

Lavant Valley Partnership
Minutes of meeting – 27th November 2014
St. Blaise Centre, Boxgrove PO18 0ED

| Agenda Item | Notes |
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| <p>1. Welcome, minutes and introductions.</p> | <p>Cllr. Potter welcomed members of the Lavant Valley Partnership (LVP) to the forum meeting and thanked St. Blaise Centre for hosting.</p> <p>Present: Henry Potter – Boxgrove Ward and LVP District Council representative Louise Rudziak – Head of Service Chichester District Council Matt Gover – LVP Co-ordinator, Chichester District Council Ed Dickinson – West Sussex County Council Kevin Macknay – West Sussex County Council Simon Oakley – District and County Council representative Jeremy Hunt – Chichester North Ward Carol Thompson – Chichester District Council Maurice Pollock – Singleton Parish Council / FAG Hope Laing – Singleton Parish Council Liz Smith – Oving Sjoerd Schuyleman – Oving Roger Birkett – Tangmere Parish Council Adrian Blades – Lavant Parish Council James Pickford – Lavant Parish Council John Holt - East Dean Parish Council Lara Moyler – Boxgrove Parish Council Nick Conway – Singleton Phil Fathers – Singleton Flood Action Group Bob Holman – Westhampnett Neil Hedger – FAG Steve Tapley - FAG</p> <p>Apologies: Hilary Nation - Tangmere Kate Beach - Tangmere Jon Bailie – East Dean</p> <p>Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 2nd September 2014, were approved.</p> |

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| <p>2. Footpaths – Ed Dickinson West Sussex County Council</p> | <p>Ed Dickinson, Senior Manager – Rural Area, Community and Economic Development Service was welcomed to the meeting. Ed explained that he did not work within the Rights of Way Team, but that his service was particularly concerned with helping communities become more resilient and self-sufficient.</p> <p>Ed started his talk by discussing parish online training and the definitions of right of ways. He gave a legal definition of a public right of way which is: “that the public can pass and re-pass through the route”. He stated that an allocation of ownership sits with the landowner. He stated that there is 4,146km public right of way in West Sussex and this is more than the road network.</p> <p>He advised that there were different types of footpaths; these are footpaths, bridleways, and restricted bye-ways. He also advised that footpaths and pavements are the responsibility of the highways agency and that cyclists must give way to pedestrians.</p> <p>Ed mentioned that there is only 90 miles of restricted bye-ways in West Sussex. He said this was for a non-motorised vehicle (Such as a horse and cart). He mentioned that a bridleway open to any traffic (BOAT) is for any motorised vehicles, but that there was only 9 miles or 14km of this in West Sussex. He mentioned that it’s the landowner/manager’s responsibility to keep the users safe. This includes buildings, ploughing, fencing trees and vegetation. However, any surface vegetation clearance will be actioned by West Sussex County Council.</p> <p>Ed mentioned that the routine inspection by West Sussex County Council is currently on a 9 month cycle, parish by parish over a 3 year period by West Sussex County Council staff and volunteers, however, this will be changed to a fifteen month cyclical schedule. He also mentioned that there is an agreed schedule programme of maintenance work available on-line.</p> <p>Ed suggested that parishes could get involved with the local access forum at West Sussex County Council, which work together on public right of way issues. They’re recruiting new members now and if interested contact Jane Noble at West Sussex County Council, further information is on the County Council’s website. He also mentioned the Volunteer Rights of Way Rangers, and suggested that if anyone wanted to get involved they should contact Darren Rolfe at the Volunteer development team.</p> <p>Ed discussed how parishes are becoming more self-sufficient, he used Westhampnett parish as an example, discussing how to access funding, equipment and resources. If parishes are interested, please email Ed at Ed.Dickinson@Westsussex.gov.uk. He complimented parishes in Chichester District for getting involved in their local areas.</p> |
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| | <p>Westhampnett Parish also mentioned how they received funds from the New Homes Bonus, from Chichester District Council to buy materials and machinery.</p> <p>A question was asked about budgets declining; Ed responded by saying that all budgets are declining and we must all find new ways to work together. A further discussion continued about West Sussex having to save £124 million, due to ever decreasing grant from central government and that their priority was the local economy and keeping council tax low, a discussion about parish precepts and referendums also continued.</p> <p>Questions was asked regarding details of lines and widths of public right of ways and the responsibility of side vegetation. Also, ownership of public rights of way that are ancient lines or pre 19th Century. Ed responded by saying that his team can advise on these issues and that there is a definition map available on the County Council’s website.</p> <p>A further question was asked regarding enforcing landowners to act, Westhampnett Parish responded with an example of brambles and discussions with Rolls Royce. Westhampnett Parish and Ed both mentioned that informal discussions with the landowner are usually a good starting point. However, if this issue becomes more difficult, Ed advised that West Sussex County Council can support parishes. The Chair referenced Boxgrove parish’s work with their footpaths and school route by maintaining the footpaths in an ad-hoc way.</p> <p>Ed and Cllr Hunt reiterated that parishes could utilise the County Council and used Lavant Parish as an example for training and borrowing equipment for footpaths. He mentioned various insurances and grants and mentioned the Council Local Committee, which still have some funds available. He praised Lavant Parish Council’s resilience plan and urged other local councils to use it as an example.</p> |
| <p>3. Lavant Valley Surface Water Management Plan – Kevin Macknay West Sussex County Council</p> | <p>Kevin Macknay – Drainage Strategy, Team Leader Rural Area, Community and Economic Development Service was welcomed to the meeting.</p> <p>Kevin gave a presentation titled ‘An overview of the proposed Lavant Valley Surface Water Management Plan’. Kevin insisted that the plan is not yet finished, but he outlined what is up to date and what the final document will have in it. Kevin mentioned the publication should be available before Christmas, he also mentioned there would be a possibility of a further presentation, if requested. He outlined roles and responsibilities of the plan, as well as how the plan refers to the upper catchment of the Lavant valley.</p> <p>The presentation aimed to cover existing mapping that’s available with West Sussex County Council and the Environment agency, also Chilgrove borehole, flood risk</p> |

