

RAYNES PARK COMMUNITY FORUM
16 SEPTEMBER 2021

(7.15 pm - 9.00 pm)

PRESENT Councillors David Dean (in the Chair),

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held via Zoom, and chaired by Councillor David Dean with Chris Edge from the Raynes Park Association (RPA). 30 residents and six councillors attended on Zoom with 115 additional views on YouTube. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would work.

2 POLICE UPDATE (Agenda Item 2)

Sgt Marcia Heritage and PC Doug Walter talked about the implications of the ward changes in 2022. The police will still look to align with local authority ward boundaries. The biggest change is the end of Dundonald ward as well as changes to most other wards. However, there will still be a Wimbledon town centre team and no change to the number of Safer Neighbourhood officers. Inspector Green has taken over operations in Merton from Inspector Whitehead and will be looking at what changes are needed to ward panels and chairs. Inspector Green will be in contact with panels to discuss details shortly. There will also need to be a changes to some police systems.

Cllr Crowe asked about the option of reorganising based more on local geography rather than wards. Sgt Heritage said it was made more sense to organise on local government wards and then coordinate across teams for town centres and on shared issues.

A resident asked about reports made on Nextdoor of burglars trying to get in to homes through the front door at night. PC Walter replied to say that most burglaries are in the daytime but there is the odd one at night. He has not seen any reports but happy to look at any. Lower number of burglaries in the area than usual recently. Burglary remains one of the SNT priorities including patrolling hotspots and offering prevention advice to residents. Residents can [report crimes online](#).

Cllr Omar Bush asked about theft of catalytic convertors prevalent in area. PC Walter said that garages can install prevention measures to help reduce thefts. Residents should not approach anyone they spot removing convertors from cars but please call 999.

3 RAILWAY, STATION, STREET MANAGEMENT & RP IMPROVEMENTS (Agenda Item 4)

Chris Larkman and Tony Edwards gave an update on local issues including a presentation on progress made at the south side of the skew arch. The presentation is included with this report. Hoardings and bins have been removed, the AstroTurf has been in place for three years and now a parklet has been added with seating and planting. In addition the tunnel has been painted with a view to a mural being added over October. Longer term options are still to be explored but the temporary measures are a significant improvement.

Chris said that the land on the south side of the station should at last be transferred to Merton Council. Chris thanked Paul McGarry at Merton Council and Cllr Crowe for the persistence in chasing Network Rail.

Workspace who own the Rainbow estate have responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions on the kiss and ride, and have promised to come up with plans for parking enforcement.

A resident asked what would happen to the parklet after 12 months. Cllr Dean asked residents if they would support it remaining and there was general agreement that attendees would like it to stay. There was less support for the other new parklet outside Lyme and Thyme as it took up two parking spaces.

Cllr Dean thanked Chris and Tony for all their hard work.

4 FLOODING (Agenda Item 3)

Dominic Collyer, Ashley Book and Nishad Sowky from Thames Water and Tom Sly from Merton Council gave a presentation on flooding issues in Raynes Park. The presentation accompanies this report. The heavy rain on 12 July had widespread impact across London including in Raynes Park. The actions taken so far in Raynes Park have included installing 4G sensors to track blocked drains, a CCTV survey of 3km of drains, high pressure jet cleaning, gully clearance, removal of tree roots, reconstructed sewers and upgrading pumps. More than 20 tonnes of silt has been removed.

Future plans include surveying a further 3km of drains and modelling the case for additional capital investment in the area as well as changes to pump flows. Merton Council has bid to Thames Water for eight rain gardens that help slow the flow of water. In Cottenham Park Road a section of sewer had collapsed so is being replaced with a larger capacity sewer.

Thames Water has replaced the PDF sewer flooding questionnaire with a new [online form](#) to make reporting easier. It is vital residents report flooding to Thames Water, not just Merton Council, as the level of reporting helps inform the evidence for investment decisions. This includes reporting retrospectively, after the event. Thames Water have also increased the capacity of the call centre and improved the system.

A resident asked if the Council has the resources to enforce sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) that were required as part of planning consent. Tom said this would be looked at by either Building Control, which may or may not be done by Merton Council, or through Planning Enforcement.

A resident asked about rain gardens and was told that there is a drive to install them as a greener solution to storing water and they involved replacing hard landscaping with soft landscaping. Thames Water has a budget for rain gardens and Merton is waiting to hear if it will receive funding and for how many sites. Sites are likely to upstream from problem areas to reduce the flow of water into priority sites.

A resident asked about the changes to the South London Waste Partnership contact which reduces the requirement on Veolia for gully clearance. Tom replied that Veolia is only one contractor for gully clearance and the contract with Conway has seen an overall increase in gully clearance, especially in high risk areas. Tom reminded residents to move their cars when gully clearing was scheduled.

