



MINUTES OF THE KING'S POND TASK & FINISH GROUP

Wednesday 30 September 2026

Present: Councillor Don Hammond - Chair (DH) (from 2pm)
Councillor John Quincey (JQ)
Hayley Carter - Deputy Town Clerk (HC)
Nic Budd – Alton Town Council (NTB)
Paul Ebbutt – Resident representative (PE)
Angie Owens – Resident representative (AO)
Eric Phillips – Resident representative (EP)
Tim Pinchen - Resident representative (TP)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Tom Horwood (TH), Natalie Beckell (NB), Councillor Chris Botten (CB), Cathy Ayres (CA), Ryan Doran (RD) and Tim Pinchen (TP).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

On the proposal of JQ, seconded by PE, the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23 September 2026 were approved.

3. Review of Five Rivers Design Information

The updated plans and the meeting held with Five Rivers on 29 September were discussed. All very positive with them having added to their team to get back on track and promising the full pack of documents on Friday 2nd October. The conversation with the main person working on the designs was extremely positive and it is clear that any flood risk can be managed to the site with no potential issues further downstream resulting from either of the options. This just needs to be explained / demonstrated clearly during the consultation.

4. Progress on Consultation

HC updated the meeting on progress:

- The flyer has been sent to print and will be distributed to households during w/c 19 October.

- The survey questions have been finalised and Enventure are working on the online questionnaire and will send over a link for testing later this week.
- Enventure are now pulling together the paper survey and officers / the T&FG need to prepare the information for the second page to give a brief summary of the two options and direct people to the briefings / drop-in sessions. This is one A4 page.
- All briefings and drop-in sessions are now confirmed and it is important that members of the group attend as many of these as possible.

ACTION – HC to ensure diary invites have been sent for all briefings / drop-in sessions

The ‘Information Required for Public Consultation’ document was then run through and updated.

Members highlighted the importance of questions at briefings and drop-in sessions only being answered by:

- Councillors who are members of the T&FG (DH, JQ, CB)
- T&FG members (CA, RD, PE, AO, EP, TP)
- Officers involved in the project (TH, HC, NB, NTB)

The difference between briefings and drop-in sessions was discussed:

- Briefings are a presentation followed by question-and-answer session
- Drop-in sessions will have all the information on displays around the room for people to look at in their own time and will have appropriate officers / members of the T&FG and consultants there to answer any questions.

ACTION – HC to order new display boards.

5. Review of Outstanding Actions from Previous Meetings

Outstanding actions are as follows:

- TH to provide update on appointment of dam engineer next week
- DH to update list of Engineering Sub Projects with work that is in progress or completed
- TH to provide update on any communication with Waterside Court next week
- TH to update T&FG on any further action since receiving TP’s report on upstream drainage

- Officers to look at figures and work out if Full Council needs to approve further funding in October.

6. **Programme**

NTB is keeping an eye on the Five Rivers programme and also keeping the consultation programme updated. The project plan lists the names of people responsible for each task.

Five Rivers sending all documents on Friday and we can then ask them to present if necessary.

ACTION – All group members to continue working on the tasks allocated to them and report on progress at next week's meeting.

7. **Date of next meetings**

There are weekly meetings of the Task & Finish Group at 1.30pm on Wednesdays for the foreseeable future.