

THE RIVER STOUR (KENT) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held at 14:00 on Thursday 9 February 2023
at Chartham Village Hall, Station Road, Chartham, CT4 7JA and via Zoom

PRESENT

Mr G R Steed (Chairman), Cllr M J Burgess (Vice Chairman), Mr D M Botting, Cllr M D Conolly, Ms N H Dyas, Mr D J Fuller, Mr G Holdstock, Cllr P D Jull, Ms A G Lynch, Cllr D O Smith, Mr M P Wilkinson and Mr P Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P Dowling (Clerk & Engineer), Mr J Dilnot (Engineering Assistant), Ms A Eastwood (Finance & Rating Officer) and Mr J Williamson (Technical Assistant).

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Mr Rob Butson (Misconnections Team Manager, Southern Water) and he also welcomed Dr D Price (Technical Advisor, Environment Agency).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Crow-Brown (Deputy Vice Chairman), Mr P S Dunn, Mr P N Howard, Cllr N Ovenden, Cllr M Sole, Cllr G Sparks and Mr L Woollorton.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms N Dyas declared a landownership interest in the Monkton Marshes and Mr G Holdstock declared a landownership interest in respect of the Canterbury Local Plan.

PRESENTATION BY SOUTHERN WATER – UPDATE ON THE POLLUTION INCIDENT REDUCTION PLAN AND STORM OVERFLOW TASK FORCE

Mr Butson thanked the Board for inviting him to presentation again. Main points recorded below:

- **Pollution Incident Reduction Plan (PIRP)**

There has been a 20% reduction in pollution incidents during 2022 compared with 2021, with the greatest improvements observed in pumping and treatment works whilst the sewer network remains a challenge especially during periods of heavy rainfall and PIRP will address this during 2023.

The platinum health check programme improved resilience at a significant number of sites and the new technology helped to alleviate past issues by flagging problems as soon as they occurred, and it enables resets from base rather than having to go to site. Network cleaning has also been a priority to ensure full capacity. Good results were observed with the wastewater treatment works but there is scope for more to be done during 2023 in the inlet works and wet well cleaning.

- **The Clean Rivers and Seas Task Force (CSO)**

There has been much media coverage on Combined Sewer Overflows and Southern Water (SW) continues their work to improve water quality and reduce the amount of these releases by managing catchment flows. Ways to reduce storm flows are being explored through pathfinder projects. Gathering data is an important part of this and two water quality testing buoys were launched into

the sea to gather information. 'Beachbuoy' is another functionality on the SW's website which has been improved and hopefully will provide better quality information.

Mr Fuller commented that a lot of this work is affected by tide conditions, but asked when will these overflows stop. Mr Butson replied that there is still a lot of work to be done to reduce/stop CSO releases as it is not solved by just new infrastructure, but also by understanding where the source of additional flow is and its impact on the combined systems.

The outfall awareness programme aims at providing information to the public so that there is a better awareness of asset locations, what passes through them and their catchment areas. Where there are combined systems, storm overflows join the foul and household wastewater overwhelming the system leading to CSO discharges. Ms Dyas stated that until these two flows are separated there will always be problems and money would be better spent putting in an infrastructure that separate them. Mr Butson stated that technology also identifies build ups and restrictions in the system as they occur, enabling them to be fixed rapidly. He agreed with Ms Dyas that there is still a substantial amount of work to be done.

SW is committed to reducing flooding and storm overflow use mainly by source control and optimisation of existing infrastructure, and less by building larger infrastructure (such as storm tanks, sewers, pumping stations and treatment works). A lot can be achieved by working in collaboration with a range of partners and the public.

Ms Dyas stated that the new Sealink Project cannot put their cabling under ground because of SW's discharge pipe from the Weatherlees site into the river Stour and she asked how much is actually being discharged from that pipe. Mr Butson stated that he will find out and pass on the information.

The Clerk & Engineer asked if the targets are related to a base year or year-on-year. Mr Butson replied that they are year on year targets.

Cllr Jull asked for clarification on whether new developments are allowed to connect to combined sewer works. Mr Butson replied that they are not allowed if there is any alternative, but SW are lobbying to get more powers for planning consultations as currently their comments are considered advisory. The Technical Assistant stated that SW have been reluctant to adopt SuDS systems, especially open systems, and asked if SW are becoming more receptive to this now. Mr Butson confirmed that there is more willingness for this.

Mr Williams asked about SW's response targets for leakages. Mr Butson stated that responses should be within 2 hours. Mr Williams reported that in some cases it has taken SW weeks to months to respond, such as at Seabrook Stream. Mr Buxton stated that this is not acceptable and would feed this back.

- **Network Digitalisation Project**

This is a huge undertaking, it is industry leading and will increase visibility on the network. Early trials begun January 2021 and currently there are more than 22,000 monitors already installed which enable proactive analysis and interventions.

The Chairman thanked Mr Butson for his presentation and stated that it would be interesting to have him back again next year to see how things are progressing. Mr Butson confirmed that he would be happy to do so. **Action: Clerk & Engineer to arrange for update at the Feb'24 meeting of the Board.**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Thursday 10 November 2022 were received. It was proposed by Cllr Burgess, seconded by Mr Mike Wilkinson and resolved that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings at that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from these minutes.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES AND WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2023

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance, General Purposes & Works Committee held on Monday 23 January 2023 were received. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Fuller and resolved that these minutes be received.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Ref: W2-1 – WATERCOURSE MAINTENANCE ESTIMATES (2023-24)

The Chairman ran through the Watercourse Maintenance Works Estimates as detailed in the FGP&W Committee minutes and summarised that the revised total cost estimated for planned maintenance works for the year ending 31 March 2023 totals £408,000 (£1,500 over budget) – this includes the total cost of carrying out Water Level Control & Emergency Response for the IDB and the EA for which the EA contributes under the PSCA.

