

# **Arun Flood Forum Meeting – 25 November 2024**

## **Littlehampton Civic Centre 18:00 – 20:00**

### **Forum Member Attendees:**

#### **Arun District Councillor**

Cllr Sue Wallsgrove - District Councillor seat  
Cllr Gill Yeates - District Councillor seat  
Cllr Simon McDougall - District Councillor seat

#### **Parish Councillor representative**

Cllr. David Huntley – Pagham Parish Council  
Cllr Jan Rufey – Aldwick Parish Council  
Cllr Tony Hunt – Arundel Town Council  
Cllr Alan Butcher – Littlehampton Town Council

#### **Southern Water**

Philip Richey –(PR) County Sewerage Engineer – Sussex  
Catherine Marriot (CM) – Regional Operations Manager  
Mike Russell – (MR) Stakeholder Manager - Sussex

#### **Environment Agency**

Michael Carleysmith (MC)– Partnership and Strategic Overview Team Leader  
John Parsonage JP) - Asset Performance Team Leader

#### **West Sussex County Council**

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  
Karl McLaughlin (KaM) - Flooding and Coastal Engineering Manager  
Paul Cann (PC) – Principal Drainage Engineer  
Michael Rowland (MR) – Emergency Planning Officer  
Claire Pritchard (CP) – Communications Manager

#### **Chair**

Simon Wilson(SWi) – Director, Wilson Sherriff

### **Observing Cllr Attendees**

Cllr Christine Wiltshire  
Cllr Mark Turner  
David Alexander – FACT co founder

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>
1.1	Apologies received from: Dominic Henley - WSCC Shane Gindra - WSCC Cllr Keir Greenway – ADC John Penicud – Southern Water

1.2	SWi welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the Arun Flood Forum and asked everyone to introduce themselves.																
<b>2</b>	<b>Update on actions from the meeting held on the 5 August 2024</b>																
	The actions from the meeting held on the 5 August were reviewed, updates on these are in blue bold text.																
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<b>3</b>	<b>Joint agency presentation</b>																
3.1	<p>The joint presentation from WSCC, Southern Water, EA and ADC and is attached. This covered the following: -</p> <p><b>WSCC</b></p> <p><u>Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Strategy will take a catchment-based approach to flood risk management and contain an action plan for managing flood risk in West Sussex for the next five years.</li> <li>• Stakeholders are shaping the Strategy with positive contributions received at the objectives, measures and actions workshops.</li> </ul>																

- The Public response to requests for evidence / data has also been very positive, with over 1,000 responses with data.
- Public consultation on the Strategy is planned to commence by the end of January 2025.

This strategy is relatable for Bognor where the upper catchment to outfall all need to be part of any solution.

This is not just a strategy for West Sussex County Council, this has been developed in partnership with partners; their challenge and contributions have been positive in developing this strategy

### Section 19 Report

- Investigations and reports are underway both Chichester & Arun Districts following significant flooding towards the end of last year.
- Visits have been completed to those affected areas, and have been attended by District Council Officers, with additional feed-in to the process from the Environment Agency.
- Publication of the reports is expected by the end of the year

**Action:** When both reports have been published these will be available on the website and can be considered at a future meeting.

### **Southern Water**

#### Sewer relining and sealing

- Replacing a pipe has a cost of £250,000 per 100 metres, causing significant inconvenience due to digging and traffic management.
- Relining a pipe requires a minimal excavation and costs £10,000 per 100 metres, reducing the impact on customers' day-to-day lives and bills.
- Lining material is fed through the stretch of pipe underground, heated and then the pipe is sealed and has a long lifespan.

#### Work programme in Shripney

- Southern Water have invested £7.2m specifically in Sussex on flooding and groundwater schemes, which includes sewer relining and manhole sealing in Shripney.
- Relining and sealing the entirety of the 1.8km long foul drainage network in Shripney.
- Work started in July with CCTV surveys of the sewers.
- As of the start of November, just under half of the individual jobs that make up the work have been completed. 900 metres of sewers have been relined. The remaining 900metres is scheduled to have been completed by the second week of December, subject to highways permits/traffic management requirements.

- A verbal update was also provided on the Saltbox complex which has been subject of controversy with the amount of water coming from this development. There is a connection agreement for 5 litres per second, it was suspected that during winter the site can contribute up to 500 litres per second. If this was found to be correct, This would be a significant contributor to the flooding seen in Shripney during the winter, which leads to the need for tankering. During dry weather, contributions from this site are easily handled within the public foul network. This matter will be addressed with the developer/managing consultancy for the Saltbox development to establish where the ground water is coming up from and to resolve the discharge from the site. At this stage it is suspected that issues stem from Groundwater infiltration.

