

**SOUTH DERBYSHIRE FLOOD LIAISON MEETING**

**Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 at the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote**

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Mrs Kim Coe, Councillor Robert Coe, Councillor Mrs Beth Hall, Councillor David Muller, Councillor David Shepherd, Councillor Peter Smith, Councillor Peter Watson.

Stuart Batchelor (Chair), Matt Holford (Environmental Health Manager), Phil Lenton (Cultural Services Technician), Tony Sylvester (Planning Services Manager), Tim Summers (Senior Environmental Health Officer).

Tom Sloan (Clerk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Tor Coombes (Flood Risk Management Team), Ashlea Kidger (Emergency Planning), Dan Killer (Flood Risk Management Team), Stephen Peace (Emergency Planning).

**Environment Agency Representatives**

Laia Canadell Gallart, Naomi Doughty, Mary McCann, Mark Swain (Flood Risk Management), David Turnbull (Partnership & Strategic Overview).

**Severn Trent Water Representatives**

Alice Johns (Flooding Analyst), Mark Heysmond (Senior Area Technician), Zelia Lockett (Infra Team Manager).

**Parish Council / Meeting Representatives**

Kevin Birch (Elvaston Parish Council), Graham Davis (Barrow Parish Council), Anne Heathcote (Barrow Parish Council), Adrian Leese (Coton Parish Council), Stephanie Marbrow (Rosliston Parish Council), Peter Rainey (Repton Parish Council).

**1. Apologies for absence**

Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown, Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Councillor Mrs Hilary Coyle, Councillor Martyn Ford, Kevin Jones, Councillor Mrs Amy Plenderleith.

## **2. The minutes of the meeting held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

The minutes were noted as a true record of the meeting, with one amendment to add Stephanie Marbrow to the list of attendees.

## **3. Matters arising from the minutes**

Tom Sloan had been tasked with forwarding a DCC document regarding planning conditions for surface water run-off to parish councils in South Derbyshire. This had been done.

Councillor Mrs Brown had asked for an update on works at the Monks Bridge. Mark Swain (Environment Agency) included it in his agency report (below).

Mr Sloan had been tasked to put parish involvement in flood alleviation on the agenda for the Parish Liaison Meeting. No meeting had yet been held, but it would be included when it did.

Tony Sylvester and Tor Coombes had been tasked to review the wording of planning conditions relating to flooding. Mr Sylvester reported the following condition, which would go to statutory partners for feedback before it was finalised:

Prior to the construction of any dwelling an assessment shall be carried out of the potential for disposing of surface water by means of a sustainable drainage system and the results of the assessment provided to the Local Planning Authority. Where this assessment identifies the ability to dispose of the surface water by means of a sustainable drainage system a detailed design and associated management and maintenance plan of surface water drainage for the site shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, such scheme shall be in accordance with Defra Non-statutory technical standards for sustainability drainage systems and:

- 1) Have regard to the recommendations set out in the Flood Risk Assessment with particular attention to the scheme's accommodation of flows from outside the site;
- 2) Include details of the mechanism by which surface water attenuation pond will control its discharge to an outfall;
- 3) Provide information about the design storm period and intensity, the method employed to delay and control the surface water discharged from the site and the measures taken to prevent pollution of the receiving groundwater and/or surface waters;
- 4) Include a timetable for its implementation;

- 5) Provide a management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development which shall include the arrangements for adoption by any public authority or statutory undertaker and any other arrangements to secure the operation of the scheme through its lifetime;
- 6) Provide details of the means by which flood protection to neighbouring land can be assured during the course of construction;
- 7) Provide details of how each phase of the development can be satisfactorily drained notwithstanding that the scheme as a whole may be incomplete (i.e. the scheme shall show a certain level of independent drainage for each stage of the development);
- 8) Provide details of the land form levels across the site (to accord with the approved drainage strategy), supervision and certification of compliance;
- 9) The regime for supervision, inspection and certification of each phase of the surface water system by suitably qualified professionals.

The approved drainage system shall be implemented and maintained in accordance with the approved detailed design and timetable for implementation.

Reason: In the interests of flood protection.