The Chairman summarised that the overall estimate for routine watercourse maintenance and in-house water level control activities in 2023-2024 totals £417,000. This total includes a budget for Structures Maintenance of £25,000 mainly to be used on the upkeep of the Board's structures. And a further £42,000 proposed to be spent on the renewal of a Board structure which is to be drawn from the Structures Reserve subject to the Board's approval.

Ref: W2-1 – COMBINED FINANCE ESTIMATES (2023-2024)

The Chairman ran through the Combined Finance Estimates for the 2023-24 financial year:

- Estimated Income at £220,647
- EA Precept £97,753 – 2% increase on last year's total
- Maintenance Works Expenditure £375,000 – does not include the £42,000 which is to be drawn from the Structures Reserve
- Administration and Engineering Expenditure is estimated to be £338,695
- Rechargeable Works £62,500 expenditure (estimated £70,000 on income)
- Surface Water Development Contributions have been entered both on the income and the expenditure totals at £15,000. It is difficult to estimate this income which is also currently ring fenced to carry out works that are necessary but do not attract funding
- £10,000 to be added to the Old Thrustbore Reserve
- Structures Reserve – it has been estimated to add £19,150 to this reserve (5% increase)

The Chairman summarised that the net estimated sum needed to be raised from rates and levies (without including the £42,000 to be drawn from the Structures Reserve) to carry out the Board's activities for the year ending 31 March 2024 is £697,451, which is an increase of 3.68% on last year's total raised amount and the effect of this is shown on Option 3 on page 8 of the estimates. Several other options ranging from annual increase from 1.99% to 8.00% were presented to the Board. The Chairman reported that following a lengthy discussion, the FGP&W Committee had recommended Option 4 to the Board; this is an increase of 5% on last year's rates and levies and it would raise £706,373. The Board discussed the various options, and it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Conolly, and resolved that the Board will adopt Option 4 for the financial year ending 31 March 2024 and:

- a) A total sum of £706,373 be raised.
- b) A rate of 15.72838p in the pound be made for the year ending 31 March 2024, raising £71,202 from Drainage Ratepayers.
- c) Special Levies be made on Local Billing Authorities for the year ending 31 March 2024 as follows:

Ashford Borough Council	£299,102
Canterbury City Council	£144,628
Dover District Council	£ 87,844
Folkestone & Hythe District Council	£ 635
Thanet District Council	£102,962
	<u>£635,171</u>

- d) The Chairman and the Clerk & Engineer be authorised to sign and seal the Rates and Special Levies on behalf of the Board.
- e) The Clerk & Engineer be instructed to advertise the Rates and Special Levies on the Board's website and noticeboard.

All Members present voted in favour.

Ref: A3-4 Special Levies

The Clerk & Engineer reported that he had discussed with ADA and other local IDBs the suggestion by the Lower Medway IDB that Councils disaggregate the IDB Special Levy from the Council's general expenditure. Some larger IDBs are supportive, mainly because if it is regarded as general expenditure, it falls outside of the Council's expenditure cap. But there are mixed views in the south-east with the majority not keen on this separation because some percentage increases may be misleading as some IDBs' budgets are small in comparison to Councils overall budgets. ADA stated that they would be "cautiously supportive" of this proposal, and it is really for the larger IDBs to pursue this. These Boards often have many pumping stations and are facing substantial increases to energy costs. A change may be possible via Ministerial Direction for these IDBs, but ADA will discuss this with the All-Party Parliamentary Group and will report on the outcome in due course.

Ref: W7 Structures Programme

The Chairman stated that the Clerk & Engineer and Cllr Sole discussed the Structures Reserve at length with a view to finding a more manageable balance whilst continuing to carry out the renewal structures programme. The new proposal is, rather than pursue a balance target, to set a minimum balance. An initial figure of £250,000 was suggested, to be able to manage an extreme flood event where several structures may need replacing at the same time. This guide figure will need to be reviewed each year along with the long-term structures programme.

A 20-year programme to be used as a starting point was shared, showing that taking into consideration an annual 5% increase to the Structures Reserve and the estimated cost of structures renewals to 2029-30 the Structures Reserve balance will fall to £245,000 by 2026-27 and will not reach the minimum target balance again until 2037-38. An alternative option of adding 7.5% annually was also provided and both options were discussed.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Jull and resolved that a minimum balance of £250,000 be set for the Structures Reserve. As a 5% has been added to the Structures Balance in the past and this is the figure allowed for on the 2023-24 estimates it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr D Botting and resolved that 5% be added to the Structures Reserve during the financial year ending 31 March 2024 with a view that this will be reviewed annually.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

FINANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES & WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chairman reported that in the interest of cutting out unnecessary repetition it was decided at the last FGP&W Committee meeting that the minutes to the previous FGP&W Committee meeting will be considered as read and only matters specifically raised will be revisited. All Members agreed to this.

The Clerk & Engineer commented that he believed this to be the correct approach for all meetings and that minutes should be taken as read, with only matters raised to be discussed further. The Chairman stated that he is happy for this to be the case, but he wants everyone to have the opportunity to speak up and comment on any specific item. The Chairman asked if Members would agree that the previous Board Minutes should also be classed as read. Cllr Burgess agreed that simply asking if there are any matters arising should suffice and considers this to be common practice. The Chairman proposed that the previous Board Minutes will in future be taken as read and only items raised will be discussed, this was seconded by Cllr Burgess, all Members present agreed.

