on the service road during heavy rain. SCC to update.
2021 Comments/Action: St Mary's has two gulleys – one of which is shallow due to the presence of a gas main. Peter Trevena (Head Groundsman) clears the silt, which comes from the numerous driveways, regularly. A resident stated that there were more houses being built, therefore there will be more issues going forward. Mrs White stated that Worplesdon Parish Council has arranged for the Coombe Lane system to be jetted. Brent Shirley (GBC) stated that all buildings that go through the planning process should have appropriate SuDS in place. [Site meeting to be arranged by SCC at the earliest opportunity]

Agenda Item 5 - Location: Holly Lane/Worplesdon Road roundabout



Issue: The roundabout continues to flood. It has been repeatedly reported to SCC. SCC to update.
2021 Comments/Action: Capital investment will be required to reconfigure the roundabout, remove the gulleys, and reprofile the camber of the highway. Angela Richardson will approach the SCC Cabinet but encourages all councillors and residents to contact Matt Furniss separately to highlight this issue, and raise its profile.

Agenda Item 6 - Location: Holly Lane between Worplesdon Road roundabout and Pitmore Farm

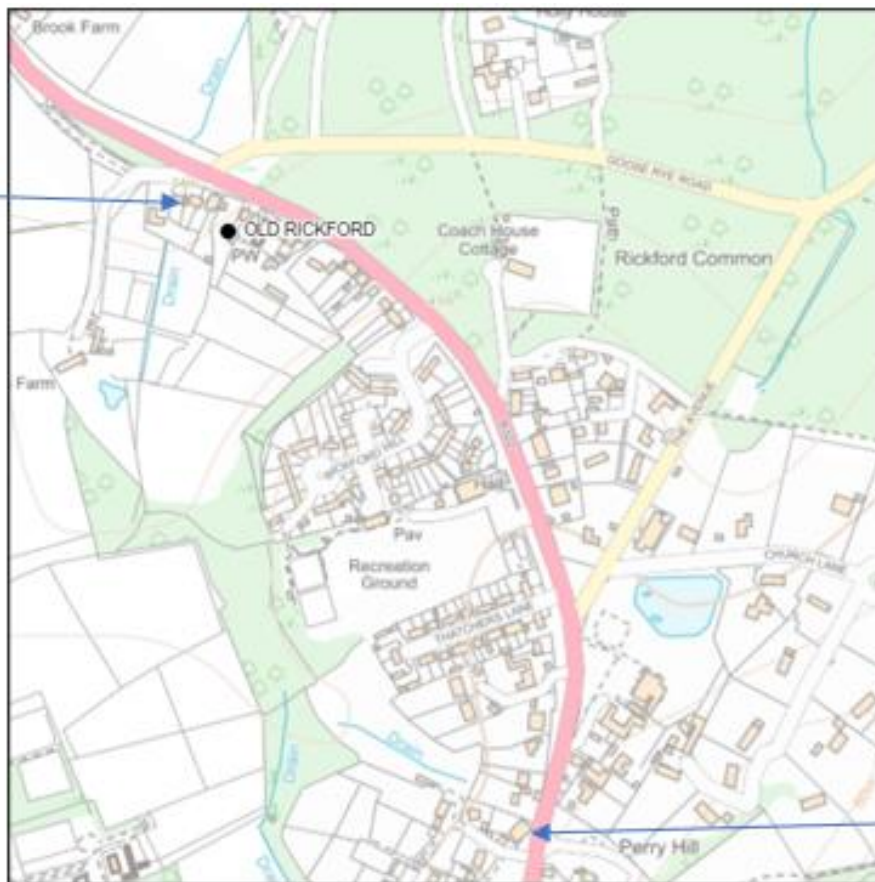


Photos show the packed drains on Holly Lane and on the upper roundabout

Issue: Surface water drains blocked with soil/grass on Holly Lane. This item has been reported to SCC. SCC to update.

2021 Comments/Action: The dimensions of the existing gulleys are currently 600 x 450. There is potential to upgrade to 600 x 600 to increase capacity. Jason Lewis was asked to provide a timescale for this work.