A resident said the gully outside Lyme and Thyme has flooded and been reported. Tom explained that the positioning of the parklet was to allow access to the gully. A resident asked if planning requirements have been changed to allow for the climate emergency. Tom replied that requirements are reviewed annually to accommodate new needs.

A resident asked about the build-up of sediment in the sewer. Nishad said the sewers are cleaned either annually or every 6 months but are monitored and will be cleaned more frequently if needed. A residents asked about reports of insurance issues on the apostles. Tom explained that insurance companies use a wide range of sources to assess flood risk.

Councillor Dean thanked the officers for the presentation and asked that they return in the future to update the meeting.

5 MERTON COUNCIL LEADER UPDATE (Agenda Item 5)

Councillor Mark Allison, Leader of the Council, thanked the chair for the invitation and had been fascinated by the issues raised by residents. Mark has been a Cllr for 20 years, spent most of the time in more background roles. He was born locally in St Helier and grew up in St Helier area before moving to Mitcham. Mark said that

Merton is a great community but there are huge challenges. Mitcham is one of the more deprived areas and whilst huge progress has been made the COVID pandemic has undone some of that. Improving schools has been a vital element in improving life chances. As part of a mixed race family Mark said he is passionate about fairness, including appointing the most diverse cabinet in Merton's history. As Leader he plans to celebrate Merton's diversity.

Mark has been Leader since November so has only experienced the role during the COVID pandemic. Mark launched Merton Together to recognise how many in the community wanted to step up and help their neighbours and others. Mark thanked everyone in Raynes Park who got involved in responding to COVID. Merton Council has worked with the NHS and other partners to help keep people safe but of course many families have lost loved ones or had their circumstances changed. Supporting these households through this will need to be a priority.

The Your Merton engagement exercise was launched to listen to residents about what they value and what their ambitions are for the borough. We are still analysing the results but it is clear that residents value their community, their local open spaces, and were much more conscious of their local area, especially their local high streets. Mark said he is still in listening mode and wants to hear what people have to say. He knows that there are local issues that will need addressing and wants to work together, as we did during the pandemic, to tackle the challenges ahead. Mark said he was proud of Merton and Merton's community, and wants to build on residents' priorities.

The Chairman of the RPA asked about the distribution of Community Infrastructure Levy funding and said this not getting fairly distributed and not coming to Raynes Park. If Raynes Park projects are not a priority then let residents know so they do not waste time in bidding. Cllr Allison said that while he did not know about the details of those bids the criteria for CIL bids is clearly set out in advance so bids have to meet these. There will be areas of need in Raynes Park so would be happy to see bids submitted to help these.

Cllr Crowe asked about Merton Council setting a strategy for land supply as the lack of a strategy had been cited in the successful appeal for the Development of the Tesco site. Cllr Allison said that the Housing target set by government, and is difficult to meet. Building more homes relies on the Planning Applications Committee approving schemes to meet the target to avoid applications going to appeal. Planning rules on viability mean the 40% affordable housing target is often not met and there are also reduced subsidies for many schemes.

6 PLANNING UPDATE (Agenda Item 6)

Kris Witherington, Merton Council provided an update on behalf of the Development Control team.

- 2 Amity Grove – block of flats- resolution by Planning Committee to grant planning permission subject to the completion of a planning legal agreement. The legal agreement signed off and permission issued on 2 September.
- 80 Bushey Road - Pre Application Advice had been provided for a demolition of the existing building and a mixed use scheme. No further progress/communication with the Development Control Team. File recently closed on the grounds of “no further action
- Manuplastics – Kingston Road - Two appeals for extra units over and above approved scheme for 99 flats (118 units and the other for 124 floor) are still outstanding although communication with Planning Inspectorate seems to suggest that they are working through their backlog and that it will not be long before a decision is issued. Meanwhile various details to discharge planning conditions attached to the consented scheme are being submitted, assessed and discharged.
- Wyke Road - 20/P0945 – Development of a block of flats alongside the railway embankment. Final details of S106 planning agreement being ironed out between the applicant and the Council solicitors and planning permission is likely to be issued very soon
- Burlington Road Tesco site – 19/P2387 - The appeal was allowed (29/06/21) for the major housing (456 flats) and commercial (499 sq.m offices) development by the planning inspector following last year’s public inquiry. Officers understand that a new house builder, no longer Redrow Homes, is in the frame to implement the development but for the moment no steps have been taken to start discharging the conditions that will be necessary before building work can commence
- The former medical centre at 9 Amity Grove - 21/P1990 - erection of external alterations including timber cladding, new glazing, a replacement canopy, refuse, buggy storage and landscaping. Application determined on 10 September and planning permission granted.

