

Arun Valley flood risk management changes: a summary of consultation responses

Appendix C

Responses have been redacted to remove personal data.

Responder 4

customer service line 03708 506 506
incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

floodline 03459 88 11 88

From: Willway, Teresa

Sent: 02 January 2020 12:18

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Flood management Pulborough

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you again for your comments which where relevant I will note in the consultation on SU1.

I will also forward this email to the local team for their information and comment.

Please contact me again if you have any further thoughts or concerns

Best wishes for 2020

Teresa

**Project manager
Solent & South Downs,
Environment Agency, South East Region.**

[REDACTED]

☎ Telephone: [REDACTED]

☎ Internal: [REDACTED]

☎ Mobile: [REDACTED]

✉ email- teresa.willway@environment-agency.gov.uk

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 December 2019 12:40
To: Willway, Teresa <teresa.willway@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Flood management Pulborough

Hi...much appreciate your reply thank you. No...not a direct response to proposals to cease flood defence in SU1 understand reasons for that....but was wondering about its relationship to knock on effects to SU2 and if the relief channel should be redredged. Considering it is not part of the original river so there should be less "concerns" about its own environment being affected by such works but show to the public that as much as possible to alleviate A29 flooding can be done....it seems to be quite silted up . Was wondering if you were also in charge of SU2 or if not hoping you could forward to persons in charge of sections at Swan Bridge SU2 . I see there were proposals in 2012 re LTRAS to consider adding/ enhancing to defences at Pulborough. [REDACTED]

I have also emailed the Arun Valley Vision Group as it seems relevant for community groups plus West Sussex Highways as A29 at Swan bridge is a regular problem.....so all parties can maybe finally solve the problem there...if possible! If I still resided in the area would be interesting to partake.

So thank you for forwarding my mail to the local team I am sure they are trying their best but oh boy the forecasts of more intense even violent rainfall in shorter periods re climate change certainly seem to be evident....possibly in SU1 and higher up the valley many older aged trees that would have been harvested many decades ago now surviving longer and more prone could be undermined by more rapid flooding and fall into the river. Less summer rain but intense showers also may encourage silting and stabilising vegetation growth to restrict river and feeder stream channels. So if anything I have said is of use then thank you for taking it as a response and I will look at the online response form you have suggested. Very problematic trying to deal with Arun, from 1970s massive dredging to get the water away ASAP to rethinking to use flood plains to slow it down and replenish the aquifers but how does that affect the viability and extant of winter cereal crops eg [REDACTED] when years ago there was much more cattle overwintering in the fields but that is done differently now and of course subject to economic market forces. Best wishes.
Yours sincerely .

On Sun, 22 Dec 2019 10:00 Willway, Teresa, <teresa.willway@environment-agency.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email.

Please could you clarify whether you are referring to our plans to stop our current (albeit very limited) flood risk management activities between Pallingham Weir and Pulborough and our consultation on our plans?

We sent out letters to all those we thought may be affected by our plans – [REDACTED]

If so I am happy to take your email as a response to the consultation if you want. Alternatively you can complete an on-line consultation on the matter at

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/solent-and-south-downs/arun-valley-flood-risk-management-changes>

The on-line consultation closes on 31 January.

Meanwhile I will send your email to the local team who will be able to comment on your specific concerns. What with the current heavy rainfall situation in the area and Christmas, I will not be able to respond to you until the New Year.

I am out of the office until the New Year but will check my emails intermittently so please let me know if you have any further questions.

If you have any more immediate concerns about river levels in the Arun valley please call our contact centre on 03708 506 506.

I hope you have a relaxing Christmas.

Best wishes

Teresa

**IDD project manager
Solent & South Downs,
Environment Agency, South East Region.**

[REDACTED]

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Responder 5

customer service line 03708 506 506
incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

floodline 03459 88 11 88

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 December 2019 11:15
To: Willway, Teresa <teresa.willway@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Subject: Flood management Pulborough

Hi...just seen the details finishing flood management west north west of Pulborough. Any idea what is happening to relief channel at Pulbrough [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] So many local shops and petrol stations have shut down. Road diversions via Storrington across the vulnerable brooks and also via Coldwaltham Farm are too risky for [REDACTED] to drive also in such bad conditions as now...plus more costly petrol is used from [REDACTED] (and of course through traffic and local delivery servixes eg supermarket fuel oils and propane as not everywhere has gas) if having to go via Amberley or via Bury gate to Fittleworth to Pulborough . Redredging the relief channel might not stop flooding closing A29 but might make closing and recovery times much shorter reducing problems and anxiety for local aged residents? Reduction in local bus services also makes shopping much more difficult and a lot of older generation cannot cope with internet shopping even if supermarket delivery vans can get through.