Worplesdon and Rickford



Map showing Fox Corner, Rickford, up to Perry Hill

Agenda Item 7 - Location: Three residential properties at Rickford [Holly Bank, Rickford Bungalow and Ellesmere House] experienced flooding



Issue: Two of these properties (Ellesmere and Rickford Bungalow) experienced external foul water flooding and surface water flooding, and two (Holly Bank and Rickford Bungalow) experienced water gurgling/bubbling in toilets during 20/10/2021. This item has been reported to SCC (surface water) and to Thames Water (sewage). SCC to update.

2021 Comments/Action: Residents highlighted that there are a multitude of issues affecting these properties – ranging from manholes lifting on patios, sewage flooding externally (to Ellesmere and Rickford Bungalow), to a residential property experiencing internal issues (Ellesmere - where the seal between the toilet and the foul pipe failed). Residents utilised their own pump and brooms to deal with the flood 'water'. Thames Water undertook a site visit on 4/11/21 and stated that surface water runs through the sewage system in this area. The Thames Water operative stated that there was nothing further that they could do. Another resident highlighted the presence of a storm drain opposite the properties in the vicinity of Goose Rye Road. Jason Lewis (SCC) has arranged for bramble clearance and ditch digging to take place in front of Rickford Bungalow (between the old road and the new road). Ellesmere House have no surface water gully/drain outside their house so are relying on the soakaway in their drive. Holly Bank residents stated that the volume of surface water coming down Rickford Hill was torrential. This property has a drain connected, and also experienced a bubbling toilet.

Rickford Bungalow stated that they have had issues for some time, but this issue has not been highlighted to the Flood Forum previously.

SCC are envisioning the works being undertaken prior to Christmas 2021, but residents are all reminded that if there are any more flooding incidents they **must** be reported **to both Thames Water and Surrey County Council** because the flooding is from both surface water and sewage, and reporting reference numbers received **for each event, for each affected property.**

Andy Treasure (SCC) reiterated the importance of **EVERY** household reporting **EVERY TIME** an event happens, and the importance of the reference numbers. Cllr Keith Witham (SCC) provides regular reminders in his email newsletters to report flooding – and residents can always email Chief Executives to add weight to outstanding issues.

Mrs White (WPC) to revert to Carley Mason (Thames Water) as a matter of urgency regarding resolution of this issue and a site meeting with all involved parties.

[Post meeting: it has subsequently been discovered that at this location, unusually, pipes are for both sewage and sewage water]

Agenda Item 8 - Location: Perry Hill Antiques, Worplesdon

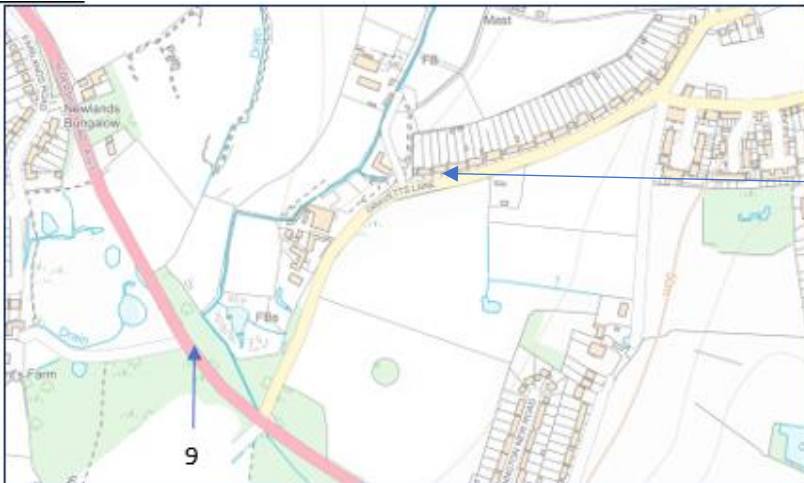


Issue: Resident/business owner has reported repeated flooding of the property and premises, forcing the closure of the business on multiple occasions. This has been reported to SCC. SCC to provide update.

2021 Comments/Action: Surrey County Council are planning investigation works in this area imminently to establish the cause/s.

Fairlands

Agenda Item 9 - Location: Aldershot Road (between Newlands and Hunts Farm)



Additional agenda item



This photograph shows the water after it had receded to the central white lines(October 2020)

Issue: Serious flooding of the carriageway, which has been reported to SCC. Grips and ditches need to be maintained including cleaning letterbox gullies. This has been reported to SCC. SCC to provide update.