Tony Edwards said that the appeal on the Tesco site development highlighted that Merton Council did not have a five year land supply. Merton needs to do that to prevent future successful appeals.

A resident said that private representations were no longer posted on the website for others to see, Merton Council said new software was needed to ensure redactions would take place, and they would like to know when this will happen.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 7)

Dundonald Church

Julian Plescia, Elder at the church gave an update on their building works. They were supposed to move into the new church in September but the building was flooded in July resulting in significant damage. The delay maybe up to four months and in the meantime they will continue to meeting a range of local venues. Residents can send any questions to building@dundonald.org

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 8)

Cllr Dean thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Future meetings:

All at 7.15pm in Raynes Park Library, subject to COVID-19 restrictions:

- Thursday 2 December 2021
- Tuesday 22 March 2022

Any issues or questions can be emailed to getinvolved@merton.gov.uk

The skew
arch with
hoardings,
waste bins,
unused cycle
stands



Local councillor,
residents and
Universal
flooring of
Raynes Park
laying the
artificial turf
obtained at no
cost from
Wimbledon
Tennis Club



Completed
skew arch
area prior
to seating
installation

Page 3



Current view in
September with
grass cubes
created by the
RPA and
supplemental
seats and
planters by
Merton



View of the
re-painted
tunnel with
graffiti
removed



The mural
as per the
preference
expressed
in
consultation

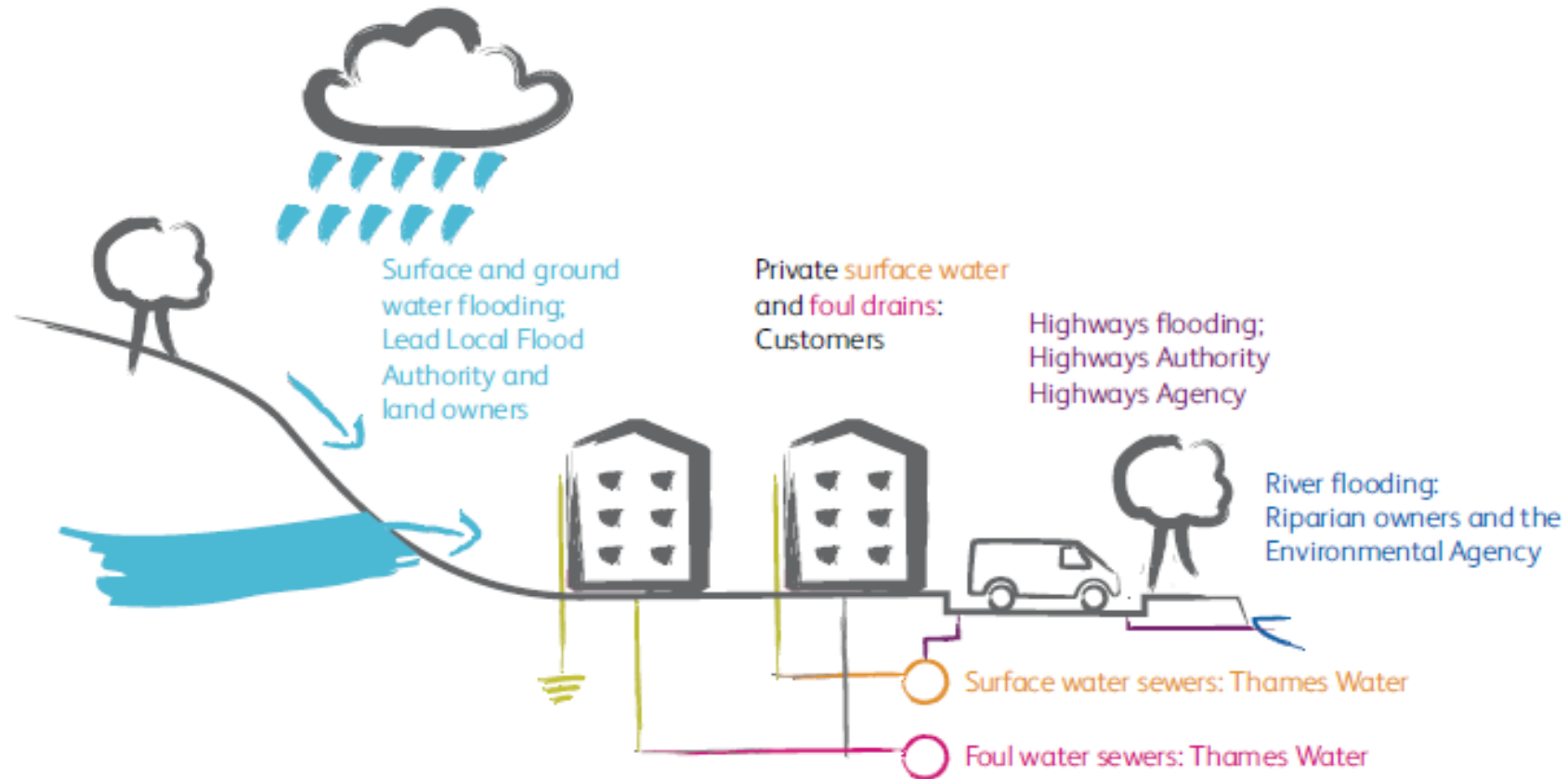




Raynes Park Forum

16th September

Responsibilities for Drainage



Managing flood risk: roles and responsibilities

- **Merton Council:**

- Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), dealing with flood risk investigations and flood alleviation schemes
- Statutory consultee on Major Planning Applications
- Highways Authority (such as dealing with blocked gullies) or surface water ponding on the highway

Thames Water:

- Responsible for flow that escapes from the sewers - both foul and surface water sewers.
- Maintaining and managing sewerage systems to reduce the risk of flooding and pollutions
- Providing information to other stakeholders on how sewerage company assets impact on local flood risk
- Ensure new development does not cause flooding or pollution by investing in the sewer network

Raynes Park

July 12th

- Due to the very localised nature of the rain, some areas saw a intense downpour. This storm event occurred across many London boroughs and flooding was widespread.
- Some areas saw over 1 months' worth of rainfall fell in under 2 hours of the event. In Merton, the western wards of Raynes Park, Lower Morden and West Barnes were worst affected.

Page 10

July 25th & 29th

- Lower intensity storms were recorded.
- No severe flooding reported at Raynes Park to Thames Water.

August 7th

- Lower intensity storm was recorded.
- No flooding reported flooding at Raynes Park to Thames Water.



