

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

24 June 2015 at 10am

PRESENT

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

S Batchelor (Chairman), Councillors Mrs L Brown, Mrs K Coe, Mrs H Coyle, J Harrison, D Muller, P Watson, R Wheeler, C Payne (Engineer), P Lenton (Engineer), L Brewster (Service Assistant)

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

J Biddlestone, Councillor R Davison, N Elliott, K Jones

Environment Agency Representatives

V Candlish, S Foster, M Swain

Severn Trent Water Representative

None

Parish Council/Meeting Representatives

A Heathcote (Barrow upon Trent), D Lindop (Foston & Scropton), A Cook (Overseal), A Record (Weston on Trent), K Birch (Elvaston & Ambaston), C Nield (Hilton), W Earp (Melbourne), Sir H Every (Egginton)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Severn Trent Water

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2014

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2014 were duly noted.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 There were no matters arising

4. REPORTS FROM AGENCIES

4.1 South Derbyshire District Council

4.2 The District Council's Engineer gave his report which covered several flooding incidents after an extreme rainfall event on 8 July 2014. He also reported on flood protection works, watercourse maintenance and completed culvert works. He went on to talk about proposed flood prevention work in the district, investigations and consultations.

- 4.3 Flooding in Castle Gresley on 8 July 2014 was caused by surface water run-off from farm land onto adjacent properties built below ground level where there was no provision for surface water run-off. Internal flooding was experienced at 10 properties on Oak Road, 2 on Bass's Crescent and 2 on Arthur Street. External flooding was reported at 6 properties on Cedar Road. No solution was found and the situation will be monitored.
- 4.4 Flooding on 8 July 2014 at Toons in Castle Gresley was as a result of the land lying in a low position where there is a history of flooding. Since then Toons has undertaken civil engineering work involving extending the storage pond and improving the pump to protect the show room against future events. In addition SDDC has undertaken work to widen the brook on Mount Road. The situation will be monitored.
- 4.5 Flooding on 8 July occurred on Hartshorne Road, Woodville. This was investigated by Severn Trent Water and Derbyshire County Council and subsequently Severn Trent Water has admitted there was a defective sewer. Small repairs were undertaken by SDDC, but further work is to be carried out by Severn Trent Water.

ACTION – Phil Lenton to discuss further with Mark Haysmond Severn Trent Water. Scheme currently on STW capital programme to replace.

- 4.6 On 19 July 2014, following another extreme rainfall event, surface water run-off resulted in most of Melbourne being flooded. In addition, surcharging of combined foul and surface water from man holes entered some homes and flooded highways, particularly along Ashby Road. Craft units at Melbourne Hall were issued with sandbags. Joint investigations led by DCC followed and Severn Trent Water has confirmed that works to increase sewer storage capacity are included as part of their Capital Programme being revised in July 2015.

Councillor Harrison thanked SDDC for their work but responded that it was not a one-off event and indeed, there had been flooding and sewage on the streets of Melbourne within the last 10 days which was not acceptable. Further discussion followed regarding the severity and urgency of the matter and Stuart Batchelor (Chair) agreed that SDDC will pursue this and send a letter to the head of Severn Trent Water as they do not seem to wish to participate in this meeting.

ACTION – Stuart Batchelor to write to Severn Trent to request a briefing be held on infrastructure plans to cope with growth in the District.

- 4.7 Environment Agency Grant funded work has been completed at Woodville Road, Hartshorne to reduce surface water run-off from the water course at the rear into gardens and properties. A CCTV inspection of the culvert section of the water course resulted in ditch works, new head wall improvements and 100m of the culvert being re-laid.
- 4.8 Following extensive CCTV surveys, works are currently ongoing at Robinsons Hill, Melbourne to mitigate flooding to properties. SDDC is working alongside Derbyshire County Council Highways Department to resolve the problem.
- 4.9 Other places where flooding occurred and preventative work was carried out include

- Brook Street, Hartshorne – low spot vulnerable to flooding, sandbags delivered
- William Nadin Way, Tetron Point – clearance of grill to balancing area
- Darklands Brook – extensive ditching, widening of brook, removal of trees and debris
- Ticknall Road, Harshorne – cleaning of inlet and outlet to culvert under road
- Edward Street, Goseley – culvert and ditch cleared
- Woodlands Road, Stanton – culvert cleared under A444
- Ashby Road and Main Street, Ticknall – sandbags delivered, some remedial work carried out by DCC Highways
- Watery Lane, Scropton – removal of fly tipping and vegetation in ditch
- Main Street, Netherseal – ditch re-profiled on entry to village
- Willington Road, Hilton – removal of fly tipping and clearance of vegetation close to outlet at culvert adjacent to Hilton Cars. Responsibility also lies with Severn Trent Water and DCC. Phil Lenton has written to DCC flood team with regard to arranging a joint meeting.

ACTION – PHIL LENTON TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH DCC.

- Sutton Lane, Hatton – fallen tree removed from ditch
- Common Piece Lane, Findern – fly tipping removal and clearance to Doles Brook
- Church Lane, Barrow on Trent – problems with high water levels. Ongoing investigations and work to clear culvert under road.
- Colwell Drive, Boulton Moor – Some work to remove fly tipping has already taken place around Elvaston Brook, but further work is necessary. Environment Agency state land is owned by DCC and Wilson Homes but they seem reluctant to take responsibility.
- Willington Reservoir – annual maintenance has taken place and the formal 10-year inspection is due within this financial year
- Willington Sands Brook – the land owner has undertaken extensive clearance work to the rear of the old Calder works which has made a vast improvement.