2021 Comments/Action: SCC highlight that this is on a rodding route. It is purely the volume of silt and debris being washed into the gulleys. Peter Trevena strims the sightlines and clears the letterbox gulleys in this area. Cans frequently get wedged in them. SCC to investigate and add to the list of proposed schemes for the installation of a 1m to 2m section of dropped kerb along the footpath to allow the water to drain freely into the adjacent woodland. Mrs Fear (WPC) to include this item in the next newsletter.

Additional Agenda Item - Location: 4 Gravetts Lane

Issue: Multiple issues – sewage has flooded the garden of the property and manhole covers in the road keep lifting.

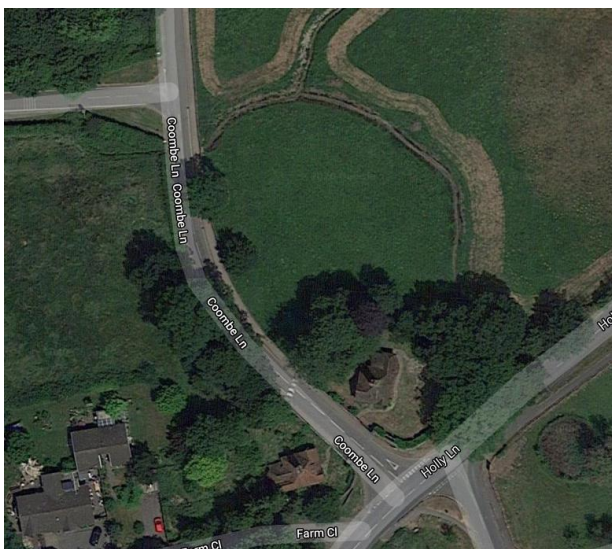


2021 Comments/Action: The resident highlighted that sewage has covered her back garden twice in the last two weeks. SCC have already been out to site, but Thames Water took two weeks to visit, and still haven't cleared the sewage. Number 4 has a problem, but the adjoining property does not. Three drains in the road surge during heavy rainfall events (these are in the vicinity of Frosburys).



This has been a long-standing issue at this location (noted on previous Flood Forum agendas), which has previously been reported to Thames Water. The last time this affected the resident was 11 years ago, but has occurred three times this year alone. Resident to email photos to Angela Richardson MP, and Mrs Fear (WPC). Mrs White (WPC) to include this item in the email to Carley Mason (Thames Water).

Agenda Item 10 - Location: Woodpecker Lodge, Holly Lane



Issue: Flooding to the garden occurred after the new residents moved in.

2021 Comments/Action: Works have been undertaken by Merrist Wood (ditch digging) and SCC (gully jetting) and the homeowner has installed a catch pit in the garden, together with Rokers who

have dug an attenuation pond on their land opposite the property to try to alleviate the flow of water.
[This item to be removed from the next agenda]

Jacobs Well



Map showing area around Jacobs Well Recreation Ground

Agenda Item 11 - Location: Fallen tree across brook, off Jacobs Well Recreation Ground



Issue: In March 2021, a resident from highlighted a large fallen tree to the Groundsman. Due to the location of the tree stump, and the tree now blocking the brook, this item has been repeatedly referred to SCC as it is SCC's responsibility to remedy.

2021 Comments/Action: SCC state that the tree is on unregistered land. Brent Shirley (GBC) asked if the tree was lying in the watercourse. Andy Treasure (SCC) and Brent Shirley (GBC) to liaise and resolve this issue between them. Andy Treasure to liaise with resident, as the resident kindly offered to allow access via their garden.

Agenda Item 12 - Location: White House Pond – Further 10-year licence application

Issue: Worplesdon Parish Council (WPC) has agreed to maintain the pond for a further 10 years. Surrey County Council were approached with regard to renewal of the lease. Anticipated cost to maintain this pond is £30,000 over 10 years. WPC to provide update.

2021 Comments/Action: Mrs White (WPC) Heads of Terms were agreed in June. Scheduled maintenance is due to take place commencing December. Cllr Keith Witham (SCC) has chased this issue already. Mrs White to follow up.



Agenda Item 13 - Location: Treebys/Queenhythe



Issue: To establish land ownership/responsibility for maintenance of this ditch.

