

**FLOOD LIAISON MEETING HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF  
THE PARISHES WITHIN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

**26 June 2014 at 10am**

**PRESENT**

**South Derbyshire District Council Representatives**

Councillors M Ford, P Watson and Mrs L Brown, R Ledger (Chairman), C Payne (Engineer), L Brewster (Performance & Admin)

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillor Mrs L Chilton, A Dunn, R Davison, K Jones

**Environment Agency Representatives**

M Swain, V Candlish, R Kershaw

**Severn Trent Water Representative**

A Hatfield

**Parish Council/Meeting Representatives**

C A Thurman and R Brooks (Hatton Parish Council), A Heathcote (Barrow upon Trent Parish Council), T Scott (Shardlow & Great Wilne Parish Council), A Beresford (Foston & Scropton Parish Council), J Houghton (Willington Parish Council).

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from County Councillor Mrs K Lauro and T Smith (Severn Trent Water).

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2013**

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2013 were duly noted.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 p.3 Debate over the correct website address concluded that it should read [www.ourcityourriver.co.uk](http://www.ourcityourriver.co.uk).

3.2 p.2 Railway Bridge at Heage Lane, Etwall. Ashley Dunn confirmed that work is now complete and the drainage network has been inspected. Councillor Ford thanked the County Council. Mr Dunn will send further details regarding the works to Councillor Ford and Councillor Mrs Brown.

#### **4. REPORTS FROM AGENCIES**

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

4.2 The District Council's Engineer gave his report which covered flood protection works, flooding incidents, watercourse maintenance and completed culvert works. He went on to talk about proposed flood prevention work in the district, investigations and consultations.

4.3 Joint Agency working has proved to be of great benefit to the local authority as shown in the Lower Dove flood defence works completed by the Environment Agency last year affecting properties in Scropton, Hatton and Egginton.

4.4 In addition, Derbyshire County Council commissioned a consultant's report to investigate causes of flooding from the Watery Lane watercourse in Scropton and as a result a scheme is being considered for detailed design. A Flood Warden Scheme is also to be trialled in Scropton by the County Council.

4.5 Grant funding has been sought and awarded for flood prevention works at Robinson's Hill, Melbourne for the sum of £25,000 and at Woodville Road, Hartshorne for the sum of £25,000.

4.6 At Ashby Road, Melbourne a 200 metre length of outfall drainage was designed and constructed for the proposed sports pitches off Cockshutt Lane.

4.7 The serious flooding experienced in some parts of England early this year did not greatly affect South Derbyshire. Incidents of flooding at 2 properties in Plummer Road, Newhall were reported which have since been resolved. In addition, 2 properties at Hartshorne Road, Woodville were flooded and Severn Trent Water is working to resolve this. The heavy rain affected some culverts and brooks in other parts of the district. However, other potential flooding was prevented by work carried out to culverts and by the distribution of around 300 sandbags at Swarkestone and Twyford. Emergency standby arrangements were put in place during the last weekend of July 2013 and the last 2 weekends in February 2014.

4.8 A long list of completed watercourse maintenance works and culvert works throughout the district was reported by The Engineer.

4.9 Proposed flood prevention works are to be carried out at Old Station Close, Etwall; Doles Brook off Hazel Close at Findern; Linton Heath; Almond Grove Newhall; Darklands Brook, Swadlincote; Willington Reservoir and The Cutting, Woodville. If funding is available works are to be carried out at Malthouse Lane and Derby Road, Hatton.

4.10 Investigations are ongoing at the Ambaston Derwent Tributary; Greenmount Drive and Silkstone Close, Church Gresley; Park Lane, Weston on Trent; Ford Lane, Willington and Hartshorne Road and Excelsior Drive and Hartshorne Road, Woodville.