#### Business Plan 2025-26

- In October 2023, the Business Plan was submitted to Ofwat for the period 2025-30.
- On 11 July Southern Water received initial feedback from Ofwat, known as the Draft Determination.
- Southern Water have published their response, ahead of Ofwat's Final Determination in December 2024.
- The plan is the company's largest ever – c.£8 billion to enhance the health and wellbeing of communities, protect and improve the environment and help to sustain the local economy.
- More than 25,000 customers spent over 8,000 hours telling us what they think.

#### Draft Determination Response

- After carefully reviewing Ofwat's Draft Determination, Southern Water do not believe it will secure the investment required to deliver change required.
- In the response Southern Water have stated that to secure the investment required, essential change is needed to its draft determination to make plans affordable, deliverable and financeable.
- Southern Water have spoken to thousands of customers to inform our proposals, to further understand their priorities.
- The revised plan will achieve this and includes additional investment.
- These changes will deliver more environmental improvements in a shorter timescale.
- Ofwat is considering Southern Water response and is due to issue its final determination on water company plans in December.

#### **EA**

#### Ongoing Engagement with

- Tesco - the EA will be working with Tesco to progress plans for the store to be more resilient during flood events. Tesco have offered up some investment in the wider community, whilst this will not plug the large funding gaps, investment from the private sector is only a positive in helping to resolve some of the local issues
- Working with FACT and ADC re maintenance of rivers and non-river watercourses.

- Assisting the Rope Walk Flood Action Group and local businesses on their flood action plan

#### Felpham Pumping Station Open Day

- Successful open day held with around 40 attendees; the EA have also facilitated visits to individual members and for Tesco. The EA are looking at holding another next year.

#### Capital Schemes

- Barnham Natural Flood Management project – looking to reduce peak flows on Barnham Rife using natural flood management techniques. Currently programmed to commence in 2026/27.
- Felpham Pumping Station – working to examine future scenarios as pumping station is approaching end of design life. Currently programmed to commence in 2025/26.
- Additional gauges – the EA are bidding for additional gauges to be installed in the Aldingbourne catchment to supplement the two existing. This will allow the EA to remodel the catchment in the future to understand how the catchment has changed through the years with factors such as new development and climate change.

### **ADC**

#### ADC Strategic Plan

- Update provided on works undertaken which includes: -
  - Updating the Riparian Rights and Responsibilities leaflet to incorporate new EA Guidance; included in the Floodsmart campaign. The EA have also recently published new national guidance called Your watercourse: rights and roles
  - Overhaul of ADC Planning Application Validation Requirements and accompanying guidance
  - Overhaul of how SUDS are reviewed on planning applications to align processes with national policy, guidance and high court rulings.
  - Production of guidance to assist ‘small’ developers in discharging their drainage conditions is underway and due to be completed during Winter 24
  - Standardisation of ADC drainage responses on planning applications.
  - Digitization of flood risk management mapping layers.
  - Inclusion of Flood Risk Management mapping layers on the interactive Planning Validation Map
  - Iterative changes to ADC standardised conditions to close potential loopholes
  - District wide campaign for new developments to provide betterment to watercourse networks.
  - Collaboration with WSCC on the new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
  - Update to ADC Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) –in the process of commission the first portion of the SFRA but we are awaiting updates to several key documents that form part of the evidence base. The key documents include, the NPPF consultation, National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA2) and lower Arun modelling. The reason why we have to wait for these documents is that would be difficult to defend our position at public examination if we were required to do so..

#### Recent Tactical Works and Community Engagement

- Update given on progress with works at Hoe Lane, Flansham, which has experienced significant Highway flooding; Investigations underway in the area illustrated on the map,

