

## Manhood Peninsula Action Group

*Campaigning to protect the  
Manhood Peninsula from over  
development*

Website: [www.manhoodpag.co.uk](http://www.manhoodpag.co.uk)

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### **Minutes - MPAG Committee Meeting held on 10 May 2021 at 18.30 by Zoom**

1. Apologies for Absence: None
2. Present: Joan Foster, David Betts, David Maclean, Julie Sabin, Keith Martin, Louise Goldsmith, Paul Bedford, Rachel Glover
3. Minutes of Last Meeting: Unanimously approved as a correct record
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:
  - a. Document from Jill Sutcliffe on how to object with links to the National Planning Policy Framework had been circulated and was noted
  - b. Steve Debege's document of objections from West Wittering had been circulated and was noted
  - c. The need for a map identifying Waste Water Treatment Works with details of numbers of tankers was agreed.  
**Action: David Maclean and Paul Bedford to prepare a letter to Southern Water asking for the information about lorry activity and tanker movements.**

#### 5. Parish Champions:

Discussion took place around identifying Parish Champions, recognising the potential for a conflict of interest for Parish Councillors as their membership of MPAG could be viewed as pre-determining their decisions on planning applications. It was noted that Elizabeth Hamilton had emailed Birdham Parish Councillors to warn them to be careful about MPAG and anyone representing Birdham on planning should distance themselves from MPAG. Parish Councillors have to declare any interest when discussing Planning Applications. **Action: Further discussion at next meeting.**

#### 6. Community Bank Account:

Joan Foster reported that the online application to RBS to open a Community Bank Account had been rejected, with no explanation as to why. She had contacted Barclays, who had said that a Community Bank Account could only be opened after a meeting with a Business Manager but no meetings are available at present. Joan had

researched a fiscal hosting option - Accountable, which seemed a way forward, but we needed to check it out as safe.

**Action: JF to contact Oxford Mutual Aid, who supported the Accountable fiscal hosting site for a reference**

7. Funding offer for research project:

Joan Foster and Rachel Glover reported on a proposal from an anonymous donor to match fund an academic research project into why the Manhood Peninsula is so important and should be protected. This was viewed very positively by the committee members.

**Action: Joan Foster to report back to the donor and see if there had been progress in identifying a university and the possible costs.**

8. East Wittering, Bracklesham and Earnley Campaigns organised by Melissa Smith:

Joan Foster had been contacted by Melissa Smith asking for support in their local campaign to stop the planned housing development. It was agreed that MPAG should keep in contact and support but not lead the campaign. Melissa Smith plans to organise a march in East Wittering on 22 May and set up a parliamentary petition. They had had leaflets printed and been distributing them locally.

**Action: Joan Foster to inform Melissa Smith of MPAG's position** (email sent 12 May 2021 attached)

9. Any Other Business:

- a. The response to the petition on the release of sewage into rivers and harbours was discussed. A copy of the Government response is attached to these minutes.

**Action: Louise Goldsmith to research the All Parliamentary Group re sewage/water treatment**

- b. It was agreed to defer agenda items 6. Poster Campaign and 7. Plan for Action to the next meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 17 May at 18.30 via Zoom

Proposed:

Seconded:

Chair:

Email to Melissa Smith – 12 May 2021  
Hi Melissa

I'm so sorry, just realised I can't make this afternoon after all - so used to not having things in my diary - I didn't transfer something in.

We talked about your campaign on Monday night at our MPAG committee meeting. We are very happy to support you. Once you have the details of your march on 22 May, I will send them out to the MPAG mailing list and encourage people to join you.

Whilst you must focus on your specific concerns, if you would like to add the MPAG website to your material as a voice for the whole Manhood Peninsula it would be great. I have added Carey's website link to the front page of our website. Look forward to seeing your re-worded petition.

Apologies again and kind regards  
Joan

Joan Foster  
Chair Manhood Peninsula Action Group  
[www.manhoodpag.co.uk](http://www.manhoodpag.co.uk)  
07811 162125

From: [no-reply@petition.parliament.uk](mailto:no-reply@petition.parliament.uk) – 7 May 2021

The Government has responded to the petition you signed – “[Ban Water Companies discharging raw sewage into water courses.](#)”.