Report for the period November 2022 to January 2023

Ref: A1-1 Board Meetings

It was confirmed that all meeting dates and venues have been booked as follows:

Finance Meetings (10:30)

Mon 23 January 2023
Littlebourne Village Hall

Board Meetings (14:00)

Thurs 9 February 2023
Chartham Village Hall

Mon 22 May 2023
Littlebourne Village Hall

Thurs 8 June 2023
Sandwich Guildhall

Mon 24 July 2023
Littlebourne Village Hall

Thurs 10 August 2023
Bromley Green FC Ashford

Mon 23 October 2023
Godmersham & Crundale Village Hall

Thurs 9 November 2023
Sandwich Guildhall

The Clerk & Engineer stated that some Kent County Council meetings clash with the Board's main meetings, so he suggested that in future, before proposing meeting dates, we try to find dates which avoid other regular commitments such as this. The Chairman added that this year's dates will not be changed but going forward any measure to improve attendance is always welcomed.

Ref: W4/WSR Rainfall & River Flow Data

The Clerk & Engineer reported that rainfall across the Stour catchment in November ranged from 156.8mm at Sevenscore to 227.0mm at Bybrook and averaged 187.3mm (220% of the Long-Term Average). Rainfall in December ranged from 62.8mm at Broadstairs to 123.0mm at Barham, producing an average of 88.7mm (129% of the LTA). January's rainfall data is not yet available. River flows have been below average throughout the year until the heavy rainfall in November, which resulted in average flows for the month being nearly double the long-term average. Flows in December also remained high and numerous Flood Alerts were issued, with Aldington and Hothfield Flood Reservoirs impounding water and the Stonar Cut being run.

At the end of the year, most groundwater level monitoring sites were still classed as normal, but some are beginning to increase relatively quickly due to the sustained wet conditions. Most reservoir levels are now close to full, with Bewl being recorded at 95% on 19th January (the LTA for this time of year being 78%).

Ref: W7 IDB Programme of Works (Including works carried out under PSCA)

Weed Cutting

It was reported that the IDB weed cutting programme, totalling 212km, was completed in November and as usual, this included second cuts on several watercourses in the highest risk areas. Weed cutting on Main Rivers, under the PSCA with the Environment Agency, totalled 45km (18km of mechanical cutting across the district and 27km of manual cutting in the Ashford area). Mathews Close Dyke was also cut a second time and some tree maintenance works were completed on behalf of DDC.

De-silting

It was reported that this year's de-silting programme totalling 19km, started a little later than planned in December but progress has been good and the remaining work is scheduled to be completed by the end of February.

Under the PSCA the section of the Delf Stream immediately upstream of the railway crossing is to be slightly narrowed and deepened to help improve flows. A 40m long line of brushwood faggots are to be installed, which will help to protect the riverbank from erosion and also provide space for the placement of silt. This section is bordered by a highway and residential garden, so no other place for spoil placement and off-site disposal is not viable (too expensive). Final details are to be agreed and it is hoped that this work will go ahead in late February/early March.

Tree & Shrub Maintenance

It was reported that this year's tree maintenance programme started with a considerable amount of work completed on Flood Street Dyke (IDB28), Fordwich Main Stream (IDB38) and Preston & Deerson Main Stream (IDB52). The remainder of this programme includes IDBs 1, 26, 48, 52 & 137 and is scheduled for completion by the end of February.

Tree maintenance work on Main Rivers under the PSCA is still to be detailed and agreed – currently assessing the Sarre Penn, Wingham River, Ruckinge Dyke and East Stour.

Structures Maintenance

It was reported that minor repairs and improvements are planned for Baxter Stop (IDB114), Broadley Stop (IDB114), Coleman Stop (IDB169), Steed Stop (IDB266), Maison Dieu Stop (IDB287) & Saffrey Stop (IDB289). Another batch of works will be detailed and programmed soon after these works.

Improvements are to be made to the process for asset inspections, which will aid future programming of works and the development of a longer-term structures programme.

Obstruction Clearance

It was reported that routine inspections continue to be carried out and obstructions cleared as necessary, particularly in the Ashford area.

The Clerk & Engineer reported that we were informed of fallen trees blocking Kimberley Dyke (IDB9) in Mersham. As this watercourse has a history of flooding, a contractor was arranged to clear the blockage. However, it was found that the trees had in fact been felled from an adjacent garden with the tree trunks left in the channel (in contravention of the LDA & IDB byelaws). The property owners explained that they had employed a contractor that left the job uncompleted. As the contractor was on site, to avoid delay & flood risk the obstruction was removed at a cost of £800. The owners were informed the IDB cannot accept liability for privately owned trees but were requested to contribute 50% towards the costs. Unfortunately, the resident has refused to make any contribution.

The Chairman suggested that we write to the resident again quoting the Board's byelaws and requesting the £400 payment forthwith and advise them if payment is not made the Board will seek to recover the full costs. Ms Dyas suggested that we take it to the Small Claims Court as this would keep the costs to a minimum. All agreed that this should be pursued. **Action: Clerk & Engineer to write to the resident and progress further if necessary.**

Water Level Control

It was reported that all water levels are being maintained as close to normal winter levels as possible.

Stourmouth Pump 3 has been removed for reconditioning, Worth Minnis Pump 2 has been replaced and is working well and Brooksend outfall extension has been completed and is working well.

