

Downton Water Wise Meeting, 3 July 2008

Present:

Alex Belbin, Tina Evans, Dave Goddard, Tony Pike, Edna Pike, Cathy Riley, Sarah Yarrow, Sally Scholefield, Chris Hall, Bev Cornish, Jane Seden, Angela Jones, Greg Pienaar.

Information given by Greg Pienaar (Bournemouth and West Hants Water)

- Downton averages 162 litres per person, per day, which is about in line with national average but is high for Bournemouth and WH Water (B&WH) customers
- 54% of all B&WH Water customers are on meters. This is high compared to national average
- Water consumption goes down by about 10% when a meter is fitted
- Leaks are monitored daily. Letter sent to householder and dedicated teams sent out to fix them
- Pipe work in Downton in good order. Less leaks in this area than all other parts of the country
- 75% success rate with the uptake of save-a-flush devices when given out by B&WH Water
- Toilets, showers and white goods account for about 60-65% of household use.
- Toilet flushing offers the biggest potential for water saving.

Action: Greg to find answers to some of the other questions posed to him



Water saving devices

- Shower timers, water efficient shower heads, tap inserts and cistern inserts were made available to look at and these were explained and discussed.
- Suggested that a library of tap inserts could be made available (eg a case with all different types of tap inserts and with supplier and price details included) to be borrowed for trying out in peoples homes to see what fitted and what didn't. **Action: ?**

Survey results

- CR explained the recent water use survey conducted by Resource Futures (no-one present had been visited) and what the purpose was and what the findings are showing (though not yet fully analysed). **Action:** CR to do full analysis of the survey data and feed back
- CR explained that there appeared to be room for 'improvement' in water efficiency in the Downton area although there is already a lot of good, water efficient behaviour reported.
- More than half of Downton residents said they would be interested in knowing more. Most said they would look on the internet for information.



River modification

- Reported that river has been straightened and modified (ie concrete lined and channelled) to move water quickly away to prevent flooding, which really just moves the problem downstream.
- Flood waters in Downton have been caused by water rising up from below (due to being on gravel) and not caused by rivers overflowing/bursting their banks.

Water us in the home

- Grey water and rain water harvesting were discussed.
- Rain water harvesting systems are expensive and not easy win/quick fix solutions. Suitable for enthusiasts, who want to do more than just the simple things.
- Grey water (eg from bath or sink) is ok if siphoned off (or carried by bucket) to water the garden immediately. If greywater is stored for more than 24 hours (eg in a water Butt) bacteria in the water can multiply so it is not safe to use on the garden if growing fruit and vegetables.
- Reminded that, of the overall water usage in homes, the amount used in the garden is a very small fraction. This is because the number of days per year where watering is necessary is small compared to activities that happen daily throughout the year (eg baths and showers).
- Decide on 3 or 4 simple water saving actions first. Agreed to have a campaign promoting one behaviour change for a set period followed by the next. These could be at a one off event or a series of events. The 4 action identified are:
 1. Flushing the **loo** – fitting cistern devices / parents to educate their kids how to flush properly
 2. Turn off **tap** while brushing teeth – and washing hands.
 3. **Appliances** used on full loads / buying most water efficient models
 4. **Shower** for shorter time / fitting water efficient shower heads



Launch Event

- Date set for 15 October. 3.30 to 7.30 in the Primary School hall. Teas and cakes / cheese and wine, as extra incentives to get people to come along. To be billed as a 'Water festival' perhaps. Suggestions for name of event to be emailed in to Tina Evans (head@downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk) and to Sally Scholefield (sally.scholefield@resourcefutures.co.uk).
- A very visible display for the village to be created along the lines of a church fundraising thermometer. The water-o-meter or waterometer! **Action:** Chris Hall to initiate and to liaise with Greg for data
- The concept of an artificial loo, made of Perspex, (where you could see how much water was being flushed away) does exist. There is a company who could make one for us (at a cost) or are in the process of developing a water saving DVD which may be ready in time for October event. **Action:** Sally to contact this company (Aqualogic) and also the following organisations re attending our event: Water Wise, Green Books, Wessex Water. **Action:** Greg to arrange to bring a display to the event from B&WH Water and also to arrange person from Water aid to come and speak, person from B&WH Water Metering dept to come and advise/answer questions.