

LVA Flood sub-committee minutes 22/5/24

Present: Peter Oliver, Bill Walworth, Andrew Hardy, Sally Walker, Andy Lewis

Apologies: Gareth Brown

1. Minutes of previous meeting approved
2. Drains: EN reported that HCC were responsible for surface water and gully clearance. Southern Water were responsible for underground rain water and sewage drains. He had reported the flood issues to them and 3 teams had come to Langstone. There are 2 outfall pipes: one serves the lower half of the High St with outfall at the bottom of the street. This has a metal flap that the 3rd team reported as functioning. The upper half of the High St, Towers Gardens, The Saltings and Coastguard Cottages have a drain that goes to the main road, along to the Ship and has an outflow pipe there. Its functionality has not been reported. EN has had repeated phone conversations with junior people and has been given an email address to contact a more senior person in order a) to find out what went wrong ie what is the problem and b) what are the options to deal with it. Communication awaited. PO had written to Neil Payne at HBC and got an anodyne response. AL reported a conversation with Lyall Cairns where LC claimed that the drainage was part of the Coastal Partners scheme. No-one present had seen that in the plans previously presented
3. Drain Options : a) Continue to chase Southern Water (EN) b) Raise money to pay a water engineer to give us an independent report (AH) c) Ask HBC to pressurize Southern Water (EN to write email requesting meeting) d) Talk to Portsmouth Water who supply fresh water but have parallel pipes to the drains and who might have advice(AH) e) Ask insurance companies to pressurize Southern Water (SW to draft template letter which

Langstone residents who have made a claim could send to their own insurers)

4. Emergency support. EN reported that if it were to happen again one of the Southern Water teams had said to call their help line and take photographs. Subsequent discussion included a certain amount of scepticism over this advice
5. Resilience. BW reported that advice would need to be available at 3 levels: Whole village, smaller communities (eg coastguard cottages) and individual houses. SW and PO will suggest groupings of houses on the High St. Each area would need to nominate their own 'leader/ spokesperson'. The laminated advice previously produced by Langstone Floodwatch was circulated in the sub-committee. BW will flesh out the ideas
6. Grants: SW still looking into this
7. Comms: AL suggested various ways in which this could be improved. It was agreed that the minutes of this sub-committee should be made available to all Langstone residents including members of the LRA. Catharine will be asked to circulate LVA members electronically and AL agreed to interface with the LRA to ensure they are kept informed. It was thought that non members might receive a flyer. Social media should be also used including X (Twitter)
8. AH to inform Alan Mak of the situation
9. Date of next meeting: June 13th