Ref: A4-3 Biodiversity

It was reported that the following updates, against each of the BAP main headings were provided by Mr Martin Thomas of KSCP:

1. Surveying:

Survey of watercourses in areas where Shining Ramshorn Snail (SRS) have historically been present, checking current management against SRS habitat requirements and developing ideas for changes to regular management and one-off projects. Preparatory work for survey of watercourses with populations of White Clawed Crayfish.

Mr Williams reported that Natural England is no longer surveying protected sites, so it would be good if these were done under the BAP.

2. Management Prescriptions:

Review of desilt programme to check if attendance is needed for unusual prescriptions (scalloping, etc).

3. Enhancement Projects:

Further exploration of possible enhancement on Long Reaches (IDB30). Site visits to Buxford Dyke (IDB25) and Shalmsford Street Dyke (IDB31) to investigate future possible enhancement projects. Investigated silt run-off into North Stream (IDB305). Discussions on possible improvements to the Delf Stream.

4. Engagement with Landowners and External Organisations:

Engaged with landowners in area of Shining Ramshorn Snail regarding sympathetic management of surrounding land and ordinary watercourses. Reviewed possible enhancement proposal for the North & South Stream (IDBs 304 & 305).

5. Communication and training:

Monthly and 6-monthly work summaries and a presentation to Board in November. Familiarisation with ADA's new Good Governance Guide.

Ref: A4-6 Environment Day 2023

It was reported that Mr Dunn, Ms Lynch, Mr Wilkinson and the Board's Technical Assistant attended ADA's Environment Day for Internal Drainage Boards.

The event hosted a fantastic line up of speakers, talking on a range of topics relevant to IDBs' management of the lowland freshwater environment covering everything from eels to carbon accounting, invasive species to local nature recovery strategies. The day included a workshop session on the recently published Environmental Good Governance Guide for IDBs, providing training support to members on how to use this reference guide to help IDBs stay compliant across their statutory environmental duties, utilise best practice approaches, and enhance their local lowland environment as part of their work managing and maintaining safe water levels and flood risk infrastructure.

Mr Wilkinson reported that it was an enjoyable day which was provided a lot of information which was put across very professionally. The Clerk & Engineer commented that ADA was very pleased with attendance.

Ref: A10-21 Beavers

It was reported that a sighting of a beaver in the River Stour alongside Conningbrook Lake in Ashford has been reported to the East Kent Beaver Advisory Group (EKBAG). As there have been

no reports of signs of beaver activity between Conningbrook and Canterbury, it is suspected that this is the result of another illegal release.

The Environment Agency (on behalf of the Beaver Trust) and Kent Wildlife Trust held a landowner/manager event on 12th January to promote a planned beaver survey of the lower Stour area. At this event, local landowners expressed ongoing concern about local activity and the impact it will have on their land and businesses over time. Further events will be arranged to help improve local liaison and support. The next meeting of the EKBAG is to be arranged for February/March.

Ms Dyas commented that concerns have been raised about the Eurasian beavers burrowing at reservoirs. Dr Price stated that this is a concern and the EA keep a regular check at Aldington and Hothfield Reservoirs and they are checked by an engineer twice a year. There is also a survey to be done but there are concerns that this may not be enough considering the speed at which beavers burrow.

The Technical Assistant and Engineering Assistant attended the Natural England accredited training course for use of the Board's Class Licence. This will give the Board greater flexibility if/when it becomes necessary to modify or remove beaver burrows, lodges and dams.

The Clerk & Engineer reported that Mr Ben Morris, Environment Agency Beaver Specialist, has agreed to attend the next meeting, on 8th June to provide an update on local beaver activity and their future management, and specifically how it might affect routine watercourse maintenance activities.

Ref: W7G Environment Agency Works

Dr D Price reported on the following EA activities:

Work delivered October to December 2022:

- Meica asset maintenance / repairs
- Annual weed cutting programme completed
- Pioneering work started, taking place across the catchment
- Desilting programme has been completed (on Wantsum, North Stream and Wingham)
- Cooper Street pumping station – snagging work following pump repair in summer 2022 now completed
- Brooksend Outfall – culvert extension was completed
- Worth Minnis pumping station – pump 2 refurbishment was completed and reinstalled
- Worth Minnis pumping station – sheet piling repairs has been largely completed with some snagging to be finished in coming weeks
- Moles Hole – structure repairs now completed
- Stour catchment webcam installation – cameras to monitor water levels and key structures have been installed at sites including Black Sluice and Stourmouth pumping stations, and key sites along the Nailbourne
- NSW groyne removal – removal of groynes adjacent to Coldharbour Lagoon completed
- Lower Stour bathymetry survey – second annual survey completed, awaiting results

2022-2023 Project updates

- Stourmouth pumping station – pumps 1-2 refurbished and pump 3 is being refurbished
- Ashford reservoirs – access improvements currently being carried out

- Brewery Sluice refurbishment – problems were encountered when starting these works, so they have been delayed awaiting reassessment. The outfall onto the Stour side is still going ahead due to start in March 2023
- Minster pumping station – new contractor has been appointed for the pump replacement, awaiting design, quotes and indicative timetable of works
- Boiling Spot – works planned for the autumn but it has been reported that beavers have burrowed under the steps down to the structure and this will add time, cost and constraints to this project.

Dr Price reported that confirmation of funding allocation for 2023-2024 is still awaited but some projects that are on the pipeline are the refurbishment of pump 1 at Hacklinge, undertake gear box repairs at Blacksluice and Sarre and access improvements into pumping stations and reservoirs.

Incident response

- Aldington FSR impounded between 17/11/22-19/11/22, 28/11/22-30/11/22, 13/12/22, 20/12/22, 24/12/22-25/12/22. Staff from the Stour Asset Performance and Operations Delivery teams inspected the embankment each day during impounding events
- Hothfield FSR did not impound in this period
- Stonar Cut was operated on six tides between 24-27/12/22.