A member of the public stated she felt the conditions outlined sounded robust. Mr Sylvester replied that he felt every eventuality should have been captured in the conditions set out.

#### **4. Reports from agencies**

##### **South Derbyshire District Council**

**Phil Lenton** (Cultural Services Technician) reported on the following works he had carried out since the previous meeting:

- Dolls Brook, Findern: work conducted with landowners after previous silting. A joint contribution had been made for the works, clearing a 100m section behind Spring Farm of fibrous roots and silt. Within hours of the work the water level had dropped dramatically.
- Castle Road, Castle Gresley: a small section of a waterway near to Cappy Farm had been cleared of brambles. It had been an important piece of work. Mr Lenton and Zoe Sewter had been working with David Wilson Homes with regard to garden and curtilage flooding on the Castleton Park Estate (Moray Close and Aberdeen Close) which had been occurring since the properties were built. A poorly relocated watercourse was the issue.
- Willington Reservoir: a 10-year inspection had been undertaken by the reservoir engineer. Reinforcement work on the embankment of the east side of the reservoir, near to the A38, had been completed.

- Cockshut Lane, Melbourne: surface water flooding had recently flooded two properties. A drainage consultant had been commissioned and a report had been provided. A meeting was due to take place soon to discuss consulting with residents.
- Had been working with other agencies on the wider picture of flooding in Melbourne.

### **Environment Agency**

**Naomi Doughty** (Asset Management East Midlands) reported that:

- Government had allocated approximately £2.1 million for intermittent maintenance works in the East Midlands. This funding was for less frequent maintenance activities (typically occurring every 5-10 years) such as dredging and de-silting. A prioritisation exercise was applied to make sure the works represented value for the public purse and are focused on those maintenance activities that yielded the greatest flood risk benefits to people and property.
- De-silting Repton Brook and Shardlow Parish Dyke had been identified as priority works for 2017/18. The projects were at the planning stage and due to begin in the summer. The project manager (Reece Oakden) had recently notified the parish clerks about these works. Further information was available from [reece.oakden@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:reece.oakden@environment-agency.gov.uk).
- Since the previous meeting, the EA had undertaken further site walkovers at Sands Brook and Willington Brook and been in contact with Mr Lenton (SDDC). It was not in a position to carry out channel maintenance works due to the presence of invasive species Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed, which made removal methods difficult and rendered the works economically unviable. Until the landowner dealt with the problem, the EA would not intervene. Given the River Trent was the dominant source of flood risk to Willington, de-silting Sands Brook / Willington Brook was unlikely to reduce the risk of flooding to the local community.
- As well as intermittent maintenance activities, the EA also had a programme of routine maintenance works. This comprised frequent maintenance activities such as grass-cutting on flood banks, checking and greasing flap valves, clearing debris from penstocks and screens etc. These works were carried out by the field team based out of the Draycott Depot. The routine maintenance programme was published on Gov.uk and could be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-maintenance-programme>.

**David Turnbull** (Partnership & Strategic Overview) reported that:

- The EA was currently in the midst of renewing its hydraulic model of the River Trent in Derbyshire. The work was being carried out by framework consultants CH2M at a cost of more than £100,000, expected delivery being the end of this financial year. (The map attached shows the extent of the modelling).
- On the modelling programme, EA also had the Trent tributaries down to be modelled in around 2020. This includes the main river sections of Willington Brook, Repton Brook, Milton Brook, Hell Brook, Twyford Brook, Cuttle Brook, Barrow Drain, Main Drain, Meadow Drain, Shardlow Dyke and Wilne Drain.
- The Derbyshire Asset Performance and Field Team was responsible for the maintenance of thousands of flood risk assets across Derbyshire – ranging from critical assets such as Shardlow Pumping Station through to small outfalls and flap valves. It ensured that the assets were routinely inspected, surveyed, assessed, maintained and operated in a safe and efficient way.
- The EA was still working with partners to influence and inform the pre-application proposals for the East Midlands Intermodal Park NSIP. On April 4, 2017, Edenvale Young (flood risk consultants acting on behalf of the developers) chaired a meeting of the EMIP drainage group. The group consisted of representatives from all relevant partners including the developers and their consultants, the Environment Agency, South Derbyshire District Council, and Derbyshire District Council as the lead local flood authority (LLFA). The EA's involvement, from a flood risk perspective, was to support DDC in their role as LLFA as it remained statutory consultee's on surface water proposals for NSIP projects.
- At the meeting, draft surface water drainage calculations and associated site layouts were discussed in great detail. It became clear that the overarching objective of the developer's consultants was to ensure that flows in Willington Brook were reduced overall, when compared to existing 'pre-development' flow rates.
- Following the meeting, the EA had further discussions with Edenvale Young, in June 2017. They have indicated that they will shortly be asking the EA to review several draft documents including a flood risk assessment (FRA), a water framework directive (WFD) assessment and an environmental statement. The EA would

