

Lavant Valley Partnership
Minutes of meeting – 25th June 2015
Oving Village Hall, PO20 2DQ

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Welcome, minutes and introductions.	<p>Cllr. Potter welcomed members of the Lavant Valley Partnership (LVP) to the forum meeting. Cllr Potter thanked Oving Parish Council for hosting at Oving Village Hall.</p> <p>Cllr Potter was re-elected as chair of the Lavant Valley Partnership.</p> <p>Present:</p> <p>Henry Potter – Chair - Boxgrove Ward and LVP District Council representative Louise Rudziak – Head of Service Chichester District Council Matt Gover – LVP Co-ordinator, Chichester District Council Simon Oakley – Tangmere ward and County Council representative Kate Beach – Tangmere Hilary Nation – Tangmere Roger Birkett – Tangmere Ali Cotton – CH2M Mike Barker – CH2M Tony Warren – BT Openreach Adrian Blades – Lavant Ron Migliorini – Oving Alan G. Smith – Oving Paul Guest - Oving Kevin McKnay – West Sussex County Council Angie Hobson – Eartham Pat Dingmans – Eartham Kevin Carter – West Sussex County Council Sharon Burborough – Westhampnett Gareth Jones – Community warden for Tangmere and Oving</p> <p>Apologies:</p> <p>Jon Bailie – East Dean Brigid White - Lavant Sjoerd Schuyleman – Oving Jeremy Hunt – West Sussex county councillor Mike Hall – Lavant ward councillor</p> <p>Minutes of last meeting:</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 3rd March were approved.</p>

<p>2. Surface Water Management Plan</p> <p>Kevin McKnay - WSCC</p> <p>Ali Cotton Mike Barker – CH2M</p>	<p>Kevin McKnay from West Sussex County Council agreed he would update the forum regarding the progress of the surface water management plan. He attended the forum along with Ali Cotton and Mike Barker from CH2M, consultants of the plan.</p> <p>Ali Cotton informed the forum that the plan will address causes and actions of flooding, as well as creating set of actions, in partnership with others. For example, this could mean new infrastructure or maintaining existing infrastructure and developing how we adapt in an emergency. He mentioned the focus of study is on the upper Lavant, particularly East Dean, Charlton, Singleton, West Dean, Chilgrove and mid and east Lavant.</p> <p>Ali gave an overview of previous flooding incidents in the area; this included the 1994 severe weather and river flooding in Chichester. As well as 2000 and 2001 groundwater incidents, he mentioned that we have had very wet winters over the last few years. He mentioned various parishes in the forum area, in terms of basements, roads and sewage and the impacts on local infrastructure.</p> <p>Mike Barker showed a slide which referenced a geological map; this showed how ground water flooding happens in the catchment. He discussed chalk and the behaviour of this in terms of flooding. He mentioned that the Environment Agency monitor the borehole at Chilgrove house and have been since 1850. He mentioned that in December 2013 the water level rose by 5m a day, which is unprecedented.</p> <p>Mike mentioned that the plan will also help define taking actions, setting trigger levels which then triggers issuing information to the public, transport measures or the release of sandbags. There was a discussion regarding the issuing of warnings. With other recordings of boreholes being suggested for the in catchment. Ali and Mike mentioned that the surface water management plan has been submitted to West Sussex County Council and this was published in February 2015.</p> <p>Kevin McKnay gave an overview of how West Sussex have been implementing the plan. He mentioned that operation watershed has been working for two years. He gave an overview of funding community projects, such as Lavant Parish Council to improve the village hall. Singleton flood action group have also received funding for maintenance and clearance. He informed the forum that Southern water have undertaken 2 years' worth of infiltration reduction on their sewer system.</p> <p>He also mentioned how West Sussex Fire and Rescue have been involved with trigger levels and emergency plans as well as West Sussex highways. Kevin reinforced the need for more automated boreholes along the Lavant valley. These could be hosted on a shared website, accessed by community, to fine tune trigger levels.</p> <p>Questions to the floor:</p> <p>A number of questions followed, with reference to frequency of flooding, warnings and their trigger levels as well as maintenance of infrastructure. These questions were predominantly related to Lavant parish. Mike Barker stated the understanding of ground water flooding is way behind of river flooding. He also stated how difficult it is to predict</p>
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	<p>the frequency of ground water flooding; predictions on fluvial flooding are based on models. He mentioned that the Environment Agency do issue flood warnings, flood alerts which refer to ground water and flood warnings with relate to fluvial flooding in the river.</p> <p>A general discussion followed, regarding the frequency of ground water flooding. The forum was in general agreement that there should be a better way of communicating risks, such as 1% chance ever year (instead of 1 in 100 years). General predictions show wetter winters will follow. Ali and Mike stated that severe weather events that have occurred in the Lavant Valley over the last two decades, is not a predictable pattern.</p> <p>Ali Cotton recognised that false alarms for flooding erode confidence in the system. Especially when individual property is not at risk, he reminded the forum that local monitoring of boreholes will fine tune these warnings. Kevin McKnay also reassured the forum that West Sussex County Council will be adopting the actions suggested by C2HM which will improve warnings to residents, quicker road closures and more local monitoring of boreholes.</p> <p>A further discussion developed regarding chalk, foul sewers, current ground water levels and building on floodplains.</p> <p>Mike and Ali discussed how chalk catchment is significant in the Lavant Valley; they mentioned that chalk is not very sensitive. Discussion about ground water into the foul system (combined systems) are being improved by Southern Water, the first phase of lining has made a difference already.</p> <p>The forum was informed that ground water levels are average at the moment; these have been dropping month by month. Ground water in chalk is also drying out, a website to monitor these: www.gaugemap.co.uk. Ali and Mike mentioned that development should be based on planning policy, which needs to be safe from flooding; it should in fact improve the drainage.</p>
<p>3. Broadband coverage</p> <p>Kevin Carter - WSCC</p> <p>Tony Warren – BT Openreach</p>	<p>Kevin Carter from West Sussex County Council introduced himself along with Tony Warren from BT Openreach. Kevin brought an example of fibre connection pipeline for forum members to observe. The project itself is worth an estimated a 20 million, 6.75 million of this funding is allocated to West Sussex. A primary objective for this project is to get as much fibre into the ground of West Sussex; so far 90% has been installed. The target for superfast broadband is 95% by end of 2017.</p> <p>Kevin and Tony discussed two options for fibre; this includes ‘fibre to the cabinet’ which can be located by side of the road. As well as ‘fibre to the premises’ which can be underground or over ground, directly to the premises.</p> <p>This project started in May 2014, they are currently finishing phase 5, 235 cabinets have gone live in West Sussex. Tony mentioned they are now at the most ambitious part of the project by reaching out to the remote parts of the County. Kevin discussed all the parishes of in the forum individually with regards to their broadband speeds. He</p>

