



# Elmbridge Borough Council

... bridging the communities ...

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Lower Mole Flood Alleviation Scheme  
Environment Agency  
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22 March 2021

Dear Sirs,

We write to you in response to the Environment Agency's (EA) consultation on the Lower Mole Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) refurbishment project options which opened on 3 February 2021.

Further to our letter in July 2019, we welcome the detailed information now provided in the consultation for the six refurbishment options, which addresses two areas of concern raised regarding the effect on wildlife and biodiversity and the need for the scheme.

Based on the details provided, options 1 and 2 are not viable solutions for the refurbishment of the Lower Mole FAS in terms of costings and benefits provided by the scheme. The other four options have different levels of impact on the other two areas of raised in our 2019 response regarding the change in the character of the area and the loss of amenity.

Regarding options four and five, reference is made to funding unlikely to be fully covered by the FCERM-GiA and that partnership funding may be needed. Further details as to why this is the case for the two options, and which partners would be expected to support with funding are needed to fully assess the options against the other two which presumably would be fully funded by the FCERM-GiA.

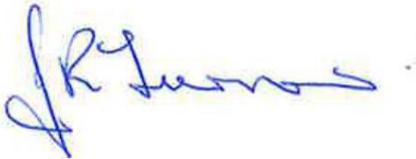
While option five and six provide increased biodiversity and a significant reduction in the carbon footprint of the scheme, the details regarding how the low or absent flows in the Old Mole and the Imber Court loop are to be mitigated are not provided.

The council supports the opportunities to improve biodiversity and reduce the carbon footprint of the project while providing the best flood protection to our residents, and this needs to be balanced with the amenity impact and ability to use the river by residents.

As the options are reviewed based on the consultation feedback, and answers to the questions and concerns raised are provided, the council will provide further comments on the development of the option for the scheme.

We welcome the continued engagement from the EA on the Lower Mole FAS refurbishment project as the stages progress.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Turner'.

Cllr Janet Turner  
*Portfolio Holder, Leisure & Culture*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Randolph'.

Cllr Karen Randolph  
*Portfolio Holder, Planning*