	<p>between points A and B, with a contractor onboard, to establish the cause of flooding. This is a culverted watercourse (piped watercourse). Early indications suggest that the pipe has collapsed, it is possible that this may fall to landowner responsibility; further discussions to be had once situation fully understood. These works compliment the culvert and highway drainage repairs/improvements already undertaken by WSCC further to the east in Hoe Lane.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on Durban Rd, Bersted which was the epicenter of the flooding. The watercourse in this area has been lacking any maintenance for many years, heavily vegetated and silted up. ADC wrote to the landowner Riverside Caravan Park and requested that this was cleared, an initial meeting was held in early October, a subsequent meeting has also been held with the EA, the businesses in Durban Rd and FACT to discuss how this could be collectively tackled. Some businesses are willing to contribute financially to the works. Enforcement action will need to be considered if action is not taken. Discussions were also held regarding property level protection to help mitigate the risk of any potential future flood damage.</li> </ul> <p><u>Awareness Campaign</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The educational slide in the presentation regarding groundwater was explained and is something that is put out to assist developers with flood risk assessments.</li> <li>Emergency planning campaign to enable residents to be as prepared and resilient as they possibly can; where they can find information on flooding where they live, and a sense check on the type of items they need, ready to go, if they were ever to experience flooding.</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Questions and discussion items during and following the presentation.</b>
4.1	<p>How confident are Southern Water on being able to control the discharge from Saltbox and get the discharge rates back to where it should be. We have already had a lot of heavy rain?</p> <p>Southern Water confirmed that the discharge from Saltbox is currently within the discharge rate consented as the groundwater is low, if the groundwater does start to rise then Southern Water will step in and advise the managing company for Saltbox to tanker the water. The company are working with Southern Water to address the issues, surveys are being conducted. If it's infiltration, this will be due to leaky pipes and the manual changes they made to that site which can be addressed. Southern Water will, if absolutely necessary, put a stop on their discharge until it is resolved.</p>
4.2	<p>Where is the surface water from the fields going to go when the sewers are sealed?</p> <p>When the sewers are sealed the surface water will flow into the ditches, groundwater sites, the rife, etc. Southern Water explained that sealing the sewers is required to ease the pressure on the networks, the water entering the networks is causing flooding, it was also explained that this water is foul, it is heavily diluted, but it is foul. The partner agencies will continue to work together to find solutions if the increase in water into the other sites becomes an issue.</p>
4.3	<p>When are the sewers due to be lined at Barnham?</p> <p>Barnham, South Bersted, Lidsey and Shripney catchments all have major problems and are listed as high priorities sites. Southern Water are waiting on the outcome of funding but did confirm that Barnham is flagged as the next priority.</p> <p>Other works have been carried out in these areas, during August and September extensive health checks were conducted on the 16 pumping stations in these areas to ensure they were</p>

	<p>working effectively, impellers have been replaced and the associated ponds have been checked to establish how much water can be passed forward.</p> <p>Weekly meetings are being held with not just Sussex but Hampshire and Kent to get updates from contractors regarding works outstanding and what more can be done around the area,</p> <p>Southern Water have started works, which are ongoing to the main sewers that run down by the Rife from Barnham to Lidsey in both directions, as these end up under water, around 40 manhole chambers need to be sealed.</p> <p>A question was raised on the impact of sealing these manhole covers, will it cause the affluent to come out elsewhere? Southern Water confirmed that this has been modelled and because it is much lower down in the catchment it shouldn't come back up as the rest of the catchment is meters higher.</p>
4.4	<p>Clarification was sought that issues previously reported with the pumping station by the Pink Pub had been resolved.</p> <p>Southern Water confirmed that this was one of the pumping station sites that had had the health check and impellers replaced to help push forward the rate of water into the sewers.</p> <p><b>Action: Southern Water to share mapping and list of works.</b></p>
4.5	<p>PC advised that he has been working with developers in the Shripney area to get watercourses improved. CCTV survey of the highway drainage highlighted issues which has been shared with WSCC.</p> <p><b>Action. KeM to establish if the highway drainage issues highlighted in Shripney have been picked up for action.</b></p>
4.6	<p>An update was sought on progress with the Southern Water relining works at Addison Way and works to the pumping station nearby. Thanks was given to Southern Water who did a great job with the tankering to alleviate the issues the local residents were having due to the flooding last winter.</p> <p><b>Action SW to provide update on works undertaken or due to be undertaken at Addison Way.</b></p>
4.7	<p>Question was raised on where the additional gauges to supplement the two at Shripney and Aldingbourne will sit.</p> <p><b>Action: EA to confirm where the additional gauges will be placed.</b></p>
4.8	<p>An update was sought on maintenance of the Rife by Tesco to ensure we are in a better position for any potential flooding this winter.</p> <p>The EA gave an update in terms of the routine maintenance, at the meeting in May the presentation illustrated a slide with the 'Work boat' that the EA can arrange to use to maintain watercourses. This has been used in this area and produced good results, the EA are looking at getting their own, if this is possible maintenance could be undertaken twice over the summer period. The EA advised that the majority of the area has been cut so we are in a better position than this time last year.</p>
4.9	<p>An update was sought on any progress the EA have made with works they have been undertaking with the Rope Walk Flood Action Group (RWFAG)</p>