- 4.11 South Derbyshire District Council Development Control is to appoint consultant engineers with regard to the East Midlands Intermodal Park at Willington Reservoir.
- Until the County Council is given status as approval body for Sustainable Drainage systems, the District Council is considering adopting surface water balancing features for developments at Highfields Farm Littleover and The Mease, Hilton.
- 4.12 A question and answer session followed the Engineer's report.
- 4.13 The representative from Barrow upon Trent thanked Chris for the work on flood prevention in that area.
- 4.14 The representative from Hatton queried when funding would be available for the proposed work in that area. Mr Payne advised that he has applied to the District Council and is to speak to the County Council with regard to the possibility of grant funding through the Environment Agency. He is also considering making an appeal to land owners for help.
- 4.15 A councillor reported that the ongoing issue of blocked gullies and culverts in Etwall was raised at most Parish Council meetings, despite being jetted out by contractors. Mr Payne informed the meeting that Derbyshire County Council should be informed of this as they are the responsible authority.
- 4.16 The representative from Foston and Scropton Parish Council reported that the grass verge along Watery Lane was so overgrown that it was impossible to assess the condition of the ditches. In addition he is also worried that when the grass is cut it will cause further blockages. Mr Payne advised that it will be inspected and cleared of any debris in late summer. Mr Ledger, the Chairman agreed to advise the representative from Foston and Scropton when the grass is due to be cut.
- 4.17 A question was posed as to how funding for flood prevention work is prioritised. Mr Payne advised that decisions were based on known flood areas and locations where houses had previously experienced internal flooding.
- 4.18 The representative from Egginton Parish Council thanked Mr Payne for all his recent work in Egginton, but asked that he pay a visit to Fishpond Lane where the vegetation is waist-high in some drainage ditches. Mr Payne advised that the flow of water is dictated by a culvert under the track which results in water collecting in the excavated area. A possible solution would be to regrade the watercourse but this is dictated by flood bank pipework. Ashley Dunn from the County Council added that he is due to meet with Highways and the landowner shortly regarding debris in the culvert which should really be a dry ditch rather than holding water. Mr Dunn agreed to update the representative from Egginton Parish Council following his meeting and she asked that Mr Payne add this issue to his list of works.
- 4.19 **Environment Agency – Staffordshire, Warwickshire and West Midlands Area**
- 4.20 Update on Lower Dove Scheme – this was officially completed in November 2013. The final cost was £8.7 million of which £6.6 million was provided by the Government and the rest was raised by beneficiaries. The benefit provided by the

scheme is calculated at £363 million. The scheme won a national award from the Chartered Institute of Water and Environment Management which was collected by Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown and displayed at this meeting.

- 4.21 Due to the wet conditions last year some landscaping has been postponed until this winter. In addition, some repair work and surface water drainage issues are to be completed this summer.
- 4.22 The Environment Agency is still working with householders at Church Road, Egginton and in Rolleston who were not directly included in the original scheme.
- 4.23 An automated flood sign has been installed at Scropton to warn drivers when the road is flooded. It is currently set to say "Road Closed" when water reaches a depth of 1.75m in the culvert. However, this text can be changed and one suggestion was "Road Impassable". Mr Dunn invited other suggestions.
- 4.24 The flood map is to be updated to show areas now at a reduced level of risk as a result of the defence work. A simple tool has been developed for the district and parishes affected to help them better understand the level of flood risk from the Lower Dove and other watercourses. This will help when providing information for household insurance and when considering new development.
- 4.25 Construction work is planned at Hatton to increase the width of the flood bank that protects farms and properties in Scropton south of the railway. Due to its location on working farms, the bank is suffering continual erosion caused by farm traffic and livestock
- 4.26 Due to increasing workload, the level of involvement in responding to planning applications regarding surface water drainage is being reduced and, as such, generic advice only will now be given.
- 4.27 New community flood warnings have been introduced on the Lower Dove, but this affects communities on the East Staffordshire side of the river rather than South Derbyshire.
- 4.28 A question and answer session followed.
- 4.29 The representative from Foston & Scropton Parish Council commented that the "Road Flooded" sign is only visible from Scropton and will not help motorists approaching from Sudbury. A Flood Warden Meeting is to be held on 14 July 2014 and Mr Dunn suggested that further discussions should be held at that time.
- 4.30 Concerns were raised by a number of councillors and parish council representatives about the proposed rail head on Egginton Common which is out for consultation at the moment. The main concern was an increased flood risk affecting Egginton, Willington and Repton. In addition, there were questions regarding known contaminated land and what effect the development would have on water source protection and underground aquifers.

