

FLOODING MEETING HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARISHES WITHIN  
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

11th November 2003

**PRESENT:-**

**South Derbyshire District Council Representatives**

Councillors Atkin, Hood and Mrs. Wheeler.

Ian Reid (Deputy Chief Executive), C. Payne (Engineering Technician), D. Cook (Democratic Services Officer).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillor Harrison, J. Waite (Area Manager), T. Pierce (Emergency Planning).

**Parish Council Representatives**

B. Cowley (Egginton), L. Brown (Egginton), M. Clifton (Shardlow), K. Gibbs (Willington), D. Kite (Willington), L. Kolkman (Hilton), S. Brown (Hilton), T. Beresford (Foston & Scropton), C. Barker (Barrow-upon-Trent).

**Environment Agency Representatives**

M. Swain, P. Reilly, A. Pendleton, T. McManus.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Elvaston Parish Council, District Councillor G. Martin and M. Young (Severn Trent).

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of attendance by representatives of Severn Trent and it was agreed that the Deputy Chief Executive would write to Severn Trent accordingly.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th April 2003 were received.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

An update on the collapsed culvert at Monks Bridge, Egginton was requested. It was reported that this was a Listed bridge constructed of stone. J. Waite advised that the Bridges Section of Derbyshire County Council were to write to the Parish Council as a matter of urgency regarding this matter. A representative of the Environment Agency advised that he thought a lot of work had been carried out in this area.

Reference to the A6 wall at Shardlow and the pipes lacking in valves was made. This matter had been the subject of a meeting with Les Unwin of Derbyshire County Council. J. Waite advised that he was anxious that work was carried out whilst this was the responsibility of the Highways Agency (the Highways Agency was not transferring any finance to the County Council in this regard) and therefore the County Council Officers were pushing for the

work to be carried out as soon as possible. The Highways Agency had confirmed that an Order for this work to be undertaken had been placed.

Councillor Hood requested an update on The Pines, Etwall. J. Waite advised that he had been progressing this matter with the school but that the Headmaster was resisting having a manhole within the school grounds. Councillor Hood expressed concern regarding the impending planning application for 23 houses at this site (no one was present at the Meeting from the Lower Trent Development Control Office of the Environment Agency to comment on this matter).

## 2. **REPORTS FROM AGENCIES**

### South Derbyshire District Council

C. Payne referred to the flooding problems experienced at Hatton and advised that a grant application to the Department of Environment for flood alleviation works had been made. A first report to DEFRA had been submitted in July and a formal application would be made the week commencing 17th November 2003. One letter had been received in response to the consultation and if the application was approved, works would go ahead in 2004.

It was noted that the A516 Derby Road was causing concern and this had now been cleared from Sutton Lane to the Highway Culvert giving it extra capacity. The landowner at Marston-on-Dove had asked the tenant to clear the watercourse and this should help with problems experienced on Derby Road.

A meeting had been held on 20th May 2003 at Hilton Village Hall regarding the Western Link road. The Environment Agency had approved the design and advised that a 1/100 flooding event could be contained based on the latest Government advice on global warming.

C. Payne advised that Derbyshire County Council were replacing the A444 highway culvert in May 2004 to alleviate problems experienced at Stanton by Newhall. It was reported that Officers were continuing to monitor the Sands Brook at Willington. Also, a report on the dyke at Shardlow was sent to the Parish Council on a yearly basis and the Wilne Lane problem was to be resolved by Derbyshire County Council. The Brookfield, Barrow-on-Trent watercourse was to be investigated with a view to improving flows to the River Trent.

C. Payne outlined that there were eight critical watercourses in the District. Four would be taken on by the Environment Agency (Salt Brook Hatton, Sands Brook Willington, Dyke and its Culverts Shardlow, Stanton watercourse). The Council's Environment and Development Committee was to consider a report this week recommending that the Council did not contract back maintenance to the Environment Agency. A representative of the Environment Agency asked for those present to "bear with them" whilst the funding for these additional watercourses as the responsibility of the Environment Agency was determined. It was noted that the responsibility for maintenance still lay with the riparian owners. A request was made for C. Payne to report to Egginton Parish Council on the outcome of the decision made by the Environment and Development Committee and it was confirmed that a press release outlining the decision would be issued.