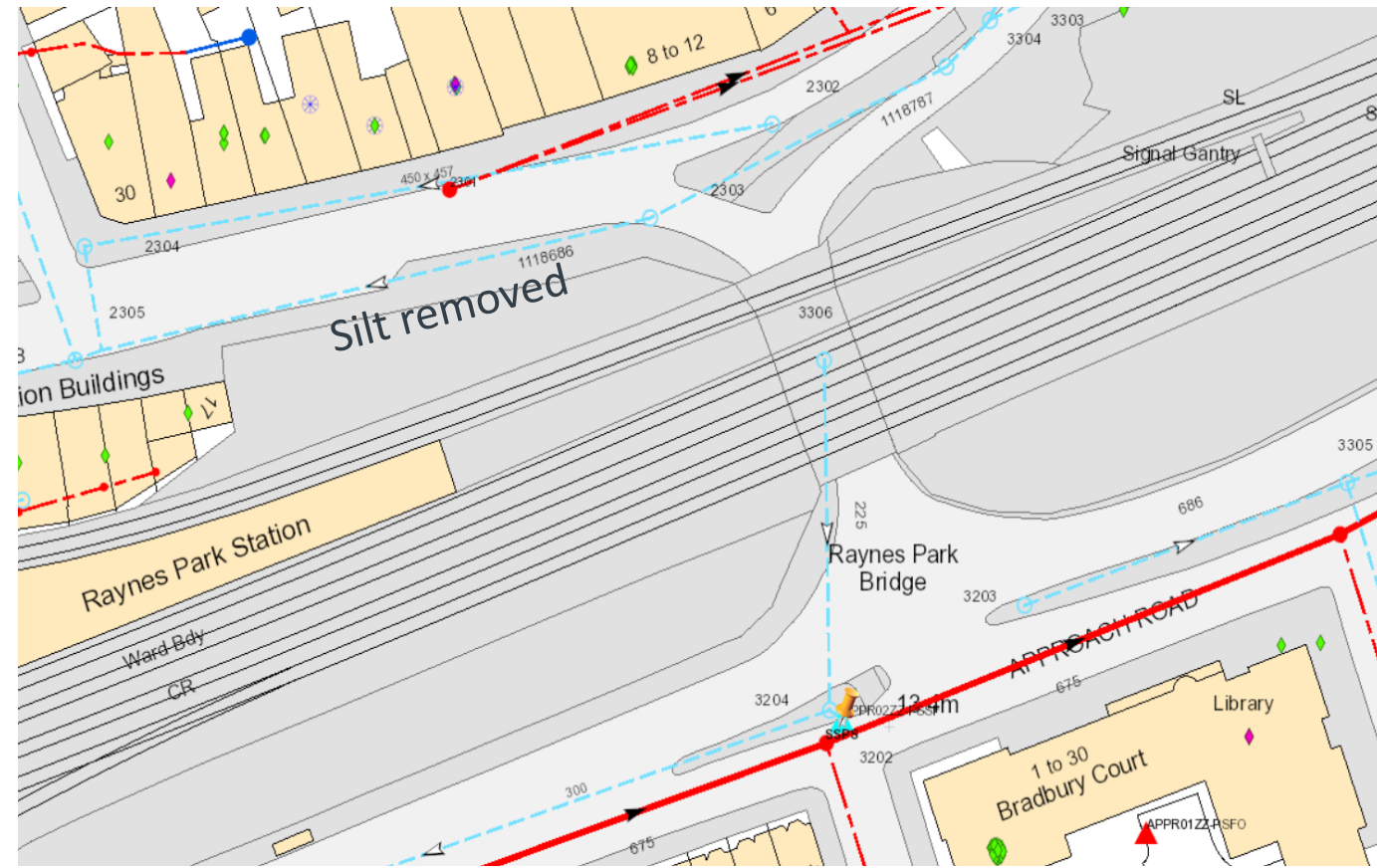
Collaborative working

- Installation of 4G Gully Sensors in Raynes Park town
- CCTV surveys of over 3km of drainage assets including highway drainage and sewers.
- High pressure jet cleaning of drainage connections
- Increased gully cleaning attendance
- Removed tree root ingress
- Reconstructed sewers where defective
- Upgraded TW Pumps