management concept and short listed options. Kevin presented mapping regarding flood zones two and three by the Environment Agency.

Kevin showed Environment Agency flood maps for storm water flooding 1 in 100 year event, he mentioned there are guidelines for events ranging from 1 in 30, 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 years and maps are available for these. These maps will show where water would flow in extreme rainfall events. He then showed the forum a map regarding groundwater susceptibility; which showed the high risk areas mirrored the flood zone mapping. Kevin mentioned the surface water management plan for the Lavant Valley is primarily ground water led. He also mentioned the Environment Agency uses Chilgrove borehole as flood water mechanism, as well as the different flood trigger levels.

Kevin mentioned that **Chilgrove is the only borehole that is permanently monitored**; there are other boreholes in the Lavant Valley but these are measured in an ad-hoc basis. However West Sussex County Council is considering monitoring the other boreholes in the Valley. West Sussex County Council is in discussions with the Environment Agency and Southern Water about more monitors due to concerns with sewers and over-pumping. Kevin mentioned that the Chilgrove borehole has a long history and is the most historical borehole in UK and possibly the world.

Kevin requested that the presentation be circulated to all the parishes and Matt advised it would be available on the Chichester District Council website at the following link: <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/24182/Lavant-Valley-Partnership> tomorrow.

Kevin described his next graph, which showed the relationship between groundwater level, rainfall and commencement of flood events. As well as the water levels in boreholes between 2013 and 2014. Kevin stated that the final report will show comparisons between 2012/13 Vs. 2013/214. The report will also help inform the discussions with the Environment Agency regarding more boreholes throughout the Valley, with a view to better inform the emergency services.

A discussion about how high the current readings were and the high rate of current rainfall. Kevin demonstrated that the upper Lavant Valley acts a sponge, due to the chalk. Kevin discussed when the borehole is at a high level the land nearby becomes saturated. He said this then reacts to surface water, which runs off the downs into the Lavant and becomes flashy. He explained that is why the rainfall reacts in such a way during extreme events.

