

Arun Flood Forum Meeting

Bersted Park Community Centre 18:00 – 20:00

Notes of meeting held on 26 February 2024

Flood Forum Invitees:

Arun District Councillor

Cllr Sue Wallsgrove - District Councillor seat
Cllr Gill Yeates - District Councillor seat
Cllr Keir Greenway - District Councillor seat
Cllr Simon McDougal - District Councillor seat

Parish Councillor representative

Jonathan Spencer – Chairman Bersted Parish representative seat
Shirley Haywood – Chairman Middleton on Sea Parish representative seat
Chris Wells – Barnham & Eastergate Parish representative seat
Steve Toney – Chairman East Preston Parish representative seat

Southern Water

John Penicud (JP) - Director of Wastewater Operations
Sue Cobb (SC)- Stakeholder Engagement Manager - Sussex
Catherine Marriott – Regional Operational Manager - Sussex
Andy Adams – Catchment Manager

Environment Agency

Claire Francis (CF) - Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager
Dave Bonner (DB) - Flood Resilience Advisor
John Parsonage (JP) - Asset Performance Team Leader
Michael Carleysmith – Partnership and Strategic Overview Team Leader

West Sussex County Council

Micheal Elkington (ME) - Head of Planning Services
Kevin Macknay (KeM) - Drainage and Flooding Lead Professional)

Arun District Council Officers

Philippa Dart (PD) - Director of Environment and Communities / Interim CEO
Joe Russell-Wells (JRW) – Group Head of Environment and Climate Change

Chair

Simon Wilson(SWi) – Director, Wilson Sherriff

1	Welcome, Apologies and Introductions
1.1	<p>JRW welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the flood forum and reminded everyone how we arrived at this point and what we were looking to achieve.</p> <p>In response to the impact of Storm Ciaran, resulting in flooding in the Arun District, and the discussions held at the meeting of the Arun District Council Environment Committee in November 2023, the Arun Flood Forum has been formed.</p> <p>The forum is chaired by an independent professional; membership consists of representatives from different partners, in accordance with the terms of reference set for the meeting: Arun District Council, Southern Water, the Environment Agency and West Sussex County Council. This is in addition to four district councillors from flood affected wards, and selected parish councillors, who will be representing their constituents and communities. All other district and Arun-based county councillors have been invited to observe and ask questions.</p>

The main purpose of the forum is to understand the issues behind flooding events which have occurred within the district, especially where homes and businesses have been affected.

The forum will explore the impact that development and climate have had on flooding events and make recommendations on practical and deliverable measures to reduce the impact of flooding on the District's residents, businesses and the environment, as well as promoting the implementation of permanent and sustainable solutions to reduce flooding.

Communication is important, and as part of this work, the forum will look at improving communication between the partner agencies involved in managing flood risk and representatives from flood affected communities.

The forum will also highlight and signpost to residents funding opportunities and help educate residents about what more than can do to protect their own properties.

The links to the reports that went to Arun District Council's Full Council and Environment Committee meetings follow.

[\(Public Pack\)Full Council - 8 November 2023 - Supplement Two - Urgent Items Agenda Supplement for Full Council, 08/11/2023 18:00 \(arun.gov.uk\)](#)

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda - Supplement - Urgent Item Agenda Supplement for Environment Committee, 21/11/2023 18:00 \(arun.gov.uk\)](#)

1.2 The Chair gave everyone a warm welcome and thanked everyone for attending. SWi introduced himself to the forum providing a summary of his experience and background work. SWi reiterated what the forum are looking to achieve, which in addition to the above, the forum will: -

- Share knowledge to better understand the contributing factors that lead to flooding within our district to identify gaps in our understanding and what are the limitations.
- Create a platform that strengthens bonds of cross organisational working and community partnerships to enable meaningful outcomes to be delivered.
- Hold all partner agencies to account.

The broad programme for the coming year will cover: -

- Stage 1 – focus on knowledge exchange including inputs from different key agencies to build a common framework of understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities for more effective collaboration.
- Stage 2 – focus on more effective coordination of activity and collaboration across the agencies and the community including identification of potential outcomes to be achieved.
- At the end of the first year of operation review how well the forum has met its objectives and identify options for the future.

All forum members agreed that this was their understanding on what they were expecting the forum to achieve.

