

East and West Hanney Neighbourhood Plans

Consultation with Letcombe Brook Project

19 July 2016

Present

Stewart Scott (East Hanney Parish Council and The Hanneys Flood Group)

Sally Wallington (Project Officer, Letcombe Brook Project)

Nicky Kauert (Weir Farm) – Part time

Apologies from Stephen McKechnie

Neighbourhood Plans

S Scott reported on the progress with the neighbourhood Plans and planning applications.

Land behind brookside

At the last meeting S Scott agreed to contact Vale Housing association about improvements to the stream banks behind brookside as this area is owned by the Housing Association. So far all attempts at engagement with them have failed and they do not respond to correspondence from S Scott or the Parish Clerk Guy Langton.

Fish Passes (S Wallington)

There is a need to allow free movement of fish and funding from Thames Water for a fish pass at Lower Mill is progressing very slowly. Funding may also be possible for a fish pass at Dandridges Mill.

Dandridges Mill Bypass structure

There is a concrete structure upstream of Dandridges Mill which is crumbling away and needs repair or replacement. The ownership may be split between David Kirk and Nicky Kauert. Sally may be able to get funding to repair this as part of a fish pass scheme. Action S Scott to contact David Kirk.

School Visits

Sally Wallington has visited Hanney primary school on 5 occasions this year.

Letcombe Brook augmentation

Sally Wallington reported that Thames Water have stated that they will stop augmenting the flow of water into the Letcombe brook at Letcombe Regis in a few years time.

Flood storage pond at Weir Farm

We met Nicky Kauert and discussed ideas for reducing flooding in the village. An idea is to make a wide and shallow channel that would link the brook to a section of field that would allow water storage during periods of heavy rainfall. Nicky agreed in principle. Action S Scott to obtain a quote for a topological land survey to determine what was possible.

Ecological enhancement of the Letcombe Brook

Sally Wallington and S Scott walked along the brook edge from Dandridge's Mill up to the old bridge. Large portions of the brook are heavily shaded and this inhibits growth of bankside vegetation. Sally suggested a programme of pollarding and shrub removal. This would improve light levels from heavily shaded to dappled shade and would give ecological benefits and reduce amount of falling trees and branches into the brook.

It was agreed that Sally would attend three flood Group sessions in November, January and February and would give training to flood group members on what to pollard. Nicky Kauert gave us permission to carry out such works. Action S Scott to contact Mr Cotrell to obtain permission.

Field Margins

A letter will be sent to Cotrells Farm from the Environment Agency about them cultivating up to the brook edge. A field margin of suitable plants is good farming practice to reduce soil erosion, limit storm water run off into the brook and reduce water contamination by fertilisers.

Neighbourhood plan policies

Sally wallington has written policies relating to the Letcombe brook for the Wantage Neighbourhood Plan and will write some draft policies specific to East Hanney.

River fly monitoring

The Letcombe brook project have received from funding from Thames Water to monitor river fly. Sally requested two volunteers from east Hanney who would be interested in carrying out this work, it would require sampling every month. Action S Scott to seek volunteers.

Brook leaflet

Sally Wallington would like to do a walking leaflet for the section of the Letcombe Brook in East Hanney. This would be the similar format to that being used for Wantage and Grove.

S Scott

28 July 2016

