

Sydenham flood alleviation progress meeting

Brook Cottage, Sydenham, Friday 19 April 14:30

Attendees

Michael May (MM)	Resident
David Read (DR)	Resident
Paul Stancliffe (PS)	Sydenham Parish Council
Steve Hunt (SH)	Optimise
Andrew Hagger (AH)	Thames Water
Huw Thomas (HT)	Thames Water

Notes of meeting

It was agreed that all land owners had now been contacted with a view to negotiating purchase of a site for a planned pumping station.

SH advised that no major issues had been raised by any of the associated land owners and that levels of compensation for crossing land would be in line with industry standards. Land purchase can take up to one year but Heads of Terms can usually be agreed much more quickly.

SH advised that the construction of the pipeline should be expected to take 6-8 months. DR suggested that we should use compulsory purchase powers. SH acknowledged that this would add to the certainty of land acquisition but would be far more protracted as the process would be through the courts.

SH advised that all environmental assessments had been carried out and had not raised any concerns. Some badgers had been found but the pipeline route has been moved to avoid them. The assessments would be valid next year when construction is proposed.

SH advised that in terms of a start for construction, 2013 was optimistic. AH stated that Optimise had probably felt pressured towards the previous programme that showed a start in late summer of 2013.

SH gave an overview of the current programme, key dates were; capital approval July 2013, planning application September 2013 and start on site Spring 2014. It was agreed that this should all happen in parallel with the purchase of land for the pumping station.

SH advised that most of the efforts of the last 6 months were focussed on refining the evidence associated with the regulatory outputs for the scheme. The basis of the Joint Venture contract was explained to those present and that Optimise carry the risk for the performance of the scheme and hence needed to be sure of the validity of the scheme.

SH will provide a plan and a programme for the next meeting.

HT advised that one of our contractors would be looking to arrange a meeting with residents to agree reinstatement of verges. DR agreed to act as point of contact.

HT advised that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) had agreed to carry out the work installing new kerbs close to the pumping station. HT will chase OCC for progress update.

Next meeting agreed for 17 May, 14:30 at Brook Cottage