Thanks was given by Councillors sitting on the forum and those attending in the audience for everyone coming together and for the desire to work collaboratively.

	<p>It was queried whether there was sufficient representation from WSCC, who confirmed that they will ensure that the officers that attend these forums will be appropriately represented by the topic/discussion on the agenda.</p> <p>Portsmouth Water were in attendance at the meeting and confirmed they would be happy to attend future meetings.</p> <p>There were expressions of interest from Felpham and Bognor Town Council to be included on the Forum; it was confirmed that the Forum membership was agreed by the Environment Committee in November 2023.</p>
2	Agency key flooding roles and responsibilities
2.1	<p>The Chair highlighted the document contained within the agenda, which was also printed off for reference at the meeting, this document provides a summary on what the different partner agency flooding roles and responsibilities are. This document is attached with these notes.</p> <p>Action: The EA confirmed that they would provide additional information for their section.</p>
3	Southern Water presentation
3.1	<p>Southern Water gave their presentation, which included the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roles and responsibilities - Overview of the different flooding sources and who manages these. - Regions and Challenges - Short and long term challenges - Wastewater plan by area and enhancements - Clean River and Sea plan for 2025-2030 (subject to regulatory approval) which outlines the investment planned across the district. - Role in providing infrastructure for new developments. - Summary of wastewater treatment works. - Infiltration reduction plan - Update on flooding schemes <p>A copy of the presentation is attached with the notes of this meeting.</p>
4	Q and A session following presentation
4.1	The Q&As submitted ahead of the meeting were distributed at the meeting. The questions raised during the meeting have been captured and are contained within the document attached.
4.2	Councillors expressed the importance of ensuring that all agencies are maintaining their assets and working in conjunction with each other to ensure that residents do not have any type of flooding. Action ADC to work with the agencies (WSCC, SW and EA) to confirm the commitment to an improved integrated approach to deal with the flooding
4.3	<p>Action: The forum needs to begin to scope an integrated strategic level plan to address recent flooding, this should define the short-term plans which captures existing plans and new initiatives to understand what is happening and agree the way forward.</p> <p>ADC to liaise with WSCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority and discuss the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</p>

4.4	Action All agencies need to establish if their current plans are adequate, with the required resources and there is confidence that the plans and the timescales are reflective of what can be achieved.
4.5	The suggestion is that a similar presentation is given from the EA or WSCC at the next meeting in May. Action: ADC to discuss further with EA/WSCC
4.6	Action Forum members to learn from positive experiences of strategic collaboration elsewhere and include as discussion and action points for the next meeting.
4.7	The notes from this meeting will feed into the next Environment Committee meeting in March.
4.8	The acoustics in the room led to difficulties with the sound and the ability for everyone to hear what was being said. Action ADC to resolve.
4.9	The Chair SWi ended the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, thanked Southern Water for their presentation and input into answering the questions raised, and thanked colleagues for giving up their time this evening.
5	Future agenda items
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Flood Forum experience, role and responsibilities - Environment Agency (EA) responsibilities and actions - ADC responsibilities and actions - WSCC (Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)) responsibilities and actions and ADC's role - Impact of planning and development - Landowners' responsibilities and actions - To hear from affected communities and business representatives

Action list

ITEM	ACTION	OWNER
2.1	EA to update the EA Roles and Responsibilities section of the document	EA
4.2	ADC to work with the agencies (WSCC, SW and EA) to confirm the commitment to an improved integrated approach to deal with flooding.	ADC
4.3	Begin to scope an integrated strategic plan to address recent flooding. This should define the short-term plans which captures existing plans and new initiatives to understand what is happening and agree the way forward.	ADC / All
4.3	ADC to liaise with WSCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority and discuss the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.	ADC
4.4	All agencies to review their current plans are adequate, with the required resources and there is confidence that the plans and the timescales are reflective of what can be achieved.	All
4.5	EA/WSCC to confirm if they will present at the next meeting. ADC to discuss further with EA/WSCC	ADC
4.6	Forum members to learn from positive experiences of strategic collaboration elsewhere and include as discussion and action points for the next meeting.	All
4.7	Improvements to sound and visuals at the next meeting	ADC
	Next meeting – May. Date to be advised.	ADC