Comments: The removal of a garden fence by a resident has caused a trip hazard adjacent to an alleyway. The alleyway is well used by local residents, some of whom have mobility issues. Due to the lack of street lighting in the area, this presents a significant danger.

Additionally, debris has been intermittently thrown into the ditch plus it appears that there is new pipework discharging from the garden of No 53 Queenhythe into the ditch.

2020 Action: This was referred to Mr Giles and Mr Crampin, both from SCC, to determine responsibility for this location outside of this meeting, and if it is SCC's responsibility, to suggest options to remedy the situation relating to the trip hazard.

2021 Comments/Action: Cllr Keith Witham (SCC) has confirmed with Land Registry that it's SCC land. A SCC representative is trying to resolve the issue, but may need to resort to legal resolution. Jason Lewis (SCC) confirmed that the ditch flows and empties satisfactorily, and confirmed that a post and rail fence has been ordered to prevent falls into the ditch, but there is no timescale for this to be installed. Cllr A Creese offered to liaise with the resident.

Agenda Item 14 - Location: Woking Road/Salt Box Road roundabout – Spring 2020



Photograph showing Woking Road/Salt Box Road flooding – Spring 2020

Issue: Severe flooding during heavy rainfall caused major traffic issues on this main arterial route.

Comments: Discussions and site visits have taken place with a view to resolving the long-standing issues at this location by way of the provision of a rain garden. **To receive an update from SCC.**

2021 Comments/Action: This site has been an issue since 2005. A site meeting took place between Mrs White (WPC), Ian Fowler (SCC) and the SCC senior drainage engineer. The whole scheme is now expected to cost between £300k and 500k. The Senior Engineer at SCC has designed and specified the scheme, and Andy Treasure (SCC) is confident that this scheme will be undertaken during the next financial year (2022/23), with the Flooding Team at SCC liaising with the Highways Team to facilitate the capital scheme ASAP.

Agenda Item 15 - Location: Woking Road pond (behind bus shelter)

