

FLOODING and DRAINAGE REPORT.

Flooding and Drainage team

Cllr Ian Thompson Lead Member.

Cllr Denny Loveridge Deputy Lead Member and Datchet Flood Warden.

The Borough have voted not to support Channel 1 of the River Thames Scheme, despite their election promises to do so, there by misleading all resident voters in Datchet, Wraysbury, Horton and Old Windsor as to their previously unpublicised pre-election intention to do so.

Currently, in Datchet we have one means of providing some protection against flooding, although not as comprehensive as Channel 1, but would provide time and a means of removal of any contained water within Datchet. It consists of three parts of a single flood control system.

Part 1 repair of the central Barrel Arch Victorian System.

Part 2 To provide a water control valve at the intersection of The Datchet Common Brook and the Recreation Ground ditch,

Part 3 to provide a water control valve at the Eton End Rail tunnel.

Two of these three projects will prevent uncontrolled flood water entering Datchet at those locations, the central Barrel Arch will provide some containment capacity and can be a conduit for pumping out Datchet Floodwater into the River Thames ref 2014.

All three projects are considered viable by the EA, who have modelled the Eton End proposal, and the Borough have voiced their support.

The Borough have stated for two years that they will spend £3m on flood defences per year for the whole Borough on this intention. Currently they have started on the Barrel Arch section with a comprehensive survey completed, following this they have had a second survey by structural engineers to determine the extent of the works required, this will in turn result in a quotation for work to proceed.

Discussions with the Borough, Thames Water, and the DPC are in progress re the Datchet Common Brook item Part 2. Part 3 is an issue being considered in conjunction with Network Rail as they are the land owner, the Borough, and the EA, re technical issues and funding.

Additional to the above a meeting took place between representatives of Horton, Wraysbury, old Windsor, and Datchet Parish Councils to assess joint support for the reinstatement of Channel one, all agreed that this would provide the proper protection that we all require. However, the EA provided a Flood Risk Management Document for all councils to fill in with their views regarding flood protection that they require. This we have all responded to and await results. This is in response to the EA /Defra advising that the government will make £8.2m available for national flood defence schemes.

The EA have completed their extensive and costly repairs (£10m plus) to Black Potts Weir, again another construction that was installed within the Jubilee River project that has failed.

The DPC has voiced concern to the EA that sewage is still entering the Myrke Ditch from Slough despite Thames Water advising that they had located each problem and resolved it. Thames Water have been advised of our concern regarding weed growth and resulting bed rise in both the Myrke ditch and The Datchet Common Brook which exacerbates flooding into central Datchet as previously noted in Part 2.

The EA have advised that a sum of money has been made available by SSE for flood defence projects, a point of discussion by the DPC.

May I take this opportunity to thank Borough Cllr Larcombe and Cllr Loveridge for their support during the past year.

Cllr Ian Thompson Lead Member for Flooding and Drainage.