	<p>mentioned that 5% of households in West Sussex will not see any uplift with the rollout. Tony handed out flyers to all delegates regarding a postcode checker for speeds. A discussion then followed regarding line rental, fix charge and access to superfast broadband. Further questions regarding price plans for speeds also occurred. Tony mentioned that Openreach provides a service, but consumers have the right to choose a provider.</p> <p>A question regarding houses with low speeds followed, this focussed on Tangmere (cabinet 63). Tony reiterated that superfast is a product that has to be requested. This product is not given without asking. Tony mentioned that Upwaltham parish won't see any uplift, as dwellings are too far from cabinets. Tony and Kevin mentioned they're happy to speak to each parish council on a 1-2-1 basis and are happy to attend parish meetings.</p> <p>Questions to floor:</p> <p>A question was put to Tony and Kevin regarding the target for broadband speed in business parks and industrial areas. Kevin mentioned that customers should expect the same level of speed at the moment, but that they can pay more for dedicated line or other specific products. Kevin mentioned that economic growth is encouraged and supported in this scheme.</p> <p>A following question arose regarding the life expectancy of the fibre? As well as any degradation of service with new housing? Tony mentioned that the line should last 50-60 years minimum; he mentioned this is not valuable to thieves as is not copper. He mentioned the service partly depends on size of new development and that an agreement with developer should be in place. He mentioned there is capacity to add lines to a cabinet.</p>
4. Items for future meetings	A discussion followed regarding possible speakers from West Sussex highways and speeding, the new emergency planning from Chichester District Council, or Sussex wildlife trust.
5. A.O.B	There was no A.O.B
6. Venue for next meeting	Eartham Parish Council agreed to host the next meeting (Eartham Village Hall) this will be Thursday December 10 th due to the All Parishes Meeting on Thursday 30 th September.
	Meeting ends.