A representative asked for details as to how the Council Officers had determined the above-mentioned critical watercourses and the nationally laid down criteria was explained accordingly. Concern was expressed regarding the situation with Egginton water courses and a representative of Egginton advised that it was hoped that the District Council would have the resources to look at this problem. It was noted that the Environment Agency had carried out a lot of work south of the A38 and C. Payne agreed to look at works north of the A38.

A representative queried the locality of the culvert running under the A516 at Hilton and directions were given accordingly. C. Payne agreed to meet with Hilton Parish Council representatives on site regarding the culvert at Hilton to address a number of issues regarding this location.

It was reported that there were four remaining critical ordinary watercourses, these being Hartshorne Brook, Swadlincote (Darklands Brook), Findern (Doles Brook) and Scropton, Watery Lane.

#### Environment Agency

The Meeting received a detailed presentation on the A50(T) and flooding in South Derbyshire. The presentation advised that the report from Jeremy Ben Associates (JBA) covered by the A50 issue and flooding from Salt Brook, concentrating specifically on Hatton. The report had been commissioned by the District Council but had used data from the Environment Agency files to supplement findings. It was noted that property owners had reported flooding as more frequent since the construction of the bypass but JBA found no evidence of this but noted it was a valid concern. It was noted that the figure for 5% allowance for permitted increase in flow might be appropriate for watercourses within surplus capacity but not for watercourses at maximum flood capacity along the Sutton/Derby Road. This statement had been included in the report and JBA questioned the wisdom of it. It was noted that improvements had been carried out pre-construction of the A50 bypass and that maintenance was poor at the Brook Lane and Sutton Lane area. The report from JBA advised that the model showed that for a 100 year event, the watercourse would overspill the right bank to an extent of over 100 metres into the flood plain near Hatton House. The flood water would also overspill the left bank in a two year flood as it flowed along Derby Road to an extent of over 100 metres in the flood plain. The ISIS model for watercourse 2 showed that the watercourse in its present state was not of an adequate size to convey flows from moderate rainfall, hence regular flooding of the land around watercourse 2 occurred. It also stated that for watercourse 2, an earth embankment and downstream watercourse regrading and clearance was recommended to alleviate the flooding. It was noted that the Environment Agency had concluded that this area would still flood whether the A50 had been constructed or not. The problems experienced were the responsibility of the drainage authority but significant finance would be required to rectify the matter. The discussions with the Highways Agency were outlined to the Meeting together with a possible way forward.

The Meeting was advised that a rain gauge had been installed at Watery Lane, Scropton and the River Inspector could not find a problem in the run-off from the A50 (the likely back-up was from the River Dove).

M. Swain of the Environment Agency advised that he had concluded that the Highways Agency had complied with statutory requirements. Those requirements would be more stringent today, following the experience of the 1998 and 2000 floods. This watercourse would flood with or without the A50 and it would be a frequent occurrence. Poor maintenance had exacerbated the problem and engineering works would be required to solve the problem. A suggested solution was to build an embankment on Derby Road, Hilton and M. Swain advised that any scheme in this location had to be cost beneficial in accordance with the requirements of DEFRA. The District Council were using DEFRA criteria and its current priorities were Salt Brook, Hatton/Stanton by Newhall.

Councillor Atkin queried the Sinfin Moor drainage facility and advised that he was tenant for some of the land in that area. A representative of the Environment Agency agreed to speak to Councillor Atkin regarding this matter after the Meeting.