Raynes Park Town Centre

Raynes Park Town Centre

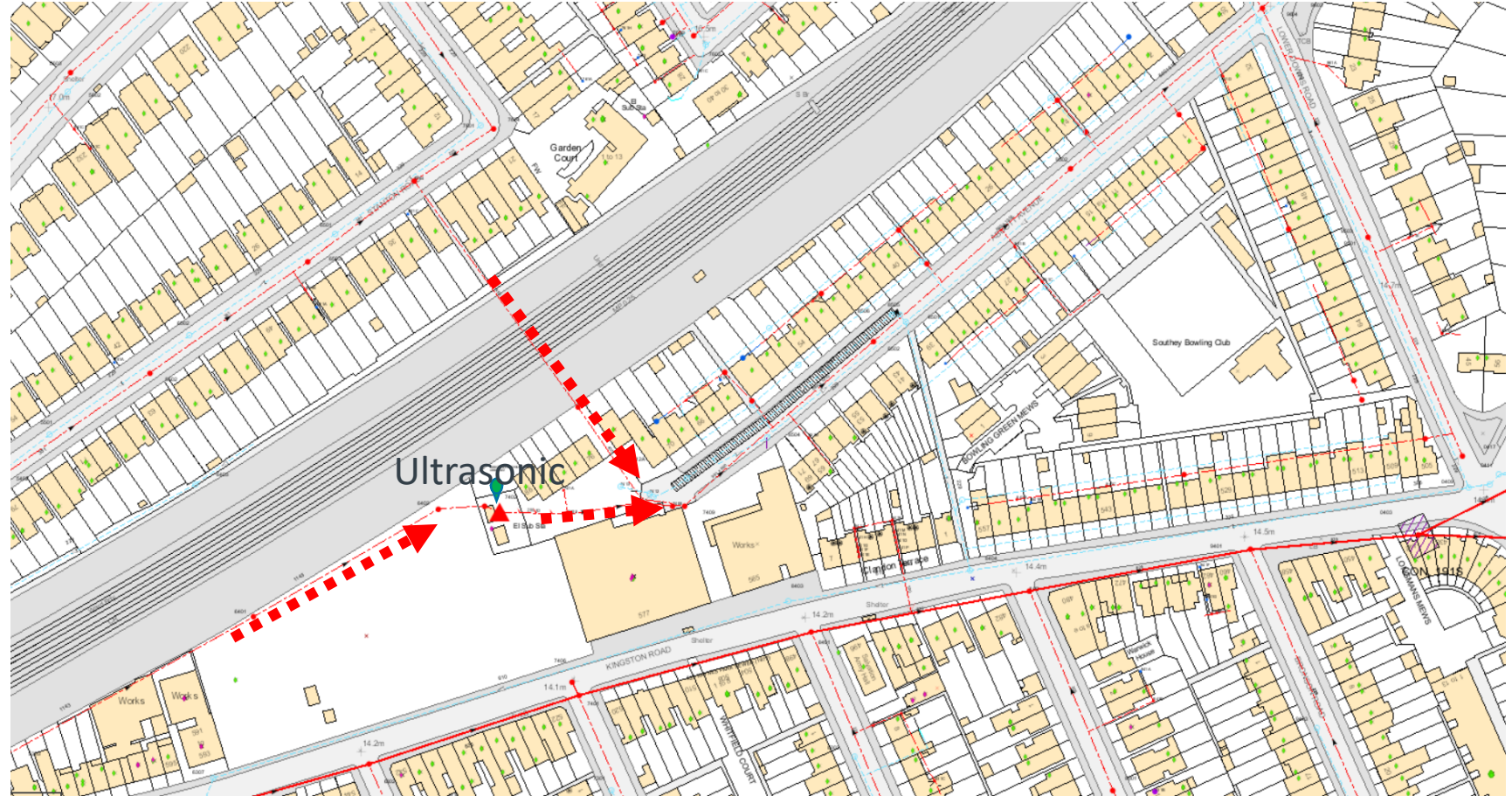
- Page 12



Investigations

Abbot Avenue – Thames Water Pump Station

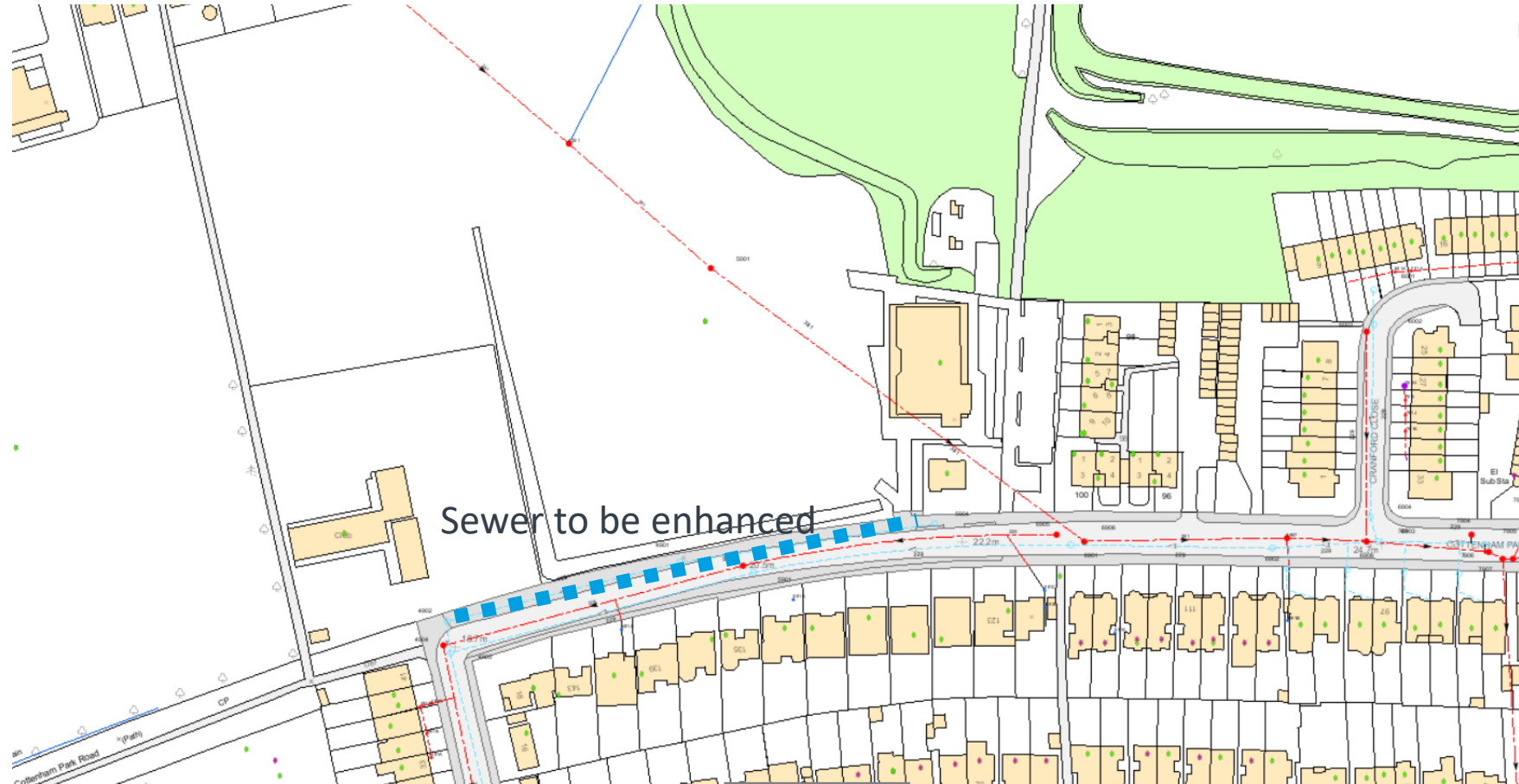
- Prior to the July storms we have:
 - assessed and found faults in the sewer and PS
 - modelled the impacts of storms
- Post July we have continued to
 - investigating what additional resilience measures can be delivered.
 - New development and SUDs, greenfield runoff rates



Investigations

Cottenham Park Rd

- Prior to the July storms we had:
 - planned activities to assess faults in sewers
- Post July we have:
 - identified a SW sewer that had collapsed near the redevelopment of Berkley Homes.
 - delivering additional resilience by installing a larger sewer.
 - survey other sewers to identify their condition.