Staff updates

Mr Richard Crisp has left the Stour & Swale Asset Performance team. We are currently recruiting to three positions.

Ref: W5 Planning Applications

Since the implementation of the Board's Policy requiring a Surface Water Development Contribution to be paid to the RSIDB for any new discharge of surface water (or treated foul effluent) into any watercourse within our district, we have made representations on planning applications to inform the LPA/applicant accordingly. If a development is outside of our Drainage District but still intends to discharge to the wider catchment of the Stour, Byelaw 3 still applies. To avoid repetition in this report, we have simply stated '*Byelaw 3 applies*' for any application where we have made a representation to the LPA with the following content (or similar):

“Under the RSIDB's Byelaw 3, there is a requirement for the payment of a Surface Water Development Contribution if the proposals result in any increase in the rate or volume of runoff being directed into our district from the development.

Our Byelaw 3 states: “3. Control of Introduction of Water and Increase in Flow or Volume of Water No person shall as a result of development (within the meaning of section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended (“the 1990 Act”)) (whether or not such development is authorised by the 1990 Act or any regulation or order whatsoever or none of them) for any purpose by means of any channel, siphon, pipeline or sluice or by any other means whatsoever introduce any water into any watercourse in the District so as to directly or indirectly increase the flow or volume of water in any watercourse in the District (without the previous consent of the Board).”

Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flow rate or volume resulting from the development into our District. We also note that the site is to be served by an upgraded private foul treatment plant with a permanent discharge to the fluvial network. As with the surface water discharge, our Consent will be required for any new

discharge and the rate/volume of flow should be assessed and provided in support of any application.

It is requested that any permissions issued make clear reference to the above, preferably by formal condition, to ensure that the correct procedure is followed and local flood risk is not exacerbated.”

Ashford Borough Council

PA/2022/2950

Land to the west of Sellindge Substation, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent TN25 6AF.

Erection of a synchronous condenser plant with ancillary infrastructure, access, landscaping and other incidental works.

This is a relatively minor application for works within the substation, which we anticipate having minimal impact if the surface water management scheme is implemented as designed.

“The proposed surface water discharge rate of 2l/s discharging into Pleasance Dyke (IDB15), whilst not of concern, will require the River Stour (Kent) IDB’s prior written Consent, in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and IDB Byelaws. This is the case for any works affecting any ordinary watercourse within the IDB District, including access to them. Further information on Consent requirements and associated charges and fees can be found on our website. It is requested that any permissions issued make clear reference to this, preferably by formal condition, to ensure that the correct procedure is followed and local flood risk is not exacerbated. The details of the proposed on-site SuDS must be agreed with KCC’s Flood & Water Management Team, including details of exceedance arrangements (if surface water inflow/volume exceeds the design capacity of the system). “

PA/2022/2772

Land south of Asda, Kimberley Way, Ashford.

Application for outline planning permission for up to 46,000 sqm of employment floorspace (Use Class E and B2) with all matters reserved except access (excluding internal circulation routes and links to pedestrian and cycle network) and change of use of land to parkland including flood storage area.

This outline application is for fairly substantial commercial/industrial premises on a greenfield site in the floodplain south of Asda. We would hope to be engaged by the developer’s consultants as the plans progress and have no significant concerns at the moment.

“With regard to the above-referenced Planning Application, the River Stour Internal Drainage Board (RSIDB) has **no objection** to the development proposed but would request that the following comments are registered:

This site sits entirely within the RSIDB’s Drainage District; this proposal therefore has a potential to affect our interests, in particular drainage and downstream flood risk. The applicant should be reminded that the IDB’s prior written consent will be required for any works which will affect any non-main river ditch or watercourse on this site, in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the RSIDB’s own Byelaws.

We have reviewed the submitted FRA/Drainage Strategy and are generally satisfied with the level of detail provided for an outline application. However, the Environment Agency/LLFA should be consulted on the wider implications for flood-plain storage and loss of habitat and we would wish

to see clarification/confirmation from the EA as to whether using an area within FZ3 for surface water storage is in accordance with their guidance, given that this area would be potentially flooded during a prolonged or extreme rainfall event when a functional drainage scheme would be important. If the attenuation basins or their embankments are to be raised above the predicted 100yr +cc flood event, the volume of floodplain lost should be accounted for within the compensatory storage strategy, and they should be sized to account for the period of time during which elevated river-levels will prevent free-flow from the outfalls.

Although the Surface Water Management Strategy is subject to further amendment at the detailed design stage, we would also draw your attention to the requirement for the payment of a Surface Water Development Contribution to the Board if the proposals result in any increase in the **rate** or **volume** of runoff being directed into our district from the development.”

Byelaw 3 applies.

PA/2022/2851

Land East of Ashford Road, Kingsnorth.

Outline application for up to 15 dwellings, a replacement Medical Centre and Pharmacy, together with all necessary infrastructure to consider access.

This outline application is for a residential development in Kingsnorth, with a surface water management scheme that discharges to a boundary ditch that will form part of the wider fluvial network of the Stour. We hope to be contacted by the applicant as plans progress to a detailed design.

“Although this site lies outside of our IDB Drainage District, the surface water strategy submitted with this application states that the surface water from this development will not be able to be disposed of via infiltration or directed to a surface water sewer; it further states that it will be discharged ultimately to an existing boundary ditch via an attenuation scheme. Given the site’s location, it is likely that any watercourse on this site will form part of the wider drainage network that discharges to our District. We would therefore request that a Condition is attached to any permission granted to ensure that a *detailed* drainage strategy is submitted and that any such strategy establishes the off-site implications for the proposed discharge to the boundary ditch. It must be ensured that this feature forms part of a contiguous network and is not a ‘blind’ feature with no onward connectivity.

