

Copythorne Parish Council Meeting – September 13th 2022

Item 12 - To receive and note the response from the HCC F&WM Team to the Parish Council's comments on the "Bartley Water-Flood Risk Investigation Report"

BACKGROUND

At the May 10th 2022 Council Meeting, the Council approved a report from me (as Chairman of the Flooding Advisory Committee) setting out a response from the Flooding Advisory Committee to the above report.

The response approved by the Council was sent – by the Clerk - to the HCC Flood and Water Management Team ("HCC F&WMT") by e-mail on May 25th 2022 seeking a response by June 15th 2022.

The Clerk received the following acknowledgement on May 27th:-

"I am happy to review your comments and would hope to be in a position to reply by the date set. If I don't manage to reply by this date however, it is because we are facing extra pressures following the departure of members of the team recently! So apologies for any delay."

With a response not received by June 15th 2022, the Clerk sent a chasing e-mail on July 8th 2022 and received this response the same day:-

"I am hoping to respond the week commencing 18th July. Apologies for the delay."

The HCC F&WMT response was received by the Clerk on July 21st 2022 and shared with me the same day.

With the next Flooding Advisory Committee meeting not due to take place until September 20th 2022 and at my suggestion, the Clerk circulated the HCC F&WMT response to all Flooding Advisory Committee members with a request for their comments. No comments were received.

CURRENT POSITION

A copy of the Council's response letter dated May 25th 2022 along with the HCC F&WMT reply is attached as Appendix A. The HCC comments are in bold text.

RECOMMENDATION

The Council notes the responses received from the HCC F&WMT and instructs the Clerk to obtain an amended version of the HCC F&WMT report and add it to the Flooding page on the Council's website.

Graham Chillcott
Chairman, Flooding Advisory Committee
August 12th 2022



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May 20th 2022

Dear Mr Callaway

Copythorne South – Bartley Water Addendum to Copythorne Village Flood Risk Investigation Report

Thank you for sharing the “Bartley Water Flood Risk Investigation Report” with the Parish Council on November 17th 2021. With apologies for the lengthy delay in sending you a formal response, Copythorne Parish Council would like to make the following comments and suggested amendments please:-

1. Page ii Executive Summary – First Bullet Point
After “*Shepherds Road*”, add “*Chinham Road and Shepherds Close*”.
Amended
2. Page ii – Executive Summary – Second Bullet Point
After “*Fletchwood Tributary*” add the words “*(part of Bartley Water)*”.
Amended
3. Page 1 – Background
Remove “*locally*” at the start of line 7 and replace with “by the Environment Agency”.
Amended
4. Page 5 – What actions have been taken to address flood risk?
In the first paragraph please amend the number of properties affected by internal flooding from 11 to 28 so as to match the number detailed at the top of page 5 of the 2005 NFDC Project Appraisal Report referenced.
In addition, after the words “.. *by internal flooding.*” add a further sentence which reads “*The technical details within that report remains extant and the information remains relevant today.*”
This will tie the 2005 NFDC report into the 2021 HCC report.
Amended, edited for clarity

5. Page 6 – Continuation of “What actions have been taken to address flood risk” – Top paragraph
Whilst the Parish Council minutes of February 26th 2013 refer to correspondence, they do not make the statement indicated in the report.

Amended

6. Page 6 – Summary of observations and discussions – Point 8
Since the August 6th 2021 visit it has been confirmed that the attenuation area was never built.

Amended.

7. Page 7 -Continuation of Summary of observations and discussions – Point 10
In line 3, delete “may”.

Amended.

8. Page 7 Continuation of Summary of observations and discussions – Point 11
At the end of the point add the following “*but housing development since that work has caused flooding problems to return.*”

We cannot make statements like this without substantial evidence.

9. Page 7- Continuation of Summary of observations and discussions – Point 12
Alter “*Shepherds Lane*” to read “*Shepherds Road*”.
Add “*Since the visit on August 6th 2021, work has been undertaken by the owners of 2 Shepherds Close to remove an obstruction within the culvert.*”

Amended

10. Page 7 - Continuation of Summary of observations and discussions – Point 15
Change “*towards the River Test*” to “*eventually into the River Test at Eling*”.

Amended

11. Page 7 – Continuation of Summary of observations and discussions
Add a Point 16 that reads:- “*The technical studies within the 2005 NFDC Project Appraisal Report (mentioned in the first paragraph of Section 2 of this report) resulted in the watercourse alongside the now redundant chicken farm on the northern side of Chingham Road also being designated as main river. This is where the fields north up to Southampton Road currently contribute surface water, including the field to the rear of the Haywain public house.*”

Inserted as point 11 (others renumbered)

12. Page 9-10 – 5. Conclusions and Next Steps
The Parish Council feels that the opening paragraph to Section 5 of the report can lead to the impression that awareness of landowner’s riparian responsibilities is the main conclusion of the report rather than just one of the conclusions. We ask therefore that you make “*Continue pressing the Environment Agency to ensure that the initial investigation works referred to in the final paragraph of Section 2 of their report be progressed*” the first of the conclusions and next steps.

I’m not sure what you are referring to here, is it 2.7 Choice of Preferred Option? Have you approached the EA recently about this as I am concerned that the report is so old now that priorities could have changed at the EA and any score given to this proposal previously may be different now if calculated again? Could you possibly rephrase your suggested amendment to: liaising with the EA regarding potential flood alleviation schemes in this area? Who would lead on this, the PC?

(GC Note: The Clerk will clarify to the HCC Flood and Water Management Team that we are referring to the final paragraph of Section 2 of the HCC report with regards to the EA’s 2021-27 programme for potential funding from DEFRA and that at the behest of the Flooding Advisory Committee the Clerk will continue the dialogue with the EA regarding this.

We look forward to receiving your response and hopefully a revised final version of the report reflecting the above comments before June 15th 2022.

Yours sincerely

David Rigby

David Rigby
Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
Copythorne Parish Council