



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices • Ebley Mill • Ebley Wharf • Stroud • GL5 4UB  
Telephone 01453 766321 • Facsimile 01453 750932  
www.stroud.gov.uk

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### MEMBER REPORT

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY</b>	Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board
<b>BRIEF REPORT</b>	
<p>The Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board, (LSIDB), is a statutory body responsible for keeping streams, rhynes and large watercourses maintained in order to help prevent flooding on land, in villages and more isolated areas from flooding in times of heavy rainfall. The rivers Severn, Frome, Cam, and Little Avon come under the scope of the Environment Agency, although LSIDB can carry out work on behalf of the EA, on a rechargeable basis.</p> <p>LSIDB also has five pumps to help minimize and relieve flooding. These pumps are at Saul, Epney, Longney and Elmore Back in the Stroud District, and Oldbury on Severn in South Gloucestershire. The LSIDB catchment area is from the Malvern area in the north, to Bristol City/Avonmouth in the south, parts of the Forest of Dean in the west to areas between the M5 motorway and the A38 in the East. Its funding comes from levies paid by landowners within the catchment area, from Councils who collect through the Council Tax system from householders within the catchment area, and from developers who pay through S.106 agreements to maintain watercourses affected by their development. It has a workforce of operators of machinery, some heavy duty, ranging from chain saws to weed cutters to excavators. The Board's Headquarters are at Oldbury Naite, in South Gloucestershire, not far from Thornbury. There are administration staff employed there, along with a Land Drainage Engineer, a Civil Engineer and the Board's Chief Executive also heads operations there. At those HQs, there is a workshop with a fitter, able to carry out day-to-day repairs to machinery and to breakdowns, although large works may have to be outsourced if local facilities are not capable of doing them. The current Chairman of the Board is Mr. Mike Barnes, who farms at Malvern, the Vice-Chairman of the Board is Cllr Matthew Riddle of South Gloucestershire Council.</p> <p>Currently, the Board has to focus on replacing the five pumps mentioned previously, in its area, to comply with European and EA regulations to make them fish and eel friendly. That is so that fish and eels can pass through the working pumps without being harmed. Saul and Elmore Back have been replaced in the last couple of years, with Marshfield, (Epney) and Lapperditch (Longney) next on the list, which will leave Wicks Green, (Longney) and Oldbury on Severn to do. The Board does not have reserves to fund these replacements in the time available, so has to consider borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board to do the required work. As the buildings housing these pumps are up to 50 years old, along with the associated attached machinery, a thorough appraisal of costs will be necessary to prevent extra costs coming during the work to replace the pumps. However, it is hoped that all the remaining pumps will be replaced by the end of 2026.</p>	

The Board starts its reed and weed cutting programme in ditches around the end of June, which goes on into the late autumn. Large roadside ditches in the Severnside parishes of SDC are good examples of the work done by the Board. Outside of these times, dredging, tree maintenance and fence works are carried out on Board maintained watercourse. More information is available at [lowersevernldb.org.uk](http://lowersevernldb.org.uk)

<b>REPORT SUBMITTED BY</b>	Cllr John Jones
<b>DATE</b>	18 January 2024