- 4.31 Mr Dunn stated that the Environment Agency was involved in the non-statutory consultation response to the scheme and that no information on the site drainage proposal was available so far. He reassured the meeting that the developers were committed to employing sustainable drainage and intended to treat the water on site to limit the impact on groundwater systems. In addition they were looking to ensure that no more water left the site than at present. Maintenance of the system will be undertaken by the county council. A councillor advised the meeting that the contaminated land dated back to when it used to be a sewage farm.
- 4.32 Vikki Candlish of the Environment Agency agreed to contact the representative from Egginton Parish Council with more details.
- 4.33 Another councillor then expressed concern that another similar project known as the Junction 24 Rail Interchange was in the planning stage just over the border abutting Melbourne which was only 12 miles from the Egginton project. This could also affect the River Trent and would share the same road network. Apparently the issue was discussed at the Planning Committee held on 25 June 2014. Full details of the scheme can be found at [www.eastmidlandsgateway.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandsgateway.co.uk).
- 4.34 The Chairman suggested that all agencies liaise regarding the 2 projects.
- 4.35 At this point Councillor Watson made his apologies and left the meeting.
- 4.36 A councillor made an enquiry regarding flooding on Borrowash Road which he agreed to discuss with the appropriate representatives after the meeting.
- 4.37 The representative from Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council reported that a solid wall had been built across the flood arch at Cavendish Bridge. He asked Ms Candlish to look at photos he had provided. Ms Candlish agreed to look into this and to report back at the next meeting.
- 4.38 **Environment Agency – East Area**
- 4.39 Following restructure resulting in the removal of the regional tier, the area will now be known as Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.
- 4.40 Richard Kershaw of Asset Performance reported that the flood bank at Ambaston has been repaired and leaks in the flood bank at Draycott are to be investigated.
- 4.41 Vikki Candlish gave an update on proposed property level flood prevention schemes in Swarkestone, Willington and Barrow upon Trent. Medium term plans to raise defences in Shardlow, providing 50-year protection, are in their infancy at the moment.
- 4.42 Environment Agency representatives then gave an update on the Our City Our River scheme covering work along the lower Derwent.
- 4.43 Although the scheme, which will take up to 10 years to complete, is up and running, funding has not yet been secured.

- 4.44 Derby City Council is leading the scheme in partnership with the Environment Agency. Economic regeneration and growth in some parts of the city will be addressed by Derby City Council with the Environment Agency dealing with the flood defence aspect.
- 4.45 The Business Case for the scheme went to the Large Project Review Group last February and technical approval was granted in May. A link to the Business Case can be accessed from the website.
- 4.46 However, the money is yet to be released as finance amounting to £36 million will be required from the Government's Growth Fund and discussions with DEFRA are still taking place.
- 4.47 Work will be carried out in 3 "packages"
- 4.48 Tender documents for Package 1, upstream of St Mary's Bridge, prepared in May are due back in July. The contract should be awarded by September under a "design and build" arrangement. Work is expected to start in March 2015 and to be completed by March 2018.
- 4.49 The submission of planning applications has been delayed by archaeological findings resulting in extra trial trenching being planned at Little Chester during July.
- 4.50 The whole scheme has outline planning approval and developers of new or redeveloped sites that will benefit are being asked to make contributions.
- 4.51 The "hybrid" application covers an area from the A38 Bridge at Breadsall through Ambaston to Shardlow, requiring numerous flood gates and pumping stations on tributaries.
- 4.52 Detailed planning permission will be submitted in early August. 1 week later letters will be sent by the Cabinet Member for the Scheme to the Parish Councils and to those living within the corridors involved. In addition there will be press releases and 5 public exhibitions – 4 in Derby and 1 at Elvaston Village Hall.
- 4.53 Responding to a query from the representative from Barrow upon Trent Parish Council about capital expenditure on property level protection, Ms Candlish replied that house surveys had not taken place so far, but she expected that a figure of approximately £5000 per property would be allowed. She agreed to contact the Parish Council when she has more information.
- 4.54 The representative from Egginton Parish Council stated that the brook at Old Station Close, Etwall requires clearing of debris. She was advised to contact Chris Payne and Zoe Sewter at the District Council.
- 4.55 The representative from Shardlow & Great Wilne Parish Council queried the connection between the Derby Scheme and the Derwent defence work mentioned earlier. Although they are separate projects they are related in that consideration is made into how the Derwent defences affect the Trent.