Sewer Flooding Questionnaire

Following the July flooding and feedback we have:

- moved to a digital format for SFQ
- increased immediately the number of call centre staff

Page 15 in the process of installing a new telephony system which will mean call handlers can log a call much easier. This will significantly reduce waiting time

Strategic investment is linked to the number or properties at risk and frequency of flooding.



Flooding questionnaire

Your information will help us work with local authorities and flooding groups to understand where and when changes to flood defenses may be required.

...

* Required

1. Has the flooding cleared? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

Next

Page 1 of 11

Never give out your password. [Report abuse](#)

Who can help?

Flooding can be a complex issue and we sometimes won't be the best people to help. Here's who to contact if you're affected by the following issues:

- To report flooding from one of our sewers, please call Thames Water on 0800 316 9800.

[Flooding | Emergencies | Help | Thames Water](#)

Page 16

- To report flooding from roads, gullies or ditches, please report it to Merton Council.
<https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/street-cleaning/drain-and-sewer-problems>

(if in doubt please contact us both).

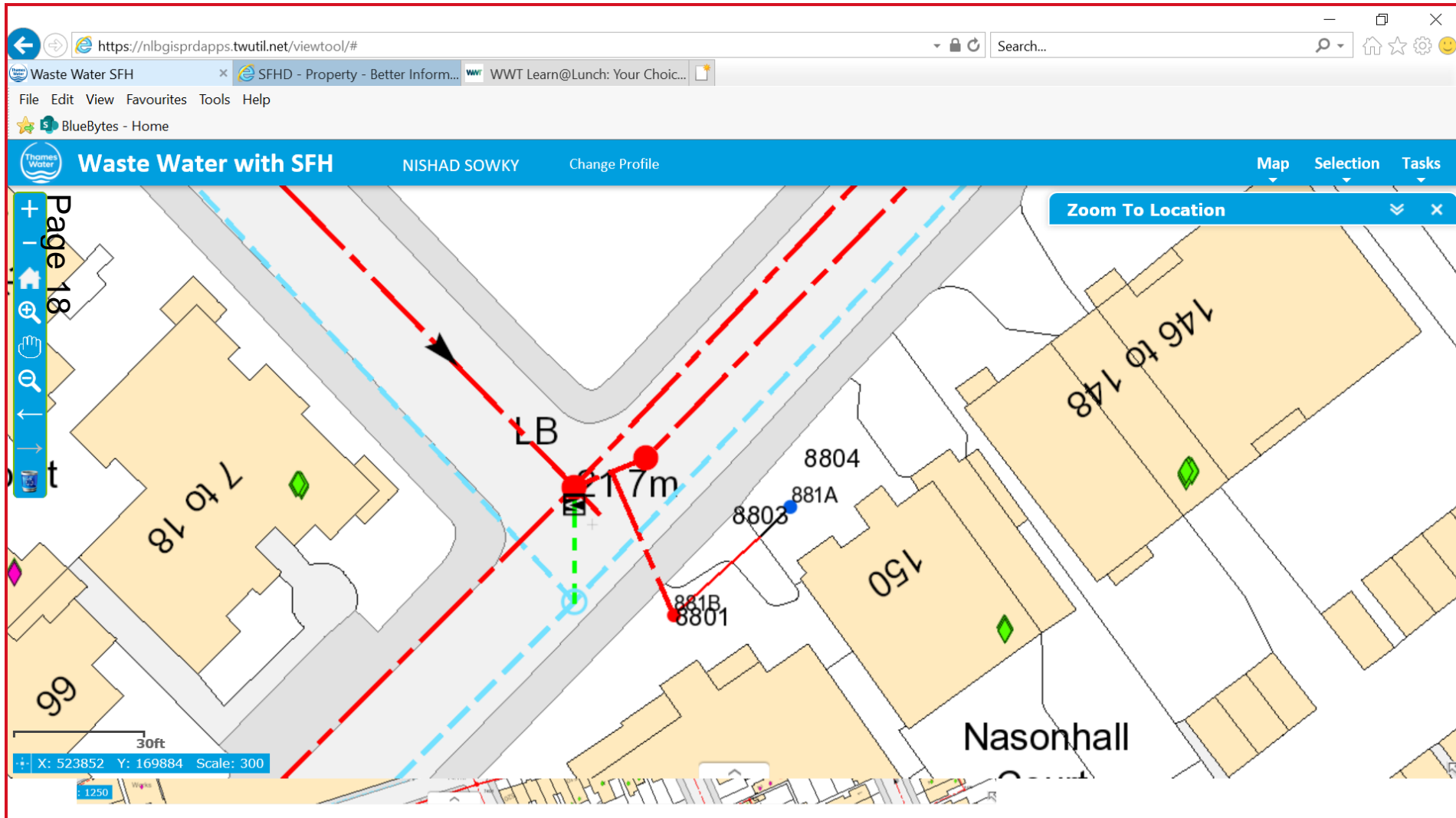
- If a river has burst its banks and it's affecting or worrying you, contact the Environment Agency on 0800 807 060.