continue to work with partners to ensure that comments were sent back in a timely manner.

**Mark Swain** (Flood Risk Management West Midlands) reported that:

- The Asset Performance Team was not able to complete the Monks Bridge desilt job in March as forecast at the last meeting. Enough time had not been allotted for the Salmon spawning season and commencement was now scheduled for August. The work would involve construction of a new access ramp, cutting back vegetation on the gravel shoals and removal of gravel that had been deposited in the arches beneath the canal.
- Significant tree work was planned through the Dove confluence system (Monks Bridge, Egginton, Salt Brook and Rolleston). The full extent was to be scoped imminently.
- At Hilton Brook, flood relief channel planning, access improvements and tree work would allow the EA to continue routine maintenance and for preventative maintenance.
- Damage had been caused on the flood bank at Church Road, Egginton by over-grazing of cattle. Grazing of flood banks could take place if carefully managed, with fences and access gates used to ensure damage did not occur when the bank was very wet. Agreements on fencing arrangements between the EA and the landowner / tenant were made to ensure the flood banks were kept in the condition appropriate to protect the homes behind them. The EA had been in contact with the farmer through the land agent and was establishing the extent of the repairs required and who should undertake them.
- There had been other instances of cattle damaging defences which was making the EA rethink how it managed this process. The EA very rarely owned the land that the defences were built upon and did not want to restrict landowners unnecessarily, but repeated costly repairs and increased risk of defence failure was unacceptable. In some cases, the EA fenced off banks and compensated landowners for the loss of use of their land. Anyone identifying a problem should report it to the EA as soon as possible.

A member of the public thanked the EA for the remedial work done on the River Trent.

### **Derbyshire County Council**

**Tor Coombes** (Senior Project Engineer) reported that:

- Significant developments were taking place in Melbourne and DCC had taken part in stakeholder meetings. A bid had been put forward for potential capital works in the area.
- Regarding East Midlands Intermodal Park, DCC had been part of a stakeholder meeting.
- A flood warden scheme and flood management scheme at Scropton were at a detailed level.
- DCC was working closely with SDDC planners over a review of the planning process. A review of the conditions set out was under way.

**Steve Peace** (Emergency Planning) reported that:

- Nick Elliott had retired and his post had not been filled. Mr Peace had taken over his remit, with Ashlea Kidger covering South Derbyshire.
- A flood warden workshop was taking place on Thursday, October 12, between 6pm and 8pm at DCC headquarters in Matlock. Anyone interested was advised to contact Mr Peace.
- DCC was running a set of flood training workshops around the county's districts and boroughs from the start of October.
- A multi-agency response plan had been produced and its annexes had recently been updated. It was for agency and not public use. Once the EA's remodelling of the Trent was completed, the plan would be reviewed. A member of the public asked if the annexes could be distributed and Mr Peace replied that they weren't public documents and contained sensitive information. However, the team was more than happy to meet privately with people and explain what plans were in place.

A Shardlow resident said that their greatest fear was for flood wardens who he believed would be placed on the banks of the Trent waiting for an overtopping. He felt the risk to volunteers had not been addressed.

