

Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time	Monday 1 st March 2021 4.30 – 5.38 p.m.
Venue	Video conference meeting
Attendees	Alison Crampin, Fiona Cryle, Marjorie Clasper, Jo Stickland, Ewan Larcombe and David Buckley
Secretary	Jane Simpson

Agenda Item		Action
1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence and announcements</u></p> <p>Apologies – none</p>	
2.	<p><u>Purpose of the meeting</u></p> <p>The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what should be included in the flooding section of the Plan with EL. It was acknowledged that there is very little NPs can do.</p> <p>JS/FC/AC had emailed thoughts to all having gone through other Neighbourhood Plans, in particular Old Windsor, Horton & Wraysbury and Eton & Eton Wick, and the advice from Locality and CSE.</p>	
3.	<p><u>SuDS – Sustainable Drainage Systems</u></p> <p>The draft Plan has, at 7.3, a paragraph about SuDS. EL’s view is that traditional systems don’t work in Datchet because of the high groundwater. He agreed that the wording in the draft about SuDS is correct. If provided they should have concrete tops, for example, to stop them floating.</p> <p>AC asked whether a more natural type of system would work. Would filter strips, swales or reed beds, etc, help? EL felt they would make very little difference. Once weirs are opened then Datchet is flooded.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Drainage Ditches</u></p> <p>4.1 EL said that one of the main problems was years and years of lack of maintenance of the ditches in Datchet. Originally it was the Barker Bridge House Trust which ensured they were inspected and maintained but since the council took it over this has not been regular. EL said the ditch along Eton Road was not visible and needed maintaining as does the Horton Road ditch. He believed RBWM is responsible for ditches running alongside roads.</p> <p>4.2 EL advised that the Environment Agency has a policy to slow the flow further upstream but there is just too much water.</p>	

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4.3	Table 10.1 – Non-policy actions– we discussed the possibility of adding flooding issues to this list; one being local Parish Councils working together to rectify the situation - EL is already working on this.	
4.4	EL quoted the 2007 Pitt review which gave 93 recommendations and the 2010 Flood and Water Management Act which set out the responsibilities of organisations. He said that RBWM was not fulfilling its duties and the barrel arch was a prime example of this. DB said the system was in place but it was not being maintained.	
5.	<p><u>AL39/M4 Motorway</u></p> <p>AC said there is an open drain on AL39 site shown on EA flood maps and asked if we should ensure this is kept if/when AL39 is developed. This drain runs alongside the M4 then beside Riding Court Road to London Road and into a concrete storm drain. EL said it needs to be cleaned, reinstated and maintained for storm water. It needs to have conveyance capacity. Any water coming off the M4 into this drain must be filtered, eg via a filtration bed. EL didn't think it would be good idea to have a culvert for this site; a drainage ditch would be preferable so it can be maintained and blockages cleared, and offer potential for wildlife. It was agreed to ask CB about including this. A large section of AL39 is Flood Zone 2 and any development would have to ensure there were flood prevention measures in place.</p>	AC
6.	<p><u>Maps</u></p> <p>6.1 AC asked if there was a Datchet Groundwater Flooding Map. It was thought that Katy might have one, if not then the EA. AC to follow up.</p> <p>6.2 AC asked if there is a map of all the ditches so we can show RBWM what we think they're responsible for. EL thought if there was one it would be with Ian Thompson and DB said he would ask him.</p> <p>6.3 MC will ask if Harry has any Barker Bridge House Trust maps too although these may be too old.</p> <p>6.4 It was agreed that it would also be good to have a comprehensive map showing all the water courses which run through Datchet with details of who was responsible for which so that a maintenance programme could be established by each of the relevant owners and that they could be held accountable. Water courses include four main rivers - The River Thames, Jubilee River, The Myrke, Datchet Common Brook - and a latticework of drains and other watercourses - Millbrook, Horton Drain, Wraysbury Drain, Colnbrook, Linchfield Brook, Mead Brook, Fleet Brook, and the ditches running along the side of roads. DB to see if Parish Council has a map.</p> <p>6.5 JK wrote a booklet after the 2014 flood and has put details on the Datchet History website. It includes maps and details of bunds.</p>	AC DB MC DB
7.	<p><u>Other flood prevention measures</u></p> <p>7.1 EL advised that the EA is promoting their products to combat flooding but they wouldn't stop groundwater flooding.</p>	