Questions

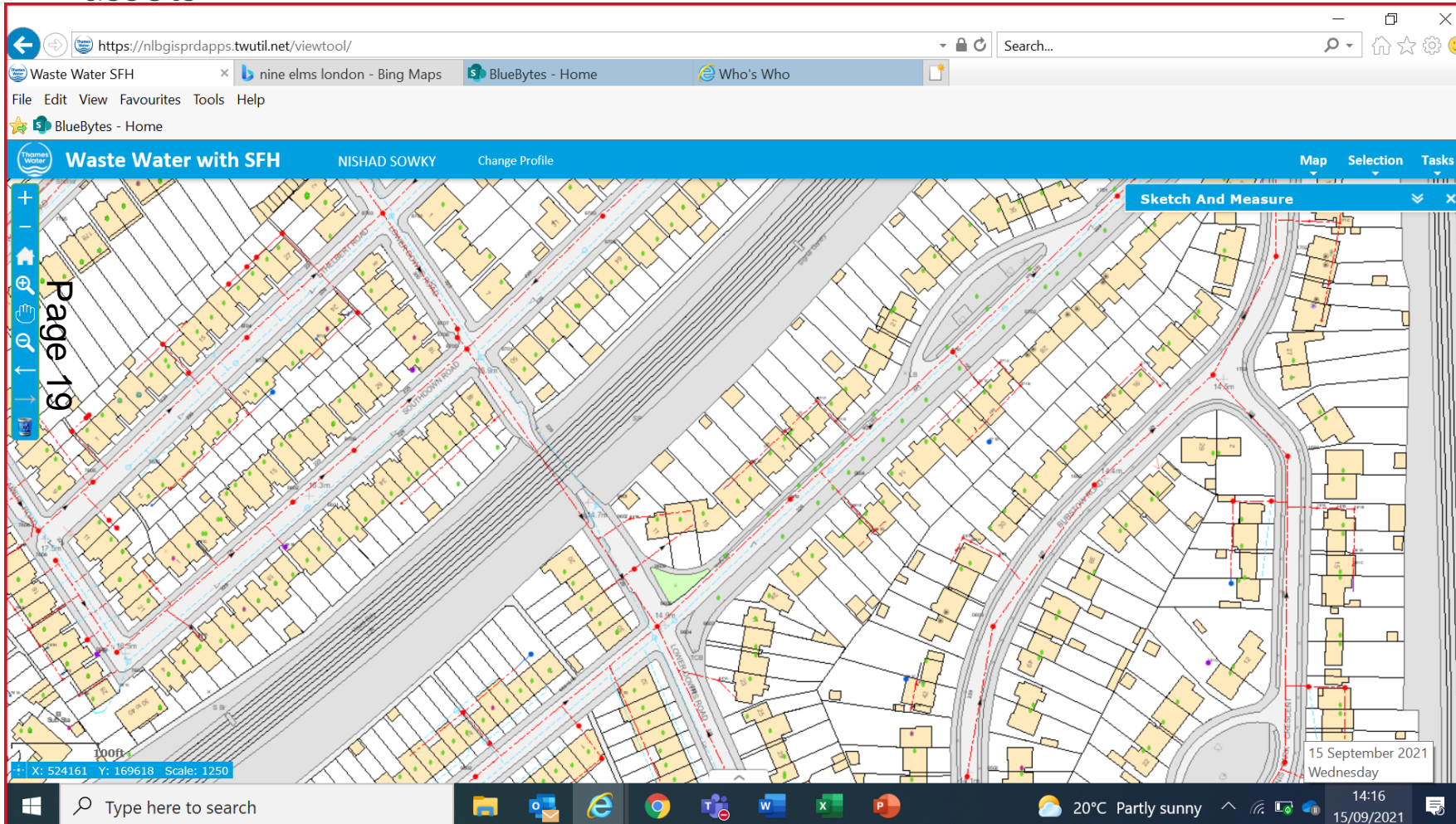
Worple Road

Investigate properties that are at risk



Lower Downs Road

CCTV under the railway confirm condition of assets



This page is intentionally left blank