Councillor Peter Watson said a blocked culvert in Green Lane, Barrow, which he had reported a year previously, had not been cleared. In the event of a major flood it could be an issue. He said a backlog from the Weston end of the culvert had been established and he was surprised that a year later nothing had been done about the problem. Why could DCC not use a digger to clear out the culvert down to the pipe, break it, clear the blockage and repair the pipe? If needed, Councillor Watson could find a farmer willing to do the digging. Ms Coombes replied that DCC had looked into the issue

on a number of occasions and she could forward an email showing all the work that had been done. Excavation works had been conducted to get to the bottom of the problem. From DCC's perspective, the issue was not a threat to life, property and critical infrastructure. The department was in a position where it had to prioritise and, as much as it was a priority to Councillor Watson, it wasn't to DCC and the organisation didn't have the resources to deal with it. Councillor Watson said DCC could have informed residents months previously that there weren't the resources to tackle the issue. He felt it was a case of passing the buck. A discussion was planned to be held after the meeting.

Councillor Peter Smith raised the issue of Japanese Knotweed off Willington Road, Repton. The weed was on a piece of private land and when the Trent flooded there was the possibility of it spreading. Was there anything which could be done to force the landowner to get it removed? Ms Coombes confirmed she had seen a similar problem in Erewash. She had been told the only enforcement could be carried out by the police. Matt Holford added that he had produced a report for SDDC's previous Director of Housing and Environmental Services and he was happy to share the report as part of the Flood Liaison minutes. Responsibility fell between the Environment Agency, the police, district and county councils. There was no clear statutory path to getting it resolved. It had to be "pretty horrendous" to be legally actionable. Councillor Smith said the problem would be even greater once the weed broke through the highway surface. Surely prevention was better than cure?

### **Severn Trent**

**Mark Heysmond** (Senior Area Technician) reported that:

- He had done a camera survey of the pipes at the junction of Doles Lane and Bakeacre Lane, Findern. There was silt and root intrusion. More work was needed in the area.
- A camera survey had been carried out at Trent Lane and Kings Mill Lane, Weston. Roots had been removed. He had been reviewing a private water drainage system (Network Rail) which went into Severn Trent's system. Surface water drainage was getting into the foul water sewer. The sewer had been cleansed all the way to Shardlow.
- Pipework from Manor Farm Road, Aston, to Shardlow Pumping Station had been checked with a camera and cleansed.
- Shardlow Pumping Station had been tested and was pumping twice the volume it should – there were no problems with the station.
- A culvert had been cleared in Burton Road, Ticknall. One further section in Rose Lane needed clearing. Around four tonnes of silt had

been removed from a drain. A new 300mm pipe had been installed in High Street, replacing the previous 50mm pipe.

- Egginton Road, Etwall was flooding in heavy rain. There was a hydraulic issue and it would be put forward for future investment.
- In Milton Road, Repton, the sewer had been surveyed with a camera down to Brook End. It needed clearing and that work would be carried out soon. It was a 600mm diameter pipe with a 30 per cent restriction. (This was in response to an issue raised by Peter Rainey at the previous meeting).
- Six outfalls at Willington still needed ditching work doing.
- Surface water investigation in Main Street, Egginton was needed but would be prioritised on investment. Zelia Lockett added that there were still issues at the outfall site and pipework was submerged.

**Alice Johns** (Flooding Analyst) reported that a Flood Grant and Aid bid for Melbourne had been submitted.

Councillor Smith thanked Mr Heysmond for Severn Trent's response at Ticknall and asked when the tree would be removed at Rose Lane. Mr Heysmond replied that he had hoped to remove it before the meeting. All the manholes were in unfortunate positions. The entire sewer had been cleansed apart from a 20m section which should be done over the next two weeks.

Councillor Watson thanked Mr Heysmond for what had been done so far in Aston. He asked for detailed discussions following the meeting, to which Mr Heysmond agreed.

Councillor David Muller thanked Severn Trent for quickly resolving an issue around a drop in water pressure over the weekend.

Councillor David Shepherd reported a long-standing problem with standing water on Stenson Road between the railway bridge and Grampian Way. It was there even when there hadn't been any rain. Mrs Lockett replied that the site was being looked at by Severn Trent's Clean Water Team.