	<p>The EA advised that they have been helping them with general resilience and preparedness. The RWFAG have been undertaking improvements to try and mitigate future potential flooding events. The EA have made engineering visits at the start of their works and have provided advice. There is currently no additional funding to assist but the EA remain supportive. ADC have also been working with the residents of Rope Walk and providing Emergency Planning information, and information regarding permitted development rights on what they can do, and how to avoid lengthy permits for any works they may wish to undertake.</p>
4.10	<p>Awareness campaigns/information leaflets. The importance of ensuring that residents that do not have, or use a computer was discussed when reaching out to the community.</p> <p>Site visits to residents are undertaken particularly when requested. There were leaflet drops at Rope Walk; these could be used in other areas, but there are limitations in how far reaching this can be. Suggestion made to provide a copy of these to the Parish Councils so that they can place them in notice boards. The co-founder from FACT also offered in future they may be able to assist in distributing leaflets.</p> <p><b>Action: Distribution of flooding information leaflets/awareness campaigns to Parish Councils to place in noticeboards.</b></p> <p><b>Need to ensure all Parish's and the communities are aware of the works being undertaken by the Arun Flood Forum, more Comms focus needed around this.</b></p>
4.11	<p>Concern raised with the land behind Rolls Royce and the soakaways that they have dug.</p> <p>ADC confirmed that conversations are being held with the land agent to establish exactly what they have done and to address issues.</p> <p><b>Action: Update on area behind Rolls Royce to be given at the next meeting.</b></p>
4.12	<p>Query raised on where the digital flood risk management mapping layers mapping can be found.</p> <p>ADC advised that if you go to the local validation planning areas, and click on an area this will provide all the information can click on map and link. <a href="#">Planning validation requirements map   Arun District Council</a></p>
4.13	<p>An update was sought at the next meeting on the Southern Water works being undertaken, and what is planned in Aldwick and Pagham.</p> <p><b>Action: Update on works planned and being undertaken in Aldwick and Pagham to be provided at the next meeting.</b></p>
4.14	<p>Concern raised with older housing stock and efficiencies of roof guttering/pipes, a lot of water is running off the roof and straight into the roads and drains, are there plans to address this.</p> <p>Older style housing would have been designed to the standards at that time they were built, with the thousands of homes across the district the agencies are limited with what they can do. Retrofitting some of these can be undertaken where budgets allow through the planning process to seek betterment, and newer homes all meet current standards.</p> <p>Southern Water have a designated team who undertake impermeable area surveys to identify properties where surface water is entering into the foul and vice versa. Advice is given to customers when remedial works are required; checks are then made to ensure this has been undertaken. A lot of work has been carried out in the Aldwick and Bognor area in this regard as in turn this will help with bathing water quality as well. Even using something as simple as water butts helps to stop surface water entering the foul systems and overloading the systems during periods when there is high rainfall.</p>



	<p>Southern Water are looking at various methods of separating the water, it is not possible to sink another sewage system into the pipes and connect it all up.</p> <p>Groundwater intrusion into private systems was also discussed. Southern Water confirmed they are also looking at practicalities of potential enforcement action where lining works are required.</p> <p>WSCC advised that they are involved with the bathing water quality groups and the Southern Water initiatives looking where space can be made within the foul system. WSCC are looking at where Highway gullies could possibly be disconnected from the foul system.</p>
4.15	<p>Query was made on when the questions Arundel submitted to the Arun Flood Forum will be answered, it was confirmed that we are just waiting for the various agencies to feed into these and these will be sent as soon as possible.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Communications Update</b>
5.1	<p>The comms statement was provided for the meeting.</p> <p>Arun District Council communications team have launched their FloodSmart campaign and are looking for partners to share this content across appropriate channels.</p> <p>Conversation has been had with Freya Dean, Operational Communications Manager, DEFRA about working with them on their winter campaign as we start to come to the end of our FloodSmart content, we will pick up sharing that content, as we did with Flood awareness week.</p> <p>We would welcome conversation with partners about engagement work in key communities to share some of the messaging of FloodSmart – particularly the practical content of how to prepare for flood incidents.</p> <p><b>Action: FloodSmart campaign - further discussions to be held on how to ensure this is reaching all areas of the community.</b></p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
	<p>SWi took the opportunity to summarise the key points of the meeting and asked the Forum to take stock on how they feel the Forum is progressing, and to think about what the Forum wants to achieve next year.</p> <p>Reflections and comments were then welcomed. The following key points were discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The forum has been very successful in bringing the agencies together to work collaboratively, identifying the flooding issues in the district, and looking at how these can be resolved and/or mitigated within budget constraints. Reference to the works of the Arun Flood Forum is made when agencies are liaising with the community at drop in centres and with meetings with MP's etc. Other councils outside of Arun would benefit from adopting this example and approach.</li> <li>• The importance with interlinking in with all other Parish's not represented at the Forum meeting; a reminder that questions can be submitted by everyone ahead of the Flood Forum meetings, along with the circulation of responses to questions submitted and the outputs from the meeting. The Cllrs representing at the Forum can reach out to others to cover items they may wish to raise.</li> <li>• The agencies have worked hard on the strategic actions coming out from these meetings. Communication on what the Flood Forum has achieved needs more focus to</li> </ul>