It was noted that regrading and clearing out of the Dove aqueduct had been carried out and it was queried whether the Environment Agency had been involved. The representative of the Environment Agency confirmed that the Environment Agency had spent money regrading the banks to provide a gradient through the bridge. A discussion took place regarding Cavendish Bridge. It was noted that opposite to the dry arch, an access road and concrete wall had been built. It was queried whether this was a breach of planning regulations and noted that there were no culverts on this road. A fishery had been opened and a mile of bunds built. A representative of the Environment Agency agreed to meet with the representative raising this matter to discuss the issues.

A representative advised that a road had been taken out following the works at Monks Bridge and accordingly, the Environment Agency agreed to pursue this matter and report back.

A progress report was requested on the Dove Strategy. It was reported that the feasibility of implementing proposals were at an early stage. Consultants had collected and were reviewing information gathered. The 1964 Study and Environment Agency Flood Reports were being looked at and the Project Manager was drawing up a communications plan and an initial consultation letter regarding this strategy. A draft scoping report would be produced in November 2003 and plans of existing defences at Egginton were being looked at. The Strategy would look at long-term solutions and could look at balancing flows to benefit Hatton/Hilton/Egginton. It was noted that there were lessons on storage which could be learnt from the Trent Strategy and it was suggested that the Dove Strategy formed the basis of a future discussion for a further meeting. It was requested that local parish councils be included in the consultation process regarding the Dove Strategy and this request was noted.

A request was made for the Environment Agency to look at Foston Brook as the area under the railway line was overgrown. A query was raised regarding the situation with the stream which passed through the centre of Scropton. It was noted that where the stream entered the river, it entered at right angles and there was a request for the environment agency to pursue this matter. It was confirmed that works in this area were still in the Environment Agency's programme for funding.

Derbyshire County Council

Environmental Services – J. Waite advised that at the end of the Western Link road, where it met with the A516, a pipe was to be looked at. The pipe was currently erected quite high and there was some concern regarding its angle. A Derbyshire County Council representative was to attend when Hilton representatives met with C. Payne of the District Council in order to progress matters. It was noted that three pipes had also been installed at the end for this brook to go through but these concerns could be addressed at the site meeting.

Emergency Planning – T. Pierce advised that he had replaced Wendy Cheshire on the Emergency Planning Team. He welcomed working with parish councils and noted a request made for sandbags at Egginton and Willington.

3. **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILS**

Mrs. Cowley queried who was responsible for clearing out drains under the roads and it was noted that this was the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council. Accordingly, Mrs. Cowley advised of the problems experienced in Egginton. A camera had been put down the drains in Church Road and it was found that these were blocked. Floods had been experienced in Main Street and Ashgrove Lane and J. Waite noted the comments for action.

Representatives expressed concern that no action had been taken on the Ferrygreen Trust Sewerage Pumping Station at Willington since 2000 and it was noted that this was the responsibility of Severn Trent Water.

C. Barker reported a problem with the watercourse from Green Lane, Barrow-on-Trent. She also received confirmation that individuals' details listed within the parish council's flood plans remained confidential.

It was reported that very good flood defences were in place at Shardlow but these lacked regular maintenance. The procedure for opening the flood defences at Shardlow was requested and a problem regarding the lock was reported (this was the responsibility of both British Waterways and the Environment Agency). It was noted that there was a need for the safety of this lock to be reviewed in view of boats travelling upstream. A representative of the Environment Agency advised that maintenance of lock gates involved the gates being closed every six months and being cleaned out. The issue with the low gates needed addressing. A representative of the Environment Agency agreed to meet with Shardlow Parish Council once the arrangements with British Waterways had been confirmed. In the meantime, the Shardlow representative present agreed to outline all the problems at Shardlow in writing to the Environment Agency.

4. **SUMMARY OF POSITION AND MATTERS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

It was agreed that Severn Trent would be asked to attend the next Meeting. Particular items for discussion at the next Meeting would be the Fluvial Strategy and the Dove Study.

5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A representative suggested that parish councils who did not have Flood Plans currently be written to.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 20th April 2004.

The Meeting was closed at 11.45 a.m.