



8 January 2017

By e-mail
Members
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea



Our ref: BB 970628



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Thames Water, c/o Mott MacDonald,
Sovereign House, Reading, Berkshire
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Update on Counters Creek Sewer Flooding Alleviation Scheme

Dear Councillor

I am writing to update you on Thames Water's ongoing work regarding the Counters Creek Sewer Flooding Alleviation Scheme which aims to protect properties in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

I fully appreciate that some time has passed since our previous update. However, we have been far from idle. We have worked intensively throughout the past year undertaking a full review of our proposals using advanced investigative and network modelling methods to capture the most up-to-date flooding information.

What we have done to date

In our previous communications we explained that we were planning to deliver the required level of protection through a package of measures. These included;

- fitting a large number of FLIP (note 1) devices to protect individual properties;
- installing three Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) schemes as pilot projects in three streets in partnership with both local authorities;
- building a large strategic sewer to increase capacity in our sewer network.

Over 1,300 FLIP devices have now been installed and the SuDS work is complete.

During 2017 we undertook a detailed review of the requirement for the strategic sewer and have concluded that it is not, at present, required in order to provide the necessary level of protection. I realise that this may be a surprise in view of our earlier work, which included preparing a planning application, and want to explain the reason for the change.

Our review has looked carefully at flood protection provided by the FLIP devices we have installed; at new modelling of flows in our complex local network of sewers following heavy rainfall; and at the potential impacts of further development in the catchment. In particular, we examined the sewer performance during the severe storms in June 2016, including information from additional monitors fitted to the network since the July 2007 storm. On the basis of the flooding caused by the 2007 storm we would have expected to see widespread flooding in June 2016, but this did not happen. This strongly suggests that the FLIP devices, combined with our rigorous programme of sewer cleaning to maintain availability of full capacity, have been more successful than anticipated.

In the circumstances, we intend to continue with our programme of fitting FLIP devices to vulnerable properties but will not progress the strategic sewer in the near future. We have,

however, worked closely with the Tideway project to ensure that there is sufficient room at their Cremorne Wharf site for the construction of a strategic sewer if this is required in the future, after their work at this location is complete.

What we are doing now

We have already carried out surveys for FLIP devices at additional properties and these will be installed from January 2018. A second phase of installations will follow from April 2018 and further installations will be added sequentially as our plans progress. We will work closely with both local authorities as these installations take place.

We will also continue to monitor the data from three SuDS pilots, developed in partnership with the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea at Mendora Road, Melina Road and Arundel Gardens. The data from these pilots is being gathered and monitored, with assistance from Imperial College, and will be used to inform our plans.

We remain committed to protecting properties which are at risk of flooding in the area and to ensuring that we have a resilient network for the future. We will continue to investigate what future resilience is required for the local sewer network, taking into account population growth, development, urban creep and climate change.

How we are keeping residents informed

We will be holding two public meetings where senior Thames Water representatives will outline the new proposals and answer any questions. These will take place on:

Monday 22nd January 2018: Small Hall, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, W6 9JU (7pm-9pm) and **Monday 29th January 2018** in the Council Chamber, Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street W8 7NX (7pm-9pm).

We will be writing to residents to advise them of the changes to our proposals and holding the following drop-ins before finalising our plans. These will all take place in February 2018

Saturday 3rd February: Chelsea Academy, Lots Road, London SW10 0AB 11am-3pm

Monday 5th February: Masbro Centre, 87 Masbro Road, London W14 0LR 6pm-8pm

Wednesday 7th February: Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, 89 Addison Road, London W114 8BZ 6pm-9pm

Tuesday 13th February: Chelsea Academy, Lots Road, London SW10 0AB 6pm-8pm

Thursday 15th February: St Mary's Abbot Centre, Vicarage Gate, London W8 4HN 6.30pm-8.30pm

Saturday 17th February: Masbro Centre, 87 Masbro Road, London W14 0LR 11am-3pm

Monday 19th February: Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, 89 Addison Road, London W114 8BZ 6pm-9pm

Wednesday 21st February: St Mary's Abbot Centre, Vicarage Gate, London W8 4HN 6.30pm-8.30pm

Tuesday 27th February: Masbro Centre, 87 Masbro Road, London W14 0LR 6pm-8pm

Wednesday 28th February: Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, 89 Addison Road, London W114 8BZ 6pm-9pm

If you would like to meet separately to discuss our plans in more detail please contact Hilary Murgatroyd, Counters Creek Communications and Stakeholder Manager by emailing hilary.murgatroyd@thameswater.co.uk or on 07747 644044. Further information is also available on our website www.thameswater.co.uk/counterscreek

Yours sincerely



Martin Hoff, Counters Creek Project Director, Thames Water

Note 1. A FLIP (Flooding Local Improvement Project) is a small, self-contained pumping unit which can be installed at properties. It is designed to transfer sewage and rainwater from the property's private drains to the main sewer even during heavy rain. The device also includes a non-return valve to prevent backflow from the sewer from entering the property.