If it can be demonstrated that water can be effectively conveyed from the point of discharge to a wider receiving network, the applicant will need Land Drainage Consent from Kent County Council for any works that has the potential to affect flow in any ditch or watercourse on the site, and we would look to work with them and your Authority to apply our Byelaw 3, specifically with regard to seeking a Surface Water Development Contribution for any increase in **rates/volumes** of discharge that may be directed into our District.”

Byelaw 3 applies.

15/00856/AS

Land at Pound Lane, Magpie Hall Road, Bond Lane and, Ashford Road, Kingsnorth, Kent.

Outline application for a development comprising of up to 550 dwellings in a mix of size, type and tenure. Provision of local recycling facilities. Provision of areas of formal and informal open space. Installation of utilities infrastructure to serve the development.

This is another outline application for a residential development in Kingsnorth, with a surface water management scheme that discharges to an unidentified ditch that will form part of the wider fluvial network of the Stour. We hope to be contacted by the applicant as plans progress to a detailed design.

“Although this site lies predominantly outside of our IDB’s Drainage District, the surface water strategy states that the majority of the surface water from this development will not be able to be disposed of via infiltration or directed to a surface water sewer; it further states that it will be discharged to “ordinary watercourses” and ditches. Although we haven’t been formally consulted on this application, we would wish to register the following comments:

Given the site’s location, any surface water discharged into an existing ditch will drain into the wider drainage network that discharges to our District. We would therefore recommend that the applicant demonstrates that the proposed point of discharge does indeed outfall into a wider, contiguous drainage system (rather than to a blind ditch that may exacerbate the local flood risk), and would suggest that a Condition is attached to any permission granted to this end. We would then wish to be contacted by the applicant to discuss our requirements and would recommend we are consulted on the subsequent discharge of any drainage related Condition.”

Byelaw 3 applies.

21/01595/AS

Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Kent.

Reserved matters application to consider access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission 18/00098/AS (Hybrid planning application for mixed-use development comprising (1) Application for full planning permission for the construction and operation of a 600-space truck stop; a 2,162 sqm GIA service building providing 1,734 sqm GIA of ancillary truck stop service facilities and 878 sqm GIA of B1 offices.

This is an application we have previously commented on. We have reiterated our previous concerns in response to a new planning submission.

“As previously stated (please see our comments from Dec 21), this site sits largely within the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board’s (RSIDB) Drainage District; this proposal therefore has a potential to affect our interests, in particular drainage and downstream flood risk. The applicant should be reminded that the IDB’s prior written consent will be required for any works which will affect any ditch or watercourse on this site, in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the RSIDB’s own Byelaws”

Byelaw 3 applies.

Canterbury City Council

CA/21/00829,CA/20/02627,CA/22/02249,CA/22/02301 (all related to OUT/ 17/00519/OUT).

Land at and adjacent to Cockerling Farm, Thanington Without.

Application for the approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for up to 750 residential units, 4,000 m2 of business use, 1,000 m2 of retail/service uses, 5,000 m2 of residential institutions, including hospice and nursing home, 2,000 m2 of community and leisure uses; primary school; extended westbound slip road on the A2, accesses to Cockerling Road; internal roads, footpaths and cycle route.

This is a major residential/mixed-use development to the south of the River Stour near Thanington. Although the site sits outside of our Drainage District, the nature and scale of the development proposed could have implications for downstream drainage and flood-risk if not properly designed. There is an element of the surface water drainage that will not be able to be dealt with via infiltration, and it is the intent to discharge this into our District via a newly-requisitioned sewer connection to the Stour.

“With regard to the above-referenced planning applications, the River Stour Internal Drainage Board (RSIDB) has **no objection** to the development proposed but would request that the following comments are registered (although we appear to have not been formally consulted):

Whilst this site sits predominantly outside of the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board’s (RSIDB) Drainage District, much of the surface water from the newly created impermeable areas will be directed to our District via a SuDS scheme with an outfall to the Stour; this proposal therefore has a potential to affect our interests, in particular drainage and downstream flood risk. We have reviewed the submitted FRA/Drainage Strategy and are generally satisfied with the level of detail provided. As one of the applications seeks to discharge the Drainage related Conditions, we would anticipate that the Surface Water Management Strategy is unlikely to be subject to further amendment; we would therefore request that that the applicant is made aware of the requirement for the payment of a Surface Water Development Contribution to the Board if the development results in any increase in the **rate** or **volume** of runoff being directed into our district.”

Byelaw 3 applies.

CA/22/02657

**Milton Manor, Milton Manor Road, Thanington Without, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 7PH.
EIA screening opinion request in relation to Regulation 6 of the EIA Regulations for the proposed development of up to 100 dwellings including associated access, parking, open space and landscaping at Milton Manor House.**

This is a consultation on whether a forthcoming application is likely to have to be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). We have no requirement for an EIA provided the drainage and flood risk is assessed separately.

“We note that Flood Risk and Drainage will be considered by separate, standalone documents irrespective of the need for an EIA. We would appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on these as they become available and would strongly recommend that the applicant or their consultants consult us at their earliest convenience to discuss our Board’s requirements.”

Byelaw 3 applies.

Dover District Council

22/01497

**Land at 52 New Street, Ash, CT3 2BN.
Outline application for the erection of up to 53No dwellings.**

This is a residential development outside of our area, where the applicant is intending to dispose of their surface water via a watercourse that leads north and into our Drainage District.