- 4.56 Package 2 of the Derby Scheme will run for 10 years and should be completed by 2025.
- 4.57 The meeting adjourned for a 5 minute break.
- 4.58 **Derbyshire County Council – Environmental Services**
- 4.59 In response to a query from the representative from Egginton Parish Council, Ashley Dunn stated that Derbyshire County Council is not a statutory consultee in drainage. The Council is able to comment on planning applications when asked. It has a suite of historical flooding data and has a surface water flood model. Developers will have to apply to the SUDS approval body too in the future.
- 4.60 Mr Dunn proceeded to give an update on the County Council Flood Mitigation Scheme.
- 4.61 The investigation which was triggered by the surface water flooding on Watery Lane, Scropton in 2012, is available on the Derbyshire County Council website.
- 4.62 A consultant was commissioned who came back with an options appraisal report, detailing proposed improvement works. The timetable is – design (funded by the County Council) in 2014/15, appoint contractors and consult with the village in 2015/6, construction in 2017/18.
- 4.63 Three pilot studies into a Flood Warden Scheme are on-going across the county, including one at Scropton. The proposal is to appoint a group of wardens to act on behalf of the community monitoring flood channels; responding to forecasts; liaising and reporting to relevant agencies. They will then be required to implement a Flood Plan which will have been written by the County Council together with local residents.
- 4.64 A meeting is to be held at Scropton on 14 July to discuss the proposals and practicalities involved including storage and removal of signs, PPE, training and risk.
- 4.65 A new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is currently being drafted which will outline how the County Council intends to identify and manage flood risk. Consultation will take place during the autumn and the final document will be published in spring 2015. Mr Dunn agreed to advise everyone when the consultation is out.
- 4.66 A Councillor commented that flood signs are left out too long following flooding and was disappointed that a local publican in Igleby who volunteered to remove and store flood signs was refused permission due to his profession. Mr Dunn asked for more feedback on this issue.
- 4.67 The Councillor for Willington and Findern reported that, following works on the A38, it had been identified that further work was required to clear the culvert. Mr Dunn confirmed that the ditch was overgrown and that he would ask Highways to look into it.

- 4.68 A Councillor queried where the water would go once the flow was diverted on Watery Lane to the east of Scropton. Mr Dunn replied that it would disperse on to private land. Mark Swain and Ashley Dunn will liaise with the Parish Council to discuss the matter in the near future.
- 4.69 The 3 pilot Flood Warden Schemes should be rolled out by the end of this financial year.
- 4.70 **Emergency Planning**
- 4.71 Kevin Jones reported that the Flood Contingency Plan is still being maintained by Derbyshire County Council.
- 4.72 A reserve stock of empty sandbags is held at County Hall and free packs of empty sandbags can still be issued by post as a precautionary measure to anyone who applies to the Call Derbyshire call centre. However the policy is to try and wean people off sandbags and to try and encourage community resilience rather than rely on councils.
- 4.73 **Severn Trent Water**
- 4.74 Ashley Hatfield had no report from Severn Trent
- 4.75 The representative from Egginton Parish Council asked for an update following the serious flooding incident at Egginton over 10 days during the Christmas 2012 period. Remedial works to drains are still ongoing. Councillor Mrs Brown and Mr Hatfield agreed to meet to discuss the matter.
- 4.76 The Chairman asked that any outstanding matters be passed to Chris Payne.
5. **Reports from Parish Councils**
- 5.1 There were no reports from Parish Councils
6. **Any other business**
- 6.1 Representative from Shardlow & Great Wilne Parish Council stated that the Parish was developing a container store for sand and sandbags. He asked Kevin Jones if they should continue with this scheme. Mr Jones confirmed that the County Council was trying to reduce demand and encouraging local arrangements.
- 6.2 Representative from Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council asked the Environment Agency for an update on the work at the pump house on Wilne Lane.
- 6.3 County Councillor Rob Davison posed a query for the Environment Agency regarding package 2 of the Derby Scheme. He wondered if, due to the City Council taking the lead role, would work in the city take priority over work in rural areas. Ms Candlish assured him that this would not happen and that work could be co-ordinated to avoid displacement.
- 6.4 The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12.15pm