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<p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p> <p>7.5</p> <p>7.6</p> <p>7.7</p> <p>7.8</p> <p>7.9</p> <p>7.10</p>	<p>Scott Salmon had suggested horizontal plasterboard and installation of power points higher up the wall.</p> <p>There are examples of buildings in Datchet with raised floor levels built above 1947 flood levels – Queens Road, Agars Place, Horton Road by library. New buildings and extensions should have appropriate floor levels. AC to send the Eton NP's wording regarding height of floors above flood level to EL for comment about whether it would be relevant for DNP.</p> <p>Sealed doors and windows are of limited use for groundwater flooding.</p> <p>Permeable driveways (mentioned in DNP draft). Ensuring an appropriate soakaway system is in place on the curtilage.</p> <p>Green infrastructure - encourage the planting of trees, street trees, verges and vegetation.</p> <p>Green roofs – EL “by all means but small difference”</p> <p>Consider putting living accommodation on first floor and with garage and storage facilities on ground floor.</p> <p>FC advised that the Bund at Poplars was not replaced which makes Datchet more prone to flooding.</p>	<p>AC/EL</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>River Thames</u></p> <p>EL said that throughout the whole course of the River Thames, Councils, e.g. Caversham and Oxford, are trying to install flood defences for their areas. This causes more problems downstream. The RTS would have been an answer to reducing flooding in Datchet and villages downstream.</p> <p>EL said the Thames needs to be re-engineered to give sufficient capacity.</p>	
<p>9.</p> <p>9.1</p> <p>9.2</p> <p>9.3</p>	<p><u>Sewerage and drainage</u></p> <p>Datchet has sewerage infrastructure problems, the system is at capacity. In 2014 floods some sewers overflowed. There are still cess pits in Horton Road beyond Mill Place/Thames Water site. There will be 80+ houses on AL39, what effect will this have on the sewerage system? It was agreed that the sewerage infrastructure system needed to be upgraded before any new development and that development should not have a detrimental impact on sewerage networks in the village</p> <p>FC raised a planning application by the travellers which mentioned ‘Grampian’ in relation to the sewerage and asked what they were. AC thought a Grampian Condition is was a negative planning condition, preventing development taking place until drainage and sewerage works, say, were in place.</p> <p>There are systems which hold back sewage until the infrastructure can cope with it.</p>	

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10.	<p><u>The Plan</u></p> <p>JS said she would like to see the EA Zones 2 and 3 map included and a map showing the extent of the flooding in 2014. AC thought a link to current flood map would be more beneficial as the flood map changes and will probably change again during the lifetime of the DNP.</p> <p>Pictures of flooded Datchet would be good in the plan. JSt. said she had some and would email them. EL also has some. EL/JSt to send to AC.</p> <p>It was agreed to have a paragraph setting out local detail and knowledge.</p>	JSt./EL
11.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>11.1 JSt enquired about the Storm Water and Draining Working Group which the Parish Council set up in 2019. DB said he would look into it and speak to Ian Thompson about it.</p> <p>11.2 The Barrel Arch had been inspected recently and photos taken but details have not been shared with DPC. David Cannon had said he is waiting to receive the engineer's report. It was wondered whether a Freedom of Information Request would give the information required. DB following up.</p> <p>11.3 Water pressures were discussed but the Plan can't address this. EL said it was Thames Water's problem.</p> <p>11.4 AC advised that she had sent our various documents to CB and had asked what can be done about trees as in Datchet some developers had destroyed many trees before making a planning application. The latest were the land off Ellesmere Close which EL says has now been broken through into Agars Place, and 29 Slough Road where JS advised 47 trees had been removed.</p>	DB DB
12.	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Wednesday 10th March 2021 @ 4.30 p.m. – monthly meeting.</p>	