Government responded:

Tackling the harm caused by sewage is a top priority for Government. That is why we have established the Storm Overflows Taskforce and have announced plans for legislation to address this problem.

All discharges to the water environment, including from storm overflows, require a permit issued by the Environment Agency under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. The permits contain the necessary conditions to regulate the discharge and protect the environment. Compliance with permits is assessed by the Environment Agency. Any non-compliance is reported and will be subject to appropriate action under the Environment Agency’s enforcement and sanctions guidance. The Environment Agency will continue to prosecute water companies which fail to uphold the law or cause serious environmental harm.

Storm overflows were designed to be used during extreme weather to prevent sewers becoming overloaded with a combination of sewage and rainwater, releasing diluted wastewater into rivers rather than letting it back up into people’s homes. Climate change has led to increased rainfall and water infrastructure has not kept pace with development growth over decades. Storm overflows are a last resort in modern sewer design, but the age of our sewerage systems means their complete elimination is not practicable or affordable.

We recognise that there is more to do with regards to the management of sewage pollution. Rebecca Pow MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defra, has met water company CEOs and made clear that the volume of sewage discharged into rivers and other waterways in extreme weather must be reduced. To achieve this, Defra has established the Storm Overflows Taskforce, bringing together representatives from Government, the water industry, regulators and environmental non-governmental organisations to set out clear proposals to accelerate progress in tackling this issue.

This Taskforce has agreed a long-term goal to eliminate harm from storm overflows and has taken steps to improve monitoring and transparency. Eliminating harm from storm overflows is a generational endeavour that will involve significant change and it will take time to achieve, but the Government is determined to accelerate efforts towards this goal. The Taskforce is now working on plans to start making progress towards this goal and has commissioned research to gather evidence on the costs, benefits and feasibility of different options.

On 29 March, the Government also announced new measures would be put into law to reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows. Three key duties will be made law:

- A duty on Government to publish a plan by September 2022 to reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows and to reduce their impact;
- A duty on Government to report to Parliament on progress on implementing the plan;
- A duty on water companies and the Environment Agency to publish data on storm overflow operation on an annual basis.

You can read more about this announcement at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/measures-to-reduce-harm-from-storm-overflows-to-be-made-law>

These legally-binding obligations on water companies and the Government will reduce pollution in rivers and will therefore protect wildlife and public health.

Alongside these new duties, water companies have agreed to make available real-time data on sewage discharges from storm overflows at designated bathing waters all year round from this year. This data will be made available to help surfers, swimmers and other recreational water users to check the latest information and make informed choices on where to swim.

In addition to these new measures, water companies are already committed to an existing £1.1 billion programme of action in the current five-year business planning period (2020 to 2025) to improve the monitoring and management of storm overflows. This includes the installation of monitoring devices on the vast majority of storm overflows, 800 investigations and 798 improvement schemes to storm overflows.

Water companies have also committed to accelerate work to install monitoring devices to create a complete picture of the impact of storm overflows by 2023. This will help us to understand the impacts of storm overflows at all sites and to target improvements to where they are needed.

Finally, water companies are currently producing comprehensive Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans to assess the capacity of and risks to their wastewater networks over a 25-year planning horizon. We are also taking steps through the Environment Bill to place these Plans on a statutory basis. They will be another tool to help address the risks that storm overflows pose to the environment.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Click this link to view the response online:

[https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/582336?reveal\\_response=yes](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/582336?reveal_response=yes)

The Petitions Committee will take a look at this petition and its response. They can press the government for action and gather evidence. If this petition reaches 100,000 signatures, the Committee will consider it for a debate.

The Committee is made up of 11 MPs, from political parties in government and in opposition. It is entirely independent of the Government. Find out more about the Committee: <https://petition.parliament.uk/help#petitions-committee>

Thanks,  
The Petitions team  
UK Government and Parliament

You're receiving this email because you signed this petition: "Ban Water Companies discharging raw sewage into water courses."

To unsubscribe from getting emails about this petition: <https://petition.parliament.uk/signatures/110340844/unsubscribe?token=rIXbApcHNogZ0-Flp2bG>