



Amery Hill Residents Association (AHRA) represents the interests of residents at the eastern end of the area of Flood Meadows in Alton, as well as those with properties adjacent to the River Wey until the river is culverted under the High Street. Members of AHRA created and delivered the Wey Walk from the source near Brick Kiln Lane through to the train station. The final section of the walk is being produced as part of the development of the Molson Coors brewery site which the river Wey traverses, and therefore has representation on the EHDC Liaison Group. Due to these factors, AHRA is therefore heavily versed in the history and characteristics of the River Wey from its source at Brick Kiln Lane to where the river turns northwards at the Alton railway line.

We are encouraged that Alton has been recognised as an area which will be subject to an increased risk of flooding in the future. There are a number of sections which we particularly wish to highlight:

Page vi. Hampshire County Council will implement its statutory duties to ensure that new developments will not increase flood risk, with a move towards seeking betterment in the more vulnerable areas highlighted in this CMP. Only new developments that demonstrate an understanding of sustainable water management and environmental sensitivity, and which provide appropriate mitigation and adaptation, based on the Preferred Discharge Destination Hierarchy (figure 4) will be supported. This will ensure that the Wey Western catchment becomes more resilient to flood risk both now and in the future.

We seek further information on how this will be executed, not just at planning application stage, but also in the form of providing oversight during the build phase of new developments to ensure all planning conditions are met regardless of any variations which may be necessary during the build, and for ensuring ongoing maintenance of sustainable water management systems is funded and managed appropriately.

Page 2. The Hampshire catchment prioritisation tool has been used to support the principal objectives of this CMP:

- Establish the causes and sources of flood risk within the Wey Western catchment area and identify the geographic areas and communities that are at the highest risk of flooding.*
- Assess the potential impact of flooding to the properties and strategic infrastructure assets located within those areas; and*
- Inform the development of effective Action Plans that can be used by the County Council, Risk Management Authorities and other partners, and local communities to improve water management and resilience to flooding in the catchment area both now and in the future.*

We welcome the opportunity to provide detailed information to feed into the first of these principle objectives and be an active participant in the development of an effective Action Plan in support of the third principle.

Page 4. Riparian Owners: Responsible for managing the flood risk on their property including any watercourse and private sewers.

Many of our residents are Riparian Owners; however we have concerns that other Riparian Owners, particularly those who have recently become homeowners with riparian responsibilities, are unaware of these responsibilities. An ongoing education programme needs to be provided to all concerned.

Page 4. Hampshire County Council will encourage effective partnership working and ensure that all roles and responsibilities are clearly defined for risk management authorities and other key stakeholders across the Wey Western catchment.

We request further information about how Hampshire County Council will achieve this, including providing examples where this has worked successfully elsewhere.

Page 8. The impact that drainage has on the risk of surface water and fluvial flooding may be investigated further for high priority groups where projects relating to mitigating flood risk may be undertaken.

There is recent history of where the current drainage infrastructure across Alton has not been effective, which we would like to share so that this can be rectified.

Page 9. In the White Chalk areas of the Wey Western catchment there are a limited number of permanent watercourse features. The River Wey, Lavant Stream and Caker Stream arise within the less permeable clayey Grey Chalk. Chalk is a major aquifer capable of absorbing large amounts of rainfall and releasing it slowly over a long period. This buffering effect, together with the mainly rural nature of the chalk area, means that the western part of the Wey Western catchment has relatively narrow ranges of flow in a normal year and generally floods within a very limited geographical extent from short to medium duration heavy rainfall. However, after prolonged rainfall the water table in the chalk aquifer can rise to the surface causing springs to erupt in the valley floors and the creation of temporary watercourses. This can lead to groundwater flooding lasting for several months in very wet winters.

We are encouraged that there is recognition of the geology around Alton and the interdependency which exists between this and both short to medium duration heavy rainfall as well as prolonged rainfall.

In summary, we recognise that this is currently a high level exercise and further, more detailed work at the local level is required. We welcome the recognition that Alton is 'at an increased risk of flooding' and that this assessment requires 'the identification of interventions and preventative measures to reduce flood risk and improve overall water management' (page 11).

founded 1984

Representing the residents of Amery Hill, Amery Street, The Cloisters, Cromwell Gardens, Kingdon's Mews, Oliver Rise, Steeple Drive, Tanhouse Lane & Vicarage Hill, Alton

We fully support the Wey Western Catchment Policies are outlined on page 13, and request input into the Wey Western Priority Area Policies outlined from p 14, due to our inherent understanding and direct experience of living alongside the River Wey.

We call for the urgent setting up of a local group, including Alton Town Council and East Hampshire District Council, to prepare a Flood Action Plan (page 3).

Finally, we firmly believe that AHRA should be represented on such a group.

We look forward to hearing from you to discuss the points we have raised.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise Parker', written in a cursive style.

Louise Parker

Chairman, Amery Hill Residents' Association

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