

Addendum from Democratic Period – Green Martinstown

Key elements of their presentation are in an addendum to these minutes

Desire for structured communication - they highlighted previous discussions with Wessex Water representatives.

Emphasised the need for regular communication between Wessex Water, the Parish Council, and the community and expressed willingness to form, or be part of, a joint liaison group.

They outlined potential practical and community-led interventions including:

Re-wiggling / re-meandering the stream channel, specifically the straightened section between Stephens Farm and the adjacent field. Intended to slow water flow and enhance natural flood absorption.

Pond-digging scheme is something Green Martinstown had trialled for two years with limited uptake, but saw potential benefit in reducing runoff by storing roof water in micro-ponds.

Proposal for community-supported bulk purchase and installation of water butts. There was a suggestion for a potential subsidy from CIL funding, it was noted that water butts typically cost £50–£100.

Examples were given of residents already diverting rainwater into garden ponds to avoid loading surface water drains.

Hedgerow and tree planting is another option, it's intended to intercept runoff and increase infiltration.

Community education regarding water use is needed and Green Martinstown is offering advice sheets on water saving and bill reduction.

Green Martinstown emphasised that while none of these measures solve the core infrastructure problem, they contribute to a cumulative reduction in pressure on the system.

The following concerns were raised:

The sewer system is not fit for purpose and cannot cope with current demand.

Emergency overflows are being inadequately addressed.

Tankers responding several days after faults were reported.

A specific recent incident where water was seen spilling from manholes, yet the online reporting system lacked an emergency option.

Frustration that infiltration and groundwater overwhelming the system is not addressed by community water-saving alone.