Kevin explained how there had been two previous excessive extreme weather events, he attended a meeting last week with all the district and boroughs in West Sussex regarding forecasting issues. At the meeting they stated it would be a wet December. He stated that he attended a meeting today with all district and boroughs and they discussed an

updated forecast. Kevin used this example to demonstrate how forecasting can change quickly and there is a lot of uncertainty at the moment.

Kevin showed a slide showing the concept of flood risk management, showing the difference between every day to excessive rainfall and the different options to deal with these events. He discussed the new management plan will try and create options for both types of events.

Kevin showed a table which highlighted differing flood issues and concerns, as well as the potential measures to be taken. This included capital investment and emergency plans, actions and comments. A question was raised about capital investment; Kevin answered by stating the management plan is not finished yet. A discussion followed regarding the Environment Agency and Parish Councils working together in a multi- agency response plan. Comments were made about the history of parishes and villages and how this can give a head-start on flooding, as well as acting to pre-empt flooding.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding trigger points, particularly about sandbags and flooding in Singleton and Oving. Kevin mentioned how the public can sign up to **Environment Agency flood warnings alerts**. Oving parish were frustrated by knowing who to contact regarding flooding, Kevin answered by explaining it is not West Sussex County Council policy to distribute sandbags, apart from community assets. Oving parish made a further comment regarding sandbags at vital corners of the parish to protect homes. A general discussion followed regarding sandbags in particular and that these should be preventative instead of reactive.

Louise Rudziak mentioned that Chichester District Council will supply sandbags; she also commented that the district and county councils need to work closer regarding resilience and emergency plans and make them dovetail. Kevin mentioned that the county council are refreshing their policy on sandbags.

More discussion followed regarding sandbags and who will place them at the relevant locations. Louise made a further comment the district council had limited resources, but nevertheless the council wants to protect its communities. A number of parishes commented that they need to know who to contact and sandbags should be with parishes up to two weeks before likely flooding instead of last minute. Oving and Singleton parishes discussed examples of how sandbags are stored in the village. Singleton parish mentioned that some flood water can contain raw sewage, which is a very urgent matter which needs to be addressed.

A question was raised regarding engineering the river, particularly regarding speeds of 7 cubic metres per second, Kevin mentioned that this would mean significant capital cost. There were also some concerns regarding the credibility of Environment Agency's

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| | <p>measurements levels due to our frequency of flooding in local areas.</p> <p>Ed Dickinson commented that perhaps some flooding concerns could Segway into a more detailed resilience plan. This could include emergency teams, vulnerable people, storage of sandbags and other things. He mentioned this would be an extension of emergency planning. He urged parish councils to contact him or his team at the county council. A general discussion regarding paper hand-outs of slides and for Kevin's presentation to be circulated immediately took place. Matt mentioned that the presentation will be available on the Chichester District Council website at: http://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/24182/Lavant-Valley-Partnership tomorrow and he would email the link to the forum members.</p> |
| 4. Items for future meetings | <p>A discussion took place regarding the elderly and vulnerable people. Comments were made about inviting social services and careline, to discuss who can be contacted and what information is available for parishes. There was a general consensus that more joined up thinking is needed on this topic to cover the spectrum of care for the vulnerable.</p> <p>The Chair also mentioned an example of a community resilience plan by a parish in the forum could be of interest.</p> <p>Kevin Macknay also expressed that the management plan will have had 3 months in the public domain by the next meeting, however, he might be available to attend further meetings.</p> |
| 5. A.O.B | <p>The Lavant Valley Surface Water Management Plan is ongoing, once this has been finalised the report will be available on the link above (Lavant Valley page on Chichester District Council's website)</p> |
| 6. Venue for next meeting | <p>The Open Air Museum agreed to host the next meeting on Tuesday 3rd March 2015. Matt and Chair will discuss future dates for next meetings.</p> |
| | <p>Meeting ends.</p> |