	<p>ensure this information is reaching the general public and Parish's across the whole District so they can benefit from the outputs from this group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generation of an FAQ's document which answers the more technical questions that are often raised.</li> <li>• The importance of continuing to work with community groups such as FACT and other local action groups.</li> <li>• Moving forward the Forum needs to continue to focus on the high-level strategic outcomes, the agencies to meet operationally to progress works, and to work with local action groups to investigate, progress and answer the more specific/ individual issues raised, and look at where potential synergies in solutions can be made across the district.</li> <li>• Significant progress has been made through this Forum.</li> </ul>
<b>Action</b>	<b>Interlink with all other Parish's not represented at the Forum meeting; a reminder that questions can be submitted by everyone ahead of the Flood Forum meetings, along with the circulation of responses to questions submitted and the outputs from the meeting. The Cllrs representing at the Forum can reach out to others to cover items they may wish to raise.</b>
<b>Action</b>	<b>Communication on what the Flood Forum has achieved needs more focus to ensure this information is reaching the general public and Parish's across the whole District so they can benefit from the outputs from this group. Communication should be simplified so that it can be understood by as many people as possible.</b>
<b>Action</b>	<b>Generation of an FAQ's document which answers the more technical questions that are often raised.</b>
<b>Action</b>	<b>Comms plan to be brought to next meeting</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Next meeting</b>
7.1	<p>Frequency of Arun Flood Forum meetings for next year and how we can effectively use resources discussed, it was suggested that the next meeting would be Easter time to allow the agencies to continue their works and monitor the effects of this Winter.</p> <p>Operationally the agencies will meet regularly to progress technical works, the outcome is that we can ultimately look at the Forum meeting a couple of times a year, providing an update on this work, and the higher-level strategic work being undertaken across the district.</p> <p>The importance of getting the right balance discussed; if there is an urgent need for the Forum to meet between meetings set this will be arranged.</p>

### Action list

ITEM	ACTION	OWNER
c/f	Flood alerts to be added to the Cloud 9 Arun app. MR progressing.	MR
c/f	RFCC latest policy document stipulates local levy cannot be used for capital maintenance. KaM has spoken with some neighbouring RFCs who have managed to get some schemes through. KaM will pursue further and report back to the group.	KaM

3.1	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Section 19 report to be shared with the group and available online when published.	WSCC
4.4	Southern Water to share mapping and list of works.	Southern Water
4.5	KeM to establish if the highway drainage issues highlighted in Shripney have been picked up for action.	WSCC
4.6	SW to provide update on works undertaken or due to be undertaken at Addison Way.	Southern Water
4.7	EA to confirm where the additional gauges will be put.	EA
4.10	Distribution of flooding information leaflets/awareness campaigns to Parish Councils to place in noticeboards.  Need to ensure all Parish's and the communities are aware of the works being undertaken by the Arun Flood Forum, more Comms focus needed around this.	ADC – MR  ADC - Comms
4.11	Update on area behind Rolls Royce to be given at the next meeting.	ADC - PC
4.13	Update on works planned and being undertaken in Aldwick and Pagham to be provided at the next meeting	Southern Water
4.15	Questions submitted to the Arun Flood Forum by Arundel Town Council to be answered as soon as possible.	All
5.1	FloodSmart campaign - further discussions to be held on how to ensure this is reaching all areas of the community.	ADC - Comms
6.1	Interlink with all other Parish's not represented at the Forum meeting; a reminder that questions can be submitted by everyone ahead of the Flood Forum meetings, along with the circulation of responses to questions submitted and the outputs from the meeting. The Cllrs representing at the Forum can reach out to others to cover items they may wish to raise.	ADC
6.2	Communication on what the Flood Forum has achieved needs more focus to ensure this information is reaching the general public and Parish's across the whole District so they can benefit from the outputs from this group.	ADC - Comms
6.3	Generation of an FAQ's document which answers the more technical questions that are often raised.	ADC to lead
6.4	Comms plan to be brought to next meeting	ADC - Comms