But thanks to the guys from whoever posted yesterday c 4pm at Colwaltham crossroads trying to assist the situation... diversion signs hopefully posted up asap at Bury gate and Whiteways.

Yours sincerely [REDACTED]. Who remembers 1969 floods when only escape route just about through deep puddles A29 where stream is near to car repair works was out via Bury!

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From: Willway, Teresa

Sent: 02 January 2020 11:34

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Pulborough Parish Council <clerk@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk>; Strudwick, Andy <andrew.strudwick@environment-agency.gov.uk>; Townsend, Andy <andrew.townsend@environment-agency.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Arun Valley section SU2 consultation

Dear [REDACTED]

Happy New Year to you too.

Although the consultation was on the Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy, the policies described in the document were not substantially changed and were approved in 2014.

I have asked Andy Townsend from our Partnership and Strategic Overview Team to respond to your specific questions on his return from leave next week. Andy was closely involved in the formulation, consultation and approval of the LTRAS policies for all Strategy Units.

Let me know if there is anything else I can help with.

Best wishes

Teresa

**IDD project manager
Solent & South Downs,
Environment Agency, South East Region.**

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 January 2020 10:28
To: Willway, Teresa <teresa.willway@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Cc: Pulborough Parish Council <clerk@pulboroughparishcouncil.gov.uk>; Strudwick, Andy <andrew.strudwick@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Arun Valley section SU2 consultation

Dear Teresa

Thank you for your helpful response and the copy of the Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy; the fact that it is titled "Draft" I assume means that it is not fully agreed yet? - if this is the case who, or what bodies, have to yet agree it or what parts of it?

I have a number of specific questions in addition to my telephone questions on SU1; these mainly relate to SU2 which is the area which borders where I live [REDACTED] these are listed below :

- In figure 1 for SU2 on page 17 why is the South bank of the South Channel Cut being maintained as I would guess that this would tend to "push" more water towards habitation in Pulborough rather than allowing it to "escape"?
- In figure 1 for SU2 on page 17 is the pale blue area the 1 in 100 flood risk area or what?
- Who will take responsibility for the pumping station at Swan Bridge when it fails?
- Where there are slices and outflow gates who will take responsibility for their maintenance when the EA does not maintain the river bank?
- What is the impact of the major Bund built in 2016 alongside the A29 just south of Swan Bridge and subsequent to your draft strategy - see attached pictures of the bund during building. (local opinion is that it is pushing more water towards Swan Bridge and making flooding worse there!)
- For the future who, or what bodies, will regulate the management of the SU2 flood plain?

Happy New Year and thanks again for your help so far

[REDACTED]

On Tue, 31 Dec 2019 at 11:17, Willway, Teresa <teresa.willway@environment-agency.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email and spending time on the phone yesterday explaining your interest particularly in navigation of the river.

As promised I attach a copy of the original LTRAS consultation document which explains the policies for the 7 strategy units between Pallingham and Littlehampton. The policies were not changed as a result of the consultation and LTRAS was approved in 2014. Let me know if you have any further questions on the policies and I will find the right person for you to talk to.

Re navigation, as you said, the River Arun is tidal up to Pallingham and therefore by definition navigable. However, the only Navigation Authority is for the length from the sea to Arundel Bridge. The authority for this section is Littlehampton Harbour Board.

Although we are not the navigation authority, the EA has the power to clear vegetation and blockages for flood risk management purposes. We have exercised this power on the River Arun where, in some cases, there may also have been benefits for navigation. Although we have done very little work in SU1 for many years, it is this work that we plan to stop.

Whether or not we exercise our flood risk management powers on a stretch of river, riparian landowners have a responsibility to let water flow naturally. They may have to remove blockages, fallen trees or overhanging branches, or cut back trees and shrubs on the bank, if they could obstruct or affect a public right of navigation. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse#contents>

If we were aware of a significant blockage which could cause flood risk when we have stopped our current activities, we would take appropriate action.