“Although we (the River Stour IDB) have not been directly consulted on this application, the development proposed has the potential to affect our interests, particularly with regard to downstream drainage and flood risk. Whilst this site lies outside of our IDB Drainage District, the surface water strategy submitted with this application states that the surface water from this development will not be able to be disposed of via infiltration; it further states that it will be discharged ultimately to a watercourse (the ‘Sandwich Brook’) on the north side of Sandwich Road. This watercourse forms part of a drainage network that discharges directly into our Drainage District.

We would therefore request that a Condition is attached to any permission granted to ensure that a *detailed* drainage strategy is submitted and that any such strategy establishes the off-site implications for the proposed discharge to the ‘Sandwich Brook’. It must be ensured that this feature forms part of a contiguous network and is not a ‘blind’ feature with no onward connectivity.”

Byelaw 3 applies.

22/01522

Land at Preston Garden Centre, The Street, Preston CT3 1ED.

Erection of 10no. detached dwellings, garages and car barns, new footpaths, alterations to existing Mill Lane vehicle access and associated landscaping.

This application lies outside of our Drainage District and has not been accompanied by any information to detail how its surface water will be managed. In the absence of such detail, we have raised an **objection** pending submission of a drainage strategy.

“Although we have not been formally consulted on this application, the nature, location and scale of this development are of potential concern to the River Stour (Kent) IDB, particularly with respect to downstream drainage and flood risk. Whilst site itself lies outside of our Drainage District, the application has not been accompanied by a Drainage Strategy, so the off-site drainage impacts have not been identified or quantified. As it is likely that the development will most likely have to integrate a SuDS scheme with a discharge point that will most likely reach our District via the wider watercourse network draining to the Stour, we would like to register an objection to the application pending submission of a detailed Surface Water Management Strategy. Any such strategy should quantify the rate/volume of off-site discharge and identify the pathways to any watercourse or network that will be expected to accommodate the increased flows.”

Byelaw 3 applies.

22/01379

Site at Betteshanger Sustainable Parks, Betteshanger Road, Betteshanger, CT14 0EN.

Reserved Matters application for the details landscaping, layout, scale and appearance for the residential phase of approved outline permission DOV/20/00419 (Outline application with all matters reserved for up to 210 dwellings including up to 12 self-build plots, together with up to 2,500 sqm of office space.

We have been approached by the applicant’s consultants to discuss our requirements pertaining to Land Drainage Consent and the SWDC. We are awaiting further information but are reasonably content with the outline proposals explained to us in a meeting.

“Whilst this site sits predominantly outside of the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board’s (RSIDB) Drainage District, all of the surface water from the newly created impermeable areas will be directed to our District via a SuDS scheme with an outfall that ultimately directs their runoff to the Stour; this proposal therefore has a potential to affect our interests, in particular drainage and downstream flood risk.

We have been contacted by the developer’s flood risk consultant and have discussed their drainage proposals with them. We are generally satisfied with the level of detail provided and we would anticipate that the Surface Water Management Strategy is unlikely to be subject to further amendment. However, we would appreciate it if we are consulted on any subsequent submissions. It is important that the onward connection from the attenuation ponds is established to ensure they form part of a wider contiguous network.

We would appreciate it if an informative can be added to any permission granted to remind the applicant (or any future owners of the plot) that the RSIDB’s Land Drainage Consent will be required for any new outfall to our district, and/or any additional rate/volume of water being discharged to our Drainage District (a payment of a Surface Water Development Contribution will be required if the development results in any increase in the **rate** or **volume** of runoff being discharged).”

Byelaw 3 applies.

22/01152

Betteshanger Country Park, Sandwich Road, Sholden, CT14 0BF.

Erection of a 120 bed hotel (C1) building with associated spa facilities, gym, restaurant/bar, access, landscaping and parking.

We have attended a meeting with the applicant’s consultants and Kent’s SUDS team to discuss our requirements related to this development and the associated ‘surf park’. Provided we are involved as the scheme progresses, we have no significant concerns.

“With regard to the above-referenced Planning Application, the River Stour Internal Drainage Board (RSIDB) has no objection to the development proposed but would request that the following comments are registered: This site sits entirely within the RSIDB’s Drainage District; this proposal therefore has a potential to affect our interests, in particular drainage and downstream flood risk. The applicant should be reminded that the IDB’s prior written consent will be required for any works which will affect any non-main river ditch or watercourse on this site, in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the RSIDB’s own Byelaws. We have reviewed the submitted FRA/Drainage Strategy and are generally satisfied with the level of detail provided and the reference made to the pre-application discussions we have held with the applicant’s flood risk consultants. All efforts should be made to restrict the rate of runoff from the site and to use a non-pumped system where possible. We would appreciate the opportunity to review any future drainage related submissions.”

Byelaw 3 applies.

Folkestone and Hythe District Council

22/1290/FH

Land Adjoining The Dragonfly, (Former Piggery), Main Road, Sellindge.

Development for the erection of 26 houses, 24 flats and doctors' surgery.

This is a residential development that lies on a parcel of land outside of our district. We have informed the LPA that the applicant intends to discharge their surface water into a feature which most-likely outfalls into a watercourse that leads to our District.

