

Informal meeting with Clare Pillinger from Anglian Water – Tuesday 4th June 2019

Present – Jane Scarrott, Neil Featherstone, Liz Whitcher, Sandy Vellum – WI, Nick Creek – Saham Parish Council, Jane Fountain, Sue Dent, Pat Warwick, Michelle Thompson, Don Saunders

Aim of meeting – to reduce the use of Plastic and for Clare to give some information, answer questions and generally help us think how we could do something in Watton. As an individual she is passionate about the subject and has built up a lot of knowledge and experience about how to tackle the issue with communities.

- Clare is part of the Keep it Clear Campaign – which is a blockage reduction programme
- Has been working with the Women's Institute Nationally
- Were Informed blockages are caused by 80% - Customer Behaviour and 20% System Fault
- 80% of floods are due to blockages
- Anglian Water has the responsibility of private drains (houses) until reached by a shared drain
- WTC to check bin provision in Public Toilets to ensure they are adequate
- Bins for Boys – ensure men have the same bin facilities as women
- Anglian Water are working with World Oceans Day – June 8th
<https://www.worldoceansday.org/about>
- Aiming at a positive enforcement and it is felt there are people out there wanting to be involved.
- A demonstration took place involving 3 plastic bottles, water, Baby Wipes, Flushable Wipes and toilet paper.
- “Flushable Wipes” are only defined by the manufacturers and there are no national standards to how they disintegrate in the sewage pipes
- Flushable wipes do also contain hidden plastics
- Refill.org.uk – encouraging people to take their own bottles to shops/refilling stations to be refilled therefore reducing the use of plastics.
<https://refill.org.uk/about/>
- Try and get the business in the high street to sign up to the refill.org.uk scheme
- Need community engagement as well as the Town Council – support from Water UK <https://www.water.org.uk/>
- Voluntary clean up in the Town
- Make it clear to people about recycling in the high street – look at changing the bins to mixed recyclable bins.
- WI are holding an event on Norfolk Day – 27th July including talks from the Drainage Group and NP group – could include a Anglian Water stand – demonstrating the keep it clear campaign. Somehow include the Park Run
- Anglian Water trying to educate the schools

- Ideas included – working with charity shops, install refilling dispensers around the town from S106 monies.
- Anglian Water will attend an event (Mad Science) to educate children on the keep it clear champagne
- Anglian Water will sponsor literature, signage, held design leaflets and poster.