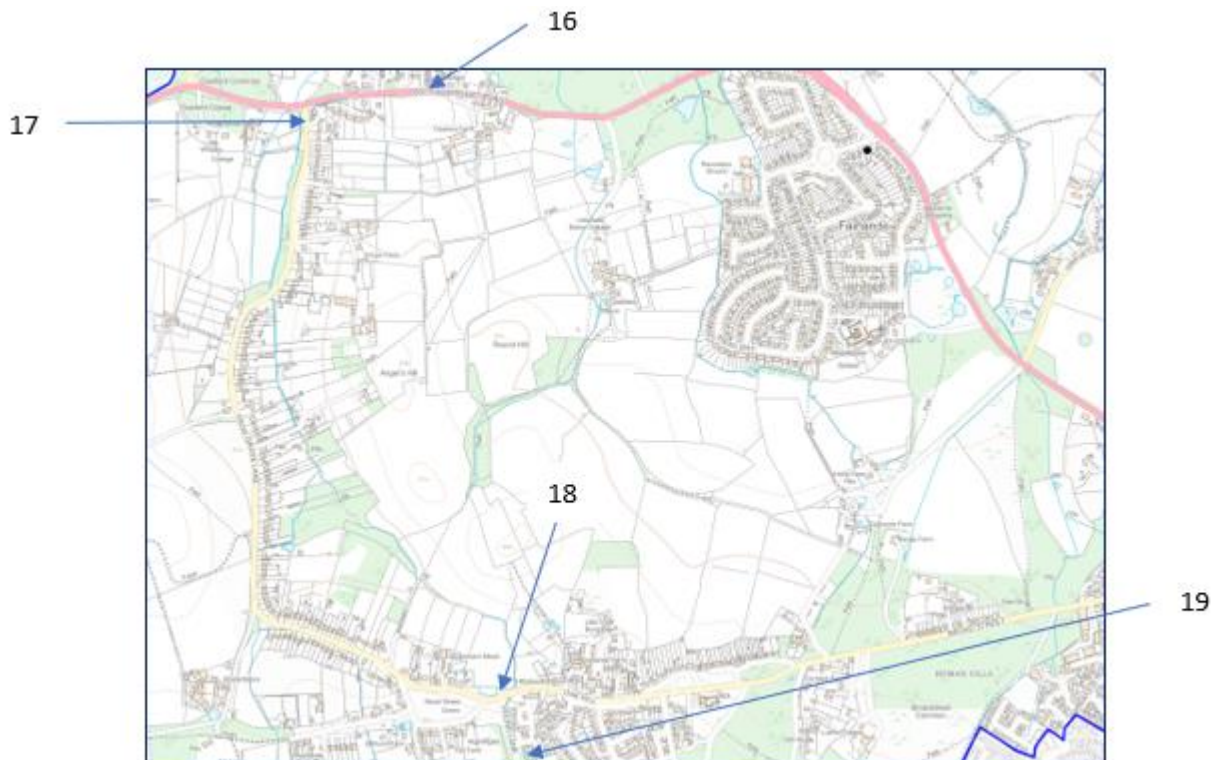


Map showing Harry's Meadow, Jacobs Well

Issue: Debris in the ditch has been reported to Guildford Borough Council (GBC) on a number of occasions. **To receive a progress report from GBC,** to ensure the clearance work is carried out as soon as possible.

2021 Comments/Action: Leigh Edwards (GBC) advised GBC to take responsibility for clearing the ditch. Brent Shirley (GBC) to follow this up. Peter Trevena (WPC) also highlighted that this requires digging out because it's all silted up. Brent Shirley (GBC) will also follow this up with Leigh Edwards (GBC).

Wood Street Village/Broad Street



Map showing Wood Street Village, Aldershot Road, and Fairlands

Agenda Item 16 - Location: Aldershot Road, outside Vivid Homes building site/glasshouses opposite

Issue: Highway flooding during October 2021. Surrey Fire and Rescue were in attendance to pump out water to make it passable to vehicles. To receive a report from Surrey County Council.

2021 Comments/Action: This has not been an issue for the last four years. Jason Lewis (SCC) explained that there was a ditch below a hedge which was culverted, but disappears somewhere through the park homes. Peter Trevena (WPC) states that water now gathers on the greenhouses side of the road – and that there's no ditch evident there now. Jason Lewis (SCC) states that this location is on the jetting list. The amount of silt on the highway was noted, and Helen Barnsley (GBC) agreed to pass this on to Planning Enforcement because vehicles from both the Vivid Homes construction site and John Gunner Waste Management should be going through wheel wash procedures, which are obviously not being adhered to.

SCC's Waste Management Team and the Environment Agency also need to ensure that all licence conditions are being adhered to.

Agenda Item 17 - Location: Frog Grove Lane/junction with Aldershot Road



Photograph showing Frog Grove Lane/Aldershot Road flooding – October 2021. The footpath is impassable, and the water in the centre of the highway was too deep for pedestrians or cyclists, and some vehicles. This road is a priority route for the Royal Surrey County Hospital.

Issue: Several issues: (a) ongoing landgrab **To receive a progress report from John Hockley (SCC).** (b) lack of ditch maintenance (c) significant continuing instances of highway flooding at this location – which has worsened since a repair was carried out earlier this year. **To receive a progress report from Patrick Giles.**

2021 Comments/Action: Jason Lewis (SCC) stated that the ditch is silted up and that water is now flooding back from the ditch onto the road. The intention is to block the existing pipe, and put in a new pipe from the end of the driveway for Highview to the ditch on the eastern corner of the junction. The ditch on the bend will be re-dug and graded. The ditch will then be inspected by SCC each year. Peter Trevena (WPC) highlighted that the grips still are not being maintained at this location. Janice Longman (EA) will pass on the comments relating to the ditch to the Environment Agency's Asset Performance Team.

Agenda Item 18 - Location: Wood Street Village Pond



Photographs show toilet paper debris from multiple events

Issue: Sewage discharge during 27 August 2020, in response to significant rainfall event. Manhole lifted onto grass verge.

2020 Action: Ms Mason to ask a Network Engineer to investigate further. WPC to provide more details relating to the precise location to Ms Mason.

2021 Comments/Action: Thames Water are sending an engineer out to inspect and report back. There are numerous manhole covers at this location. Peter Trevena (WPC) to fence off any areas when this occurs.

Agenda Item 19 - Location: Wood Street Village (in the vicinity of Baird Drive/The Oval)



This October 2021 photo shows a grille after the Head Groundsman from Worplesdon Parish Council removed all of the debris that had blocked the flow of water through it, plus he had also dragged a double mattress out of the flow.



