



# Peninsula Surface Water Issues & Solutions Group (SWISH)



## Terms of Reference (ToR)

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 surface water management across the peninsula.

The Manhood Peninsula, because of its close relationship with the sea and its relatively low-lying topography, will be greatly affected by climate change particularly sea level rise, increased inundation, and drought. Therefore, preparedness for the future is a constant priority.

The broad aim of SWISH is to conserve precious water supplies whilst attempting to keep water from being a flood risk. SWISH provides the MPP with its findings and recommendations to inform the MPP's overall role, working for the benefit of communities on the Manhood Peninsula.

The SWISH Group invites persons outside its core local membership of parishes, local authorities, and agencies, to contribute to its work as appropriate.

### Key Aims

The SWISH Key Aims can be summarized as prioritizing the scope for addressing the future crisis that the water cycle is likely to present, as illustrated in the following ten points:

1. To build and maintain resilience to address issues and concerns with the Water Cycle arising from climate change, flooding, drought, and water conservation.
2. To support a unified common approach to flood alleviation, resilience, and exchange of information particularly for Manhood parishes.
3. To bring together a wide range of interests and organisations concerned with surface and groundwater issues on the Manhood Peninsula.
4. Maintain the gains made from initiatives such as [Operation Watershed](#) by WSCC, [FLOW](#) by Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group, and [ESPACE](#) by Hampshire County Council / MPP.
5. Review priorities across the peninsula for works and investment based on existing documents by WSCC / EA / Chichester District Council / Southern Water / Portsmouth Water / Natural England / RSPB. Present the case for updates of the above
6. Raise awareness of sea level rise and coastal inundation. Protection on an area wide basis may have to be replaced by individual property level resilience in areas of the peninsula under greater threat such as those in Flood Zone 3.
7. Raise awareness of the challenges presented by drought and water shortage in agricultural and urban environments as demonstrated in the National Drought Group document [National Framework for Water Resources](#). Explore solutions deliverable by individuals and on a larger scale
8. Identify and seek to mitigate pollution within water courses, harbours and on the open coast by exploring a way forward led by:
  - a. the Natural England appraisal of Pagham Harbour
  - b. known local issues of irreversible damage to terrestrial and aquatic environments, and loss of biodiversity.
  - c. Identification of pollutant sources including, but not exclusively, sewage and nitrates from agriculture.

9. Collaborate with agriculture and horticulture, particularly with respect to water conservation.
10. Collaborate with councils and national bodies on land use policies linking the open coast, coastal margins and terrestrial hinterland to effectively address Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

### **Objectives**

The aims of SWISH can be delivered through the following objectives to:

- Determine key local issues around the theme of "Living with Water"
- Encourage and facilitate the recruitment and training of volunteers to re-establish flood groups, especially where they have declined, to help monitor and maintain local drainage networks.
- Promote a common approach to minor new drainage work, ongoing maintenance, and management of the drainage system.
- Work with Peninsula farming interests and other land managers to establish a scheme of watercourse and wetland management. The scheme will be aimed at flood prevention and creating increased biodiversity by using Environmental Land Management (ELMs) objectives of "public money for public goods". (Public goods are defined by ELMs as: goods or services that no one can be stopped from using and where one person's use does not affect another's)
- Based on FLOW data, develop a system of recording condition, ownership, and cyclical maintenance of water courses to ensure the protection of habitats, using both hard engineered and green natural solutions.
- Develop a scheme of local issues notification that links easily to WSCC/CDC and the Environment Agency, especially with respect to enforcement.
- Re-evaluate the Going Dutch work as a proven basis for the Peninsula's future in the context of Climate change and particularly sea level rise.
- Ensure the issues that are a consequence of climate change are conveyed to parishes and flood groups, and support parishes in the dissemination of information.
- Ensure information on individual property level resilience is made available to communities and individual property owners through parishes and flood groups.

### **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, coordination, 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 water management toolkits in collaboration with appropriate bodies.

### **Background**

Drainage and flooding are crucial factors for the Peninsula. The Internal Drainage Board (IDB) for the Peninsula was disbanded in 2016. This created an immediate need for a coordinated approach to flooding and land drainage, especially by supporting the role of individual riparian owners. SWISH aims to contribute to this coordinated approach acting as a forum for the exchange of information, development of ideas and offering solutions.

There are a number of key documents forming the basis of SWISH's work- these include:

- Defra – [Making Space for Water 2005](#)
- MPP - [Towards ICZM on the Manhood Peninsula 2010](#)
- Defra - [Meeting our future water needs: a national framework for water resources 2020](#)
- Southern Water - Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP)
- Southern Water - Water Resources Management Plan 2020-70

- National Planning Practice Guidance - Flood Risk and Coastal Change
- West Sussex CC - Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-26
- West Sussex CC - Manhood Peninsula Surface Water Management Plan
- MPP - [Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation – Integrated Coastal Zone Management 2021](#)
- Southern Water - Drainage Strategy Sidlesham (Manhood Peninsula)
- Chichester District - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2022
- West Sussex LLFA Local Flood Risk Management strategy 2022

### Membership

The Peninsula area for the purposes SWISH’s operation 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:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role</b>
Chichester District Council	Local Authority Coastal and Land Drainage
West Sussex County Council: Flood Risk & Sustainable Drainage	Lead Local Flood Authority and Highways Authority
Birdham & Earnley Flood Action Group	Assoc with WSCC Strategic Flood Board and Flood Group Forum
Sidlesham Flood Action Group	Assoc with WSCC Strategic Flood Board and Flood Group Forum
West Manhood Drainage Improvement Group (West Itchenor and West Wittering)	Assoc with the National Flood Forum
Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group	Environmental context and link to project FLOW (Fixing & Linking Our Wetlands)
Manhood Peninsula Partnership	Support and liaison Taking forward Going Dutch aspirations
RSPB	Pagham Harbour and Medmerry, and environment
Environment Agency	Advisory
Southern Water	Sewerage Authority

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