

Pan Parish Forum - Who are we and what do we do?

Why was the Pan Parish Forum set up?

The Pan Parish Forum (PPF) was set up by local civil parishes to work with Southern Water (SW) to remove the need for tankering in our villages. Tankering is when tankers are used to take away excess sewage. Tankering is necessary because during groundwater season, normally November through to April, groundwater infiltrates and overwhelms the sewer network. Infiltration happens because the Groundwater is under tremendous gravitational pressure, so high that it pushes its way into the sewer system mainly through pipe joints, both public and private (see photo below for an example).



Monxton High Street - Groundwater entering the sewer via a pipe joint (July 2022)

SW assure us that our sewer network should be fit for purpose. It was laid in the late 1950's, early 60's and at that time was designed to carry three times the predicted sewage output from residential properties connected to the network and also took into consideration planning applications submitted to Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) at that time. During the summer months when groundwater is low the sewer network functions normally but during groundwater season the network just cannot cope with the additional groundwater.

Who are the Pan Parish Forum?

The PPF is made up of representatives from each parish council that shares a common sewage network and operational and programme management from SW. The members are Kimpton, Fyfield, Thrupton, Ampport, Monxton, Quarley, Abbots Ann and Upper

Clatford, with Goodworth Clatford joining early 2023. To date PPF representation has consisted of the Chair of each parish council plus a nominated PPF co-chair and a Secretary to the PPF. Parish Council websites lists their councillors and who currently holds the role of Chair; the role of PPF co-chair is held by Chris Harris (also Chair of Amport PC) and the role of Secretary held by Janet Wright, a resident of Amport.

When was the Pan Parish Forum set up?

In the spring of 2021 when once again SW started to over-pump treated sewage into the Pillhill Brook due to the sewer network being overwhelmed with groundwater and the annual influx of tankers, a group of residents in East Cholderton, encouraged by the local parish council, decided that the community had to do something. Once tankers cannot take the excess foul water away fast enough the choice is bleak; over-pump or have sewage backing up into resident's properties. Tim Grimshaw led the initiative in getting the affected parish councils together and engaging with SW.

What does the Pan Parish Forum do?

The PPF was set up with the full support of SW. The aim was to regularly review SW's Infiltration Reduction Plan (IRP) and hold it accountable for meeting the commitments made in this, and other higher level, regulatory documents. We do this through a combination of fortnightly operational update meetings, plus quarterly review meeting with senior staff of SW along with representatives of the Environmental Agency, TVBC and Hampshire County Council (HCC). The notes and actions of our quarterly review meetings are now being made available on your parish council website and copies of the fortnightly operational update meetings can be made available on request.

As the Pillhill Brook flows through most of the member parishes the forum also seeks to hold SW accountable for any water course pollution caused by it.

Major Milestones

- September 2021 - SW makes the Pan Parish area - being the catchment that flows into the Pillhill Brook - a Pathfinder Project

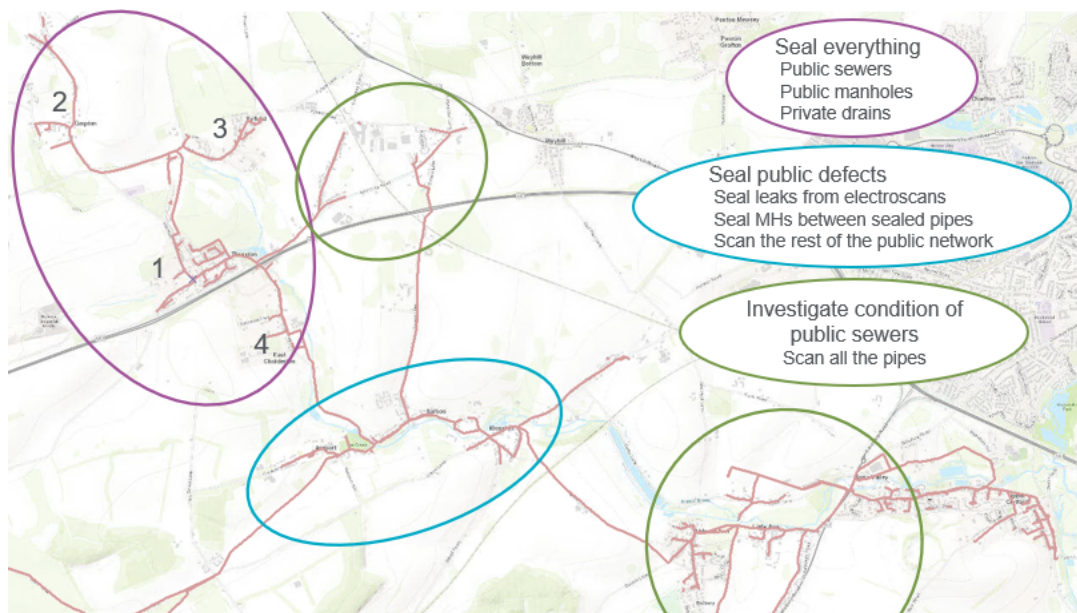
committing significant investment in a programme of work to address the impact of longstanding Groundwater and surface water issues

- January 2022 - temporary lay-bys built to move the tanker fleet off the roads

built at Mullens Pond Water Pumping Station, East Cholderton and Manor Farm, Abbots Ann. The location of third lay-by at Kimpton has yet to be agreed. These lay-bys remain 'temporary' until they are approved and come under the responsibility of HCC.

