



# Watton Town Council

## WATTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN Drainage Working Group

### Notes from

Meeting held on Thursday 5 September 2019 at 10am

Below are notes about what we discussed about each item.

1. Apologies - Alan
2. Reports given to NP Steering Group in July and August: I do a report for the Steering Group at each of their meetings and they are instead of minutes of our meetings. These give a summary of what we have been doing.
3. Nelson Court – update. No response from the officer at Highways as to where he is with trying to sort this out.
4. Langmere Road – update. I went to see what they were doing when they jetted Langmere. They traced the surface water sewer into Cranswick land due west of the drain cover in the bungalow which we lifted with the AW chaps earlier in the summer. The officers went to talk to Cranswick and they have identified a blockage in the system there which has probably been making the water back up and causing the flooding at that end of Langmere. The LLFA officer seems to be tasked with sorting that and mapping the whole system at Cranswick. No further update yet.
5. The Highways officer email of 3 September re future works. We agreed it is good news that the Flood Team at the County are applying for funds as he said *to carry out a study to investigate the feasibility and cost benefits of flood risk mitigation measures in Watton. This study would include modelling of the existing surface water systems to help inform any funding bids and future decisions for investment. Mitigation options for Watton could include: retrofitting SuDS, flood defences, increased capacity, property level protection and conveyance of drainage systems and improved land management practices. If and when funding is established for the study of Watton, the Flood and Water Management Team will be in touch with stakeholders, including yourselves, as part of any engagement.*
6. Tesni application at Mallard Road – representation? This is the planning application for 177 homes at the back of the Bird Estate off Brandon Road. They are now applying for final approval of the design, layout etc. The Town Council has asked for a meeting with the Planning Officer to raise issues and there are also plans to hold a public meeting. From our questionnaire we know that some properties on the Bird Estate were flooded from the field of the proposed development. I have emailed Keith and copied you and Nick in

- with the relevant info which can be raised with the Planning Officer in relation to the drainage strategy which the applicants will also have to provide.
7. Nile Fields application – update. This is the planning application for 54 dwellings on the Nile Field. The target date for it to go to Committee is October. I have emailed the link to you all so you can see what is planned. The Town Council and the Drainage Group have objected to support Saham Toney Parish Council in its objections as the site lies in their parish rather than Watton.
  8. Flood Forum draft charter. We agreed that this was too long, too repetitive and that a shorter version would have more impact. I will send an email saying that and copy you all in.
  9. Arrangements for Liz's absence for 3 weeks 16/9 to 8/10. Liz will let AW, the Highways people and the Flood Team and any other officers from relevant agencies know that she is away and to direct requests, information etc to Keith and Nick. They will forward anything to Alan.
  10. Any other business
    - a) The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had a meeting last Friday 30 August. They wanted to know about something called the Three Rivers project which we thought involved the Wissey, Cam and Ouse rivers. The Group wanted Watton Brook to be included as a tributary of the Wissey. I agreed to contact Helen Blower from the Environment Agency whom we met re natural flood management and I emailed her. Her response was confidential at this stage.
    - b) Nick produced a very old map of land owned by a charity in Saham Toney including the piece of land between the Show Field and the Nile Field. I have sent him the info we found on the Land Registry and I have copied you into that.
    - c) He also gave me a very old map of the surface water system for Saham Toney showing where the pipes run but also their dimensions – sometimes 3 inches sometimes 4 inches.
    - d) I did a summary of info from old letters sent by the Clerk of the Town Council about a number of matters. This contains historical info of how long some problems have been going on etc. It is just for info and we may be able to use some of it in the future, who knows.

Liz Whitcher  
Chairman

9/9/19