Issue: Flooding caused to residential properties in October 2021.

Comments: Mr Trevena checks these grilles on a weekly basis, and sometime more often in periods of high rainfall. One of these grilles is locked and cannot be properly dug out by Mr Trevena without full access. GBC have previously offered to provide a key, but no key has been forthcoming. To discuss the

involvement of Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council with regard to the effectiveness of removing silt and arisings from these and other grilles, and to discuss if an alternative approach to reducing significant and problematic fly-tipping could be trialled in this location.

2020 Action: Cllr B McShee and Mr Trevena to meet at this location to discuss how Guildford Borough Council can assist. GBC to confirm that their contractor will continue to remove the detritus removed from the grilles by Mr Trevena.

2021 Comments/Action: Could this location benefit from CCTV? Can local residents be educated about the issues inappropriate rubbish disposal causes? Consider the provision of community skips. Cllr Keith Witham asked what involvement JET have had with portable CCTV. Helen Barnsley (GBC) will find out, and also thought this was a candidate for JAG. Helen had spoken to colleagues about the use of community skips, and her colleagues had not had positive experiences. Mrs Fear (WPC) to highlight GBC's Special Collection Scheme for large items in the next parish newsletter. Peter Trevena thanked the fly tipping collection team at GBC for their prompt clear-ups, but highlighted that the process of getting through to GBC is exceptionally poor.

Rydes Hill



Map of Liddington Hall Drive and A323 Aldershot Road

Agenda Item 20 - Location: Liddington Hall Drive



Issue: Blocked ditch and enlargement of access road has increased run-off, causing flooding to the front of a property. SCC engineer has been out to assess, and recommended a replacement kerb, but the blocked ditch issue remains, as does the increased hard-standing on the enlarged access road. **To receive an update from SCC regarding progress and potential enforcement for non-conformity.**

2021 Comments/Action: This issue is being dealt with by Paul Mainwaring (SCC). Verbal report to be provided at next flood forum meeting (or via email in the intervening period).

Littlefield Common



Map: Littlefield Common/Aldershot Road

Agenda Item 21 – Location: Littlefield Cottages, Littlefield Common

Issue: Concerns raised by residents relating to drainage ditch in Merrist Wood long field and also the ditch on common along front of Littlefield Cottages. Vegetation is obstructing the long field ditch, and the commons ditch is now full of rotted leaves and soil after not being maintained for over 20 years.

To receive an update from Merrist Wood College regarding the long field, and from SCC regarding the ditch on the common land.

2021 Comments/Action: Tim Gamble provided an update via email in advance of the meeting:

Works to clear vegetation to access and assess the ditch line starts on 26 November. Merrist Wood will initially clear a 5m strip from the resident's fence into Merrist Wood land so an assessment of the condition of the ditch line can be undertaken, and then plan further works, if required.

It was highlighted that these ditches were well overdue necessary maintenance.

Andy Treasure (SCC) to inspect and determine the best way forward, and will update all parties next week. A resident asked if there were any maps showing drainage that could be shared to interested parties. The answer is that drainage systems are very complex. Thames Water can be approached but it is often easier and more expedient to contact Guildford Borough Council to inspect certain plans. Brent Shirley explained that the knowledge base is building, and SCC do have access to DigDat where it specifically relates to ongoing issues.

Broad Street Common

Agenda Item 22 - Location: The Pines, Broad Street

The Environment Agency, in conjunction with the Assistant Clerk, traced the source of pollution found entering the watercourse near The Pines, Broad Street, by the Head Groundsman in June 2021, to an industrial unit within The Pines.



The unit occupier has remedied the issue, which involved untreated sewage entering the watercourse (without their prior knowledge). Our thanks are extended to the Environment Agency for their involvement in rapidly resolving this long-standing issue.

Agenda Item 23 – Date of next meeting

Mrs Fear to liaise with Mrs Richardson MP's office to determine a suitable Friday in February 2021 for the next Flood Forum meeting.

The date of the next meeting is now confirmed as 25 February 2021 – at 10am (location Worplesdon Parish Council office).

Cllr B McShee thanked Angela Richardson MP for Chairing the meeting.

Mrs Richardson thanked everyone for taking the time to attend – residents and those from the various organisations - and for their continuing support of the flood forum.

Meeting closed 11.57 am.