



Peninsula Surface Water Issues & Solutions Group (SWISH)



Peninsula Surface Water Issues & Solutions Group (SWISH) Terms of Reference

The SWISH Group is a sub-group of the existing Manhood Peninsula Partnership (MPP) that supports and advocates coordinated strategic planning by the bodies responsible for drainage and surface water management across the peninsula.

Key Aims

To provide a unified system of land drainage across all the Manhood Parishes that, taking into account the amount of resources available, maximises the level of protection from flood risk for all communities.

The group intends to work with West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council and other stakeholders to fulfil elements of the Manhood Peninsula Surface Water Management Plan 2015.

Objectives

The major objectives of SWISH are to:

- Identify a common scheme of funding for minor new drainage works, and ongoing maintenance and management of the current water and drainage system.
- Identify and access capital funding (including matched funding) for major new drainage improvement projects.
- Identify and implement a means of delivery of drainage works or projects via existing contractors, or a new social enterprise.
- Develop an ongoing means of recording condition, ownership and cyclical maintenance whilst ensuring the protection of habitats, with a balance between 'hard' and 'soft' solutions. Primary link into the FLOW Lottery project of the Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group
- Develop a scheme of notification and enforcement and how a local system would link to WSCC/CDC and the Environment Agency.
- Encourage and facilitate the recruitment and training of volunteers to help monitor and maintain local drainage networks.
- Instigate a standing management and development group that would work with national, regional and county based agencies in developing the Manhood scheme of local management and its potential promotion as a national pilot.
- Develop the future and ongoing roles of flood groups and their relationships, particularly with parish councils and the National Flood Forum.

Actions

An action programme is being developed. Phase 1 is a research and evaluation phase to:

- Determine key local issues around the theme of "Living with Water"
- Determine what a new system of local water management might look like following the demise of the IDBs (Internal Drainage Boards).
- Establish how riparian owners/ general public will interact with a new system of local water management
- Establish the future role of flood groups and parishes over water management issues
- Re-evaluate the Going Dutch work.

The SWISH Group will form ad hoc working groups as required and invite persons outside its membership to contribute as appropriate.

Outcomes

The desired outcomes are flood risk reduction, economic security and maintenance of the unique qualities of the Manhood Peninsula. The SWISH Group seeks to obtain consensus on issues between all organisations by:

- Improving and promoting inter-sectoral integration, co-ordination, communication and understanding of water management issues on the Manhood Peninsula
- Providing opportunities for wider community participation and interaction
- Producing key statements and guidelines for policies, strategies and action plans
- Developing and implementing water management toolkits
- Developing models demonstrating best practice

Background

Drainage and flooding are crucial factors for the Peninsula. Internal Drainage Boards (IDB) on the Peninsula and elsewhere are being disbanded. This creates an immediate need for a co-ordinated approach to flooding and land drainage, especially by supporting the role of individual riparian owners.

West Sussex CC has established one of three Strategic Flood Risk Management Boards (SFRMB) in the country. The SFRMB sits below the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Members of the SWISH Group are also members of the SFRMB and represent the West Sussex Flood Action Groups Forum which sits below the Board.

The following diagram shows links between SWISH, and the flood and surface water management hierarchy from national to local levels.

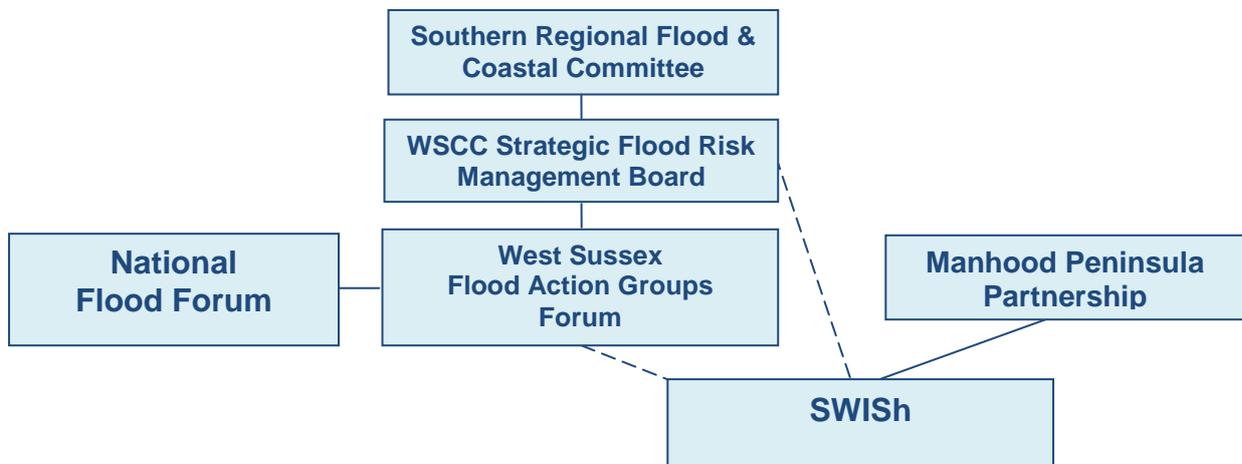


Diagram 1. National to local flood and surface water management hierarchy.

The Regional Flood and Coastal Committees and Strategic Flood Risk Management Boards are being closely monitored by the National Flood Forum as a potential mechanism to fill the void left when IDBs are disbanded. Links with the West Sussex Flood Action Groups Forum and WSCC Strategic Flood Risk Management Board will help address the situation.

Further information about the **Peninsula Water Management Group** can be obtained by contacting Paul Bedford (SWISH Chairman) via Jane Cunningham (MPP Project Officer):
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 Email: jcunningham@chichester.gov.uk

Membership

The Peninsula area includes the following parishes: Appledram, Birdham, Donnington, Earnley, East Wittering and Bracklesham, Hunston, North Mundham, Selsey, Sidlesham, West Itchenor and West Wittering.

Group members are among the key local stakeholders identified in the Manhood Peninsula Surface Water Management Plan:

Organisation	Role
Birdham & Earnley Flood Action Group	Assoc with WSCC Strategic Flood Board and Flood Group Forum
Chichester District Council	Local Authority Coastal and Land Drainage
Environment Agency	Advisory
Floodhub Communications Ltd.	Communication centred on flooding issues
Manhood Peninsula Partnership	Support and liaison Taking forward Going Dutch aspirations
Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group	Environmental context and link to project FLOW (Fixing & Linking Our Wetlands)
Sidlesham Flood Action Group	Assoc with WSCC Strategic Flood Board and Flood Group Forum
Southern Water	Sewerage Authority
West Manhood Drainage Improvement Group (West Itchenor and West Wittering)	Assoc with the National Flood Forum
West Sussex County Council: Flood Risk & Sustainable Drainage	Lead Local Flood Authority and Highways Authority

Last updated 09/2016