

Further to discussions held as a part of the Public Enquiry we would like to clarify certain key issues for Penshurst Parish Council on behalf of its residents. As already stated these objections do not signify a wider urge to object to the Scheme itself in principle, merely to the issues which we feel require proper closure prior to permission. It has become clear to us that there is little likelihood of the EA acting to solve these problems unless they form a condition to the Scheme's progress.

### 1. The Causeway

It has become abundantly clear that little or no discussion has taken place in respect of the Causeway between the EA and the various Highway related agencies. As one of only two roads which cross the FSA it is disappointing that more trouble has not been taken over this, either by the EA or by Kent CC and Sevenoaks planning department (the latter having an obligation to mitigate adverse traffic impact). It represents the focus of all potential risk to public safety and is a lifeline for the village. A Traffic survey would undoubtedly show the spectacular increase of traffic along this road which has occurred over the past 40 years.

It is unarguable that the new situation, by virtue of its effects on the impact of timing of flows through and over the Causeway, will affect this important asset.

We would wish to request the Inspector make it a condition that methods to protect the Causeway be fully examined prior to consent. In particular we feel that as the water level drop has been shown to be so extreme at this point, the possibility of providing for smoother flow under the Causeway Road may well help in alleviating some of the property problems in the Village.

Tom Tugenhardt made reference to the Cement Road in his statement. We have seen the representations made by Penshurst Estate and would wish to add our support to them.

### 2. The Flood Forum

A number of people including the PC received an email in early 2021 advising contact be made with the Flood Forum. We do not see how the very specific concerns, aired with the EA on a number of occasions and now at an Enquiry, can be expedited by introducing a third intermediating party. It is for the EA to respond to our concerns.

### 3. The Model

Although there has been much clarification on the modelling of the FSA we would note that:-

- a. The continued changes in the modelled picture at Penshurst produced on different dates and
- b. The fact that at no point between the Barrage and Penshurst have these modelled levels been checked against real levels (especially at the discontinuity of Rogues Hill Bridge mentioned above)

leads us to a position of some lack of confidence in the results. This has been exacerbated by the (late) production of certain flood maps (in particular that shown in appendix 6 to the EA statement of Case) which shows a significantly more damaging flood area in Penshurst, which has not been explained satisfactorily. We would therefore continue to ask that a condition be added to require a measuring station at the Rogues Hill Bridge.