

Flood Liaison Group – July 2026

Action-focused minutes and key actions

Meeting	Flood Liaison Group
Date	7 July 2026
Chair	Cllr Devon Davies
Next meeting	6 October 2026
Purpose of these minutes	Concise summary of matters discussed, decisions noted and actions arising from the meeting transcript.

Attendees noted in the transcript

- **Councillors and Parish Representatives:** Cllr Devon Davies (Chair), Cllr Ewan Larcombe (Vice Chair - Datchet, Horton & Wraysbury), Cllr Mark Howard (Bisham & Cookham), Cllr Mandy Brar (Bisham & Cookham), Jane Dawson (Old Windsor PC), John Lee Clark (Old Windsor PC), Laura Regazzacci (Eton Wick Waterways Group), Dick Scarff (Cookham Society / Cookham PC).
- **Officers and Partner Organisations:** Daniel Rice (RBWM Flood Risk Officer), Emily Merritt (RBWM Emergency Planning Officer), Artemis Atsalaki-Geropanta (Environment Agency), Natasha Gibbs (Environment Agency - Lower Colne), Stuart Mollard (Environment Agency - DHEFIM Project Manager).
- **Apologies:** Cllr Ricardo, Cllr Richard Coe, Ben Crampin (RBWM), Alice Keeping (Thames Water).

Summary of key points

- **Election of Officers:** Cllr Devon Davies was elected as Chair. Cllr Ewan Larcombe was nominated and elected as Vice Chair.
- **Wraysbury Drain & Feathers Lane:** Reinstatement works for Wraysbury Drain are on hold following parent company Ardmore going into administration; legal advice is being sought. Feathers Lane survey will be progressed using a free CCTV survey allowance under the new highway contract, requiring a 7-day notice of entry.
- **Gloucester Drive / Wraysbury Aqueduct:** Thames Water deployed a specialist dive team in mid-May who successfully repaired/replaced the aqueduct wall.
- **Old Windsor Wall / Weir Pier:** Environment Agency confirmed the wall is functional and in fair condition, but was not prioritized for national asset maintenance funding this year. Old Windsor PC requested contact details for decision-makers to escalate.
- **Datchet to Hythe End (DHEFIM):** Option assessment work is complete. EA is currently reviewing funding opportunities to progress options, with a further update expected in the coming months.
- **Eton Wick Waterways Presentation:** Laura Regazzacci presented an update on the £83,000 grant-funded restoration project aiming to improve stream conveyance, restore broken banks, and create wetland scrapes along Boveney Stream and Round Moor.
- **Thames Water Engagement:** Widespread concern was expressed regarding Thames Water's absence and lack of progress on multiple outstanding action items. RBWM officers agreed to separately attempt to get in touch with Thames Water to address these issues.

Decisions and agreements

- Cllr Devon Davies elected as Chair and Cllr Ewan Larcombe elected as Vice Chair.
- RBWM Flood Risk team to liaise with Thames Water to escalate unresolved operational and planning inquiries.

- Environment Agency to provide ward councillors with the detailed response from National Highways regarding Bisham / "The Green" works once received.

Action log

No.	Item	Owner	Action	Timescale / status
1	Wraysbury drain reinstatement	Ben Crampin / RBWM	Seek update from landowners on when the planning application will be submitted. Notify the group once submitted. Include awareness of the refused 2003 application and the issues previously raised.	On hold / Update by Oct meeting
2	Feathers Lane survey	Ben Crampin / RBWM	Once annual highway drainage funding is secured and the contractor date is known, schedule the survey and serve the required seven-day notice of entry. Keep ward and parish councillors updated.	In Progress
3	DHEFIM Options & Funding	Stuart Mollard / EA	Report back on potential funding routes for shortlisted flood improvement options.	Update within 2 months
4	Crown Estate Floodplain	Stuart Mollard / EA	Continue engagement with Crown Estate regarding land availability.	Ongoing
5	Lightlands Lane EIR / Site Visit	Daniel Rice / Thames Water	Provide Dick Scarff with Thames Water contact details to progress EIR and site visit request.	Action before Oct meeting
6	Bisham / "The Green" Works	Artemis Atsalaki-Geropanta / EA	Obtain copy of National Highways response and share with ward councillors.	Ongoing
7	Gloucester Drive Aqueduct	Natasha Gibbs / EA & TW	Request maintenance schedule and resident communications plan from Thames Water following aqueduct wall repair.	Ongoing
8	Old Windsor Wall / Weir Pier	Artemis Atsalaki-Geropanta / EA & Dan Rice	Review inspection report with Ben Crampin and provide escalation routes to Old Windsor PC.	Ongoing
9	Thames Water Engagement	Daniel Rice / Ben Crampin	Liaise with Thames Water to address all outstanding FLG queries.	Before Oct meeting
10	Cookham 200-House Development	Daniel Rice / Thames Water	Raise community concerns over drainage calculations with Thames Water.	Added July 2026
11	Mill Stream (Colne Brook)	Natasha Gibbs / EA	Check EA incident hotline logs once exact location details are confirmed.	Added July 2026

Eton Wick Waterways Group presentation - key points

- **Project Overview & Funding:** The Eton Wick Waterways Group secured approximately £83,000 from the Water Restoration Fund (funded via water company penalties) to undertake a development project aimed at restoring stream conveyance, rebuilding broken banks, and improving habitat biodiversity.
- **Catchment & Flow Dynamics:** Around 90–95% of the flow in the local stream network originates as treated effluent from Slough Sewage Treatment Works. Upgrades at Slough STW (K222) will improve water quality over the next decade but are projected to double flow output up to nearly 3,000 litres per second, increasing the urgency for downstream capacity improvements.
- **Key Flooding & Pollution Impacts:** Persistent flooding affects Dorney Common, local footpaths (notably the "ASDA path" used by mobility buggies and school children), and nearby properties. Low gradients combined with heavy weed growth (*Phragmites* / Norfolk Reed) cause water to pool, trapping winter pollution and sewage fungus for months.
- **Technical Design & Interventions:** Developed alongside Caine Bioengineering, Surrey Wildlife Trust, and Edenvale Young, proposed works include:
 - Rebuilding eroded banks and installing natural berms to increase flow velocity.
 - Creating wet woodland scrapes to store floodwater during high-flow events.
 - Raising the bed of the North Ditch and installing a one-way valve to prevent backflow onto Dorney Common.
 - Slightly lowering gravel riffle beds on lower Boveney Stream to remove impounding effects and ease discharge into the Thames.

Next Steps: The group is seeking flood risk permits and landowner consents while preparing to bid for capital delivery funding, targeting project completion between 2027 and 2029.