- April 2022 - SW appoints Keith Herbert as Pathfinder Project Lead
- May 2022 - SW announce a comprehensive overhaul of Pan Parish relining programme

this programme is to reline all public and private sewer pipes from East Cholderton northwards



Seal Everything
Thrupton, Kimpton, Fyfield & East Cholderton
Aim: no tankering from these villages
Scope:
 Seal leaky public sewers – 4.5km
 Seal public manholes – 134
 Seal private drains – 559 properties (~8.4km)
 Scan remaining public sewers – 1.9km
Aspiration: completion by Nov '22
Expectation: Seal Thrupton and Kimpton by Nov '22, follow with Fyfield & E Cholderton by Nov '23

Seal Public Defects
Amport & Monxton
Aim: no infiltration into the public network. Learn from "seal everything" villages and monitoring.
Scope:
 Seal leaky public sewers – 1.4km
 Seal public manholes – 65
 Scan remaining public sewers – 3.2km
 Monitor impact of upstream work
 Plan future private drain sealing if required
Aspiration: sealing completed by Nov '22
Expectation: TBC

Investigate Everything
Weyhill, Abbotts Ann & Little Ann
Aim: understand how much infiltration can occur into the public network. Learn from monitoring and other villages.
Scope:
 Scan public sewers – 10.4km
Aspiration: scans completed by Nov '22
Expectation: scans carried out between May '23 and Nov '23 (TBC)

Monitoring
All villages
Aim: Improve understanding local groundwater levels. Improve understanding on where infiltration is entering the network. Improve speed of reactive maintenance. Evidence suitability of sealing technique.
Scope: Observation boreholes and improved groundwater model
 Temperature sensing
 AMP cycle electro scan programme
Aspiration: Monitoring in place for Nov '22.

the monitoring programme is to provide SW with more accurate data to make better decisions on tackling Groundwater infiltration in the Pan Parish catchment.

- July 2022 - SW revise wording on their over-pumping signage
- September 2022 - Relining of private sewer pipes using Tubogel commences in Kimpton

SW funds relining of all private sewer pipes in the north of the Pan Parish Catchment; Kimpton, Fyfield, Thrupton and East Cholderton. As approximately 42% of the sewer network consists of private pipes these could be making a significant contribution to the Groundwater infiltration issues in the catchment.

- November 2022 - 3 boreholes sunk to monitor Groundwater levels in the valley

First part of the remote telemetry programme. Prior to this SW were basing their tankering strategy on Groundwater levels at the closest official Groundwater monitoring station some distance away in Clanville Gate.

- December 2022 - Sewer Level Monitors installed across the Pan Parish network

Second part of SW's remote telemetry programme. They are sophisticated pieces of equipment and will take 3 months to 'learn' how to correctly predict levels in the Pan Parish catchment.

- January 2023 - 22 temperature sensors installed across the Pan Parish sewer network

Final part of SW's remote telemetry programme. These sensors will be used to closely monitor the water table. As Groundwater is cold, low temperatures will identify where Groundwater is infiltrating the sewer network. These sensors are unique to the Pan Parish and their success or otherwise will inform SW's decision to deploy these sensors across other similar Groundwater driven catchments.

- March 2023 - Sewer Level monitors (SLM) operational

- April 2023 - SW share regular Pan Parish Monitoring Pack

bringing together data from boreholes, temperature sensors and SLMs to be reviewed at regular SW/ PPF Update Meetings.

- March 2023 - Wetlands project announced

SW carrying out feasibility study to see if a wetland solution may be a cost effective and ecological solution to Groundwater infiltration in the Pan Parish Catchment. Next Quarterly Review to be held at Langford Lakes, Wiltshire so that PPF can see a wetland in action.

- May 2023 - Tubogel relining of private sewer pipes commences in Fyfield

Next steps

1. SW will continue their programme of sealing all of the private pipes in Kimpton, Fyfield, Thruxton and East Cholderton. This is predicted to be completed in 2023.
2. Once the groundwater levels fall sufficiently, SW will continue their programme of sealing their pipes in the public highway. This may cause some local disruption and road closures.
Residents will be warned in advance. This work is predicted to be completed in 2023.
3. SW has completed a wider survey of all the sewers in the region. Any defects found will be repaired in 2024 – the problem areas will be prioritised ahead of this.
4. SW working with the Environment Agency and landowners will continue designing and working on a feasibility study for a wetland that will treat excess flows.

Janet Wright
Secretary of the PPF