**ACTION: Zelia Lockett to report back on work at Stenson Road**

Councillor Kim Coe reported the issue of standing water just off the roundabout in Civic Way, Swadlincote. Ms Coombes replied that Mr Lenton was going to explain the issue to her. Mr Heysmond added that Severn Trent had conducted a camera test and discovered there was only a 60mm pipe which was causing the problem.

**ACTION: Tor Coombes and Phil Lenton to liaise over issue in Civic Way**

Councillor Beth Hall asked if there was enough water available to supply the new developments springing up all over South Derbyshire. She said a lot of people were complaining about a drop in their water pressure. Mrs Lockett replied that it was a good question and she would report back on it. Stuart Batchelor added that the answer was in an SDDC Planning Committee report from circa 2015.

**5. Reports from parish councils**

Kevin Birch reported that people were using jet skis on lakes at Ambaston with no authority to be there. He had emailed landowner Tarmac and been told it was possibly a police issue. There should be an effective method of securing the site as there had been two such trespasses in 2017. Mr Batchelor replied that it looked like a landowner / police issue but that he would report it to SDDC's Safer Neighbourhoods team.

**ACTION: Stuart Batchelor to report jet skis at Ambaston to Safer South Derbyshire Partnership**

Mr Birch reported that a watercourse on a development of 2,000 homes at Elvaston had only been dredged out as far as the edge of the development. Water run-off would affect Thulston. Mr Turnbull replied that all planning applications were assessed for their risk to third parties.

Mr Birch raised the issue of the Our City Our River flood alleviation scheme in relation to a flood barrier at Ambaston. Mr Turnbull replied that the Ambaston scheme was in Part II of the works.

Graham Davis reported that the culvert in Barrow previously discussed was crucial for the village, which was very low lying. Regarding the new model for the Trent, he wanted to see it as soon as possible. Mr Turnbull replied that he would engage with parish councils but the model wasn't due until the end of the financial year.

**6. Any other business**

Councillor Smith reported that two-and-a-half years previously the Mill Cottages in Ticknall Road, Hartshorne, flooded for the first time. A culvert under the road was found to be collapsed and nothing had been done since. Ms Coombes replied that once again she was defending DCC's Highways team. The team which served the area had lost its manager and been restructured. She didn't know where the issue sat on a list of priorities.

**ACTION: Tor Coombes to copy Councillors Kim Coe and Peter Smith into an email sent to Highways**

Tim Summers added that SDDC's Environmental Health team had a range of flood artefacts such as door barriers and back valves which were available to the community. They weren't kite marked but could prove useful. Councillor Smith added the door barriers were excellent if a resident had a back door as well as one at the front.

## **7. Date and time of the next meeting**

TBA.

The meeting finished at 11.25am.

## **Addendum**

In answer to a question raised by Mr Kevin Birch concerning the Our City Our River flood alleviation scheme and associated flood risk to Ambaston, Mr David Turnbull (EA) stated that there was a planning condition that verified the mitigation works to Ambaston would be completed prior to the works of North Riverside. Mr Turnbull would like to add the following point of clarification:

Package Two works for the Our City Our River scheme, which include North Riverside works and mitigation works to Shardlow and Ambaston, currently have outline planning permission. Further details will be required prior to the granting of full planning permission this phase of the scheme. Condition number 31 of planning application DER/02/15/00210 (the OCOR application) states "The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the Flood Risk Assessment dated 25 July 2015....." Within the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) there is an indicative programme of works which clearly shows the completion of the works to Ambaston and Shardlow prior to the completion of the North Riverside works. There is not, however, a distinct condition in the associated decision notice that states the order of the works.

Although there is no condition precisely as suggested in the meeting, it is the clear intention of the EA that mitigation works to Ambaston and Shardlow are completed in accordance with the submitted flood risk assessment, and prior to the completion of the works at North Riverside.

Further details regarding the current progression of the scheme can be found here: <http://www.derby.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/our-city-our-river/>

The Flood Risk Assessment and decision notice can be viewed on the Derby City website here: <https://docs.derby.gov.uk/paserver/index.aspx?caseref=02/15/00210>