I will ask Andy to get back to you on the particular sections of river you were concerned about downstream of Stopham Bridge and 1 mile upstream of the bridge where there is a narrow 'S' bend.

I hope the above helps, but if you have further questions give me a call.

Best wishes

Teresa

Project manager
Solent & South Downs,
Environment Agency, South East Region.

[REDACTED]

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Responder 6

customer service line **03708 506 506**
incident hotline **0800 80 70 60**

floodline **03459 88 11 88**

From: Willway, Teresa

Sent: 17 October 2019 11:51

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Consultation on the implementation of our plan to stop our flood risk management activities between Pallingham and Pulborough

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached map and explanation below.

Unfortunately we do not have updated climate change mapping for this area and the extent given is based on an increase of 20% in river flows. The current allowances can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances>.

So I don't think it's quite what you asked for but if you require further clarification it's probably best to contact PSO directly at psowestsussex@environment-agency.gov.uk as they are the experts

I wondered if you could do me a favour please? When you originally contacted us you attached a pdf of the first page of our letter to your neighbour and the attached map. Could you please look on the last page of the letter and confirm that the email address given for further information was mine please?

Thank you

Teresa

**IDD project manager
Solent & South Downs,
Environment Agency, South East Region.**

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 October 2019 13:55
To: [REDACTED] Willway, Teresa
<teresa.willway@environment-agency.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Consultation on the implementation of our plan to stop our flood risk management activities between Pallingham and Pulborough

Thank you for all this - very helpful.

It would be great if I could take you up on your offer: "We have separate models and maps which take effect of predicted climate change with no defences. These are not available on-line but we can provide a pdf of the local flood risk on request I will pass your request on to the team if you wish?" / I saw the ones on the BBC website the other week but would be good to get it from the official source.

Thanks!

[REDACTED]

personal email: [REDACTED]
personal mobile: [REDACTED]

On Monday, 14 October 2019, 13:22:20 BST, Willway, Teresa <teresa.willway@environment-agency.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Nothing is ever simple.

The Strategy Unit boundaries are based on our current Flood Zone 2 ie land having a medium probability of flooding from the rivers or sea with no defences in place.

The land and properties currently at risk in SU1 are based on our current Flood Zone 3 - land having high probability of flooding from the rivers or sea with no defences in place.

These maps, which make no allowance for climate change, are available on line at <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/confirm-location?easting=504299&northing=118658&placeOrPostcode=pulborough>. An explanation of the Flood Zones is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change#flood-zone-and-flood-risk-tables>

We have separate models and maps which take effect of predicted climate change with no defences. These are not available on-line but we can provide a pdf of the local flood risk on request I will pass your request on to the team if you wish?

We also have a map available on line at <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map> showing the current flood risk taking account of defences. This one is split into tiles and allows closer examination of local flood risk from rivers, the sea or surface water.

Best wishes

Teresa

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 October 2019 11:11
To: Willway, Teresa <teresa.willway@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Consultation on the implementation of our plan to stop our flood risk management activities between Pallingham and Pulborough

oh one quick question: the flood models that are used...how many years ahead do they model the effect of climate change? I appreciate that in 100yrs we'll all be under water in the Arun valley, but is the agency taking a 10yr view? 25yr view?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

personal email [REDACTED]
personal mobile: [REDACTED]

On Monday, 14 October 2019, 10:41:31 BST, Willway, Teresa <teresa.willway@environment-agency.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting us regarding your interest in the above consultation.

I have checked on our maps and we believe [REDACTED] is not directly affected by our plans as it sits outside Strategy Unit 1 (SU1) defined as land which, according to our flood risk models, is not currently at risk of flooding from a one in one hundred year flood event. I have therefore attached a copy of a letter and maps intended for people interested in, but who we do not believe are directly affected by, our plans. The consultation gives you the opportunity to let us know if you believe you are affected and would need to implement any alternative arrangements to mitigate these effects.

We wrote to all proprietors of land within SU1 with appropriate information dependent on whether or not their land is adjacent to the River Arun and has flood risk management structures on it. Hence your neighbour received a slightly different letter as proprietors of land within SU1 but not adjacent to the river.

All letters include a link to more detailed information and the on-line consultation.

I hope the attached answers your questions but if you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Teresa Willway

**Project manager
Solent & South Downs,
Environment Agency, South East Region.**

[REDACTED]

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