“Whilst we appear to have not been consulted on the above-referenced Planning Application, the River Stour Internal Drainage Board (RSIDB) would request that the following comments are registered:

Although this site lies outside of our IDB Drainage District, the FRA & surface water strategy submitted with this application states that the surface water from this development will not be able to be disposed of via infiltration or directed to a surface water sewer; it further states that it will be discharged ultimately to ponds to the north of the site via an attenuation scheme. Given the site's location, it is likely that these ponds will form part of the wider drainage network that discharges to our District via the Horton Priory Dyke (IDB17). We would therefore request that a Condition is attached to any permission granted to ensure that a detailed drainage strategy is submitted and that any such strategy establishes the off-site implications for the proposed discharge to these ponds. It must be ensured that these features form part of a contiguous network because the flood risk to the area could be exacerbated if they have no point of outfall.”

Byelaw 3 applies.

**Y19/0257/FH
Otterpool Development.**

We have had a telephone consultation with the applicant's flood risk consultants to discuss the comments we have previously made on this development. We are pleased to note that ongoing liaison with the RSIDB is now reflected in the latest planning submission and that we will be contacted again as plans progress.

With regard to the latest submissions related to drainage and flood risk at the above-referenced site, we note that the developer's consultant has stated that they have made-contact with the RSIDB to discuss the discharge of surface water and treated effluent to our Drainage District. I can confirm that we have had preliminary discussions, and we would welcome the opportunity to be formally consulted on any future drainage or flood-risk related matters.

**22/0742/FH/CON
Land rear of Rhodes House, Main Road, Sellindge.
Up to 162 houses including affordable, self-build and retirement housing, up to 929 square metres Class B1 Business floorspace.**

Kent County Council have renewed their objection to this application on drainage and flood risk grounds. We have taken the opportunity to remind the LPA that we have yet to be engaged with regard to the impact on the wider drainage network.

“We note that there has been a recent drainage submission that has caused sufficient concern for KCC (as LLFA) to raise an objection to the discharge of conditions. As previously mentioned, although we (the River Stour IDB) have not been directly consulted on this application, the development proposed has the potential to affect our interests, particularly with regard to downstream drainage and flood risk.”

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC)

21/504779/REM

Land north of Old Ashford Road, Lenham ME17 2QT.

Approval of Reserved Matters with Appearance and Scale being sought for 102no. residential dwellings pursuant to 17/500357/HYBRID.

This is a residential development at the very top-end of the Stour catchment. Although there is limited information available that relates to drainage, we have requested that the following concerns are noted:

“Although this site lies outside of our IDB Drainage District, the surface water discharged from the site appears to flow towards and into our district. The applicant will need Land Drainage Consent from Kent County Council for any works that has the potential to affect flow in any ditch or watercourse on or bordering the site, and we would look to work with them and your Authority to apply our Byelaw 3, specifically with regard to seeking a Surface Water Development Contribution for any increase in rates/volumes of discharge that may be directed into our District.”

Byelaw 3 applies.

Thanet District Council (TDC)

We have received no new planning consultations from TDC, other than for minor development that is either outside of our area, or where there are no foreseeable consequences as far as our land drainage and flood risk management interests are concerned.

Ref: W15 Applications for Consent

22 ST 14

Location: Blue Pigeons Farm, Sandwich Bay to Deal Marshes.

Proposal: Amendments to the previously consented scheme (22 ST 10) to replace the approved 600mm culverts with pipe-sluices.

This is an application to amend a previously granted Consent so that control structures can be installed in OWCs on-site instead of culverts to enable water to be retained in the wetland habitat, which has now been approved in consultation with local members.

22 ST 15

Location: Fougères Way, Ashford.

Proposal: Surface Water Discharge application for extension to retail park.

This was an application for Consent for the discharge of surface water to our District under Byelaw 3. Although the site is outside of the District, we were approached by the developer owing to the intent to discharge surface water towards our District. We issued a ‘notice of intent’ to grant Consent, but the applicant failed to return their signed acceptance of the SWDC Condition within the 28 days permitted. This application will have to be resubmitted; the applicant’s consultant is aware, but the wider scheme has stalled for the time-being. Consent will be reapplied for at the appropriate time.

22 ST 16

Location: Sandwich Leisure Park, Woodnesbrough Road, Sandwich, Kent; IDBs 170 & 191

Proposal:

- 2 x clear span crossings (retrospective)
- 1 x 600mm culvert (retrospective)
- 1 x access road within 8m of a watercourse (retrospective)
- 1 x fencing/gates within 8m of a watercourse (retrospective)

This was a retrospective application for Consent for numerous works and activities that have been of concern to the Board for some time. With the detail provided and Conditions imposed, we are now satisfied that the risks from these activities are not sufficiently significant to pursue any further action. We have reminded the landowner that any further works will require Consent, and that they must undertake remedial works, if instructed, if it appears that any of the works Consented are causing a nuisance.

ADMINISTRATION

Ref: A3-6 Health & Safety – Training

It was reported that the following staff training is planned for this year: Emergency First Aid at Work, Water Safety and Off-road driver training. The availability and relevance of formal Enforcement and Hostile Site training is also to be explored.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Cllr Smith reminisced that 56 years ago in 1967 as a newly qualified accountant he was appointed to a position on Ashford District Council sorting out the rating which in those days was collected by the council for each individual household rather than being amalgamated within the council tax – his job being to balance the drainage boards accounts – and he also contributed to setting up the precept system in 1974.
- Cllr Conolly asked if the Board was consulted on the Canterbury and Dover Local Plans. The Clerk & Engineer replied that unfortunately we are not always consulted but he will check.
- Cllr Jull stated that there is an impending election before the next meeting so he is hoping that he will be re-elected and able to continue as a Board Member
- Mr Holdstock asked how the IDB bills Local Authorities post a new development. The Finance & Rating Officer stated that the land is transferred from Rating to non-agricultural and therefore incorporated into the Special Levies.

MEETING CLOSED

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.