4.10 Environment Agency – Staffordshire, Warwickshire and West Midlands Area

4.11 Mark Swain, Environment Agency representative for the Staffordshire, Warwickshire and West Midlands Area gave an update as follows:

4.12 The New Flood Risk Management Plan is currently being written. A new high level document has been produced to comply with the European Flood Risk Regulations. South Derbyshire is included within the Humber catchment and at the moment higher level strategic objectives have been captured. However, the plan is a “Living Document” and it is expected that more local, community level actions can be incorporated over the coming years.

4.13 East Midlands Inter Modal Park –This new proposed development has to take account of flood risk and additional modelling of all the Lower Dove, Egginton Brook and Hilton Brook will be completed. It will be interesting to see if this work identifies additional areas of concern. The modelling programme continues up to Christmas,

and then we would expect a Flood Risk Assessment to be submitted by the developer.

- 4.14 Improvements to Foston & Scropton flood defences – Spare material from the Lower Dove scheme has been used to improve flood defences in Foston and Scropton that were not included in the scheme. These were defences that did not need to be raised, but the opportunity has been taken to widen and strengthen the banks to improve their resilience to damage from cattle and farm traffic that has previously resulted in failure.
- 4.15 Flood Arches at Monks Bridge on A38– Culverts that take flood water beneath Trent & Mersey canal have had vegetation cleared to allow free passage of flood water.
- 4.16 A question and answer session followed
- 4.17 The representative for Etwall Ward thanked Mark Swain for his work and asked if the Inter Modal Park calculations would be peer reviewed? In addition, if satisfactory, what safeguards would be planned to ensure future maintenance?
- 4.18 Vikki Candlish, another representative from the Environment Agency stated that provision would be made for an ongoing review of maintenance.
- 4.19 Mark Swain confirmed that the modelling had been completed and was awaiting peer review.
- 4.20 The representative from Egginton Parish Council expressed his concern about the flooding of Church Road pumping station at Egginton in 2012 and requested that this be included in future maintenance plans, bearing in mind the impact the Inter Modal Park would have.
- 4.21 Mark Swain replied that both he and James Biddleston (DCC Flood Risk Management) has good contacts with Severn Trent Water and would make sure the comments were passed on.
- 4.22 The representative for Foston & Scropton Parish Council expressed concern that it was 5 years since the drains and underground piping system at The Green near the Church were last cleared. He also queried whether the outlet flaps from the brook to the river at the allotments were ever checked.
- 4.23 Chris Payne replied that blockages in the culvert at The Green were unlikely but it would not be a difficult job to investigate using a camera survey.
- 4.24 Mark Swain confirmed that the flaps/gates are checked as part of routine maintenance.
- 4.25 **Environment Agency – Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire Area**
- 4.26 Vikki Candlish, Environment Agency representative for the Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Leicestershire Area gave an update as follows:

- 4.27 Derby City River Scheme – The business case is now finished and waiting to be signed off. Funding amounting to £25 million was awarded last October towards the £80 million scheme.

The first package of work covered by the funding will be from St Mary’s Bridge to Alfreton Road Industrial Estate. However the responsibility for the funding is now with Derby City Council as the Environment Agency is no longer the lead agency.

A development planning application was submitted at the end of February 2015 for the area from Breadsall to Ambaston and Shardlow. Consultation events took place in March and April 2015 with the consultation period ending on 18 June. Numerous objections resulted in an amendment to the planning application which should go to the Planning Committee in September 2015. Pending planning permission, work should start in January/February 2016 and be finished by spring 2018.

- 4.28 Development & Planning – Etwall Rail Freight, covered earlier
- 4.29 Capital Schemes led by the Environment Agency – from 2022 onwards property level flood protection work will take place at Barrow on Trent, Swarkestone, Shardlow and Willington where there are no defences. Lock gates may be required in future.

4.30 **Environment Agency – Stuart Foster**

- 4.31 Stuart Foster gave a report on Revenue works including:

- CCTV culvert inspections have taken place at Willington Brook and Thulston Brook
- Ambaston - still liaising with Lafarge regarding erecting a stock fence to avoid damage to the flood bank by livestock
- Colwell Drive, Boulton Moor – Problems have arisen with a build-up of debris on land owned by David Wilson Homes. A gate with a lock belonging to the Environment Agency means that SDDC cannot gain access to clear the debris. Risk of flooding is minimal but a letter has been sent to David Wilson Homes in an attempt to break the hold up. A reply is awaited.

- 4.32 A question and answer session followed.

- 4.33 A representative from Aston Ward suggested that a representative from Derby City Council should be invited to future meetings to give an update on “Our City, Our River” as lead Agency. Vikki Candlish agreed to take this back to her counterpart at DCC.

ACTION VIKKI CANDLISH

- 4.34 Following a query from another representative from Aston Ward regarding whether the funding with DCC for “Our City, Our River” was ring fenced, Vikki Candlish confirmed that DCC has to report back to the Environment Agency and the funds will be claimed back after the works have been carried out.

- 4.35 A representative from Elvaston & Ambaston Parish Council highlighted the concern expressed by many parish councils about the height of flood banks. Vikki Candlish

replied that detailed modelling and flood mapping had taken place. The Government is only able to fund what is justified, but if communities want over and above recommendations then they can contribute towards enhanced work to build slightly higher. The representative from Elvaston & Ambaston Parish Council suggested that Gravel Companies could provide materials for free as part of Section 106 monies.

- 4.36 At a meeting held recently at Shardlow regarding flooding, concern was expressed regarding the road to the Marina and the flood arch to the Old Shardlow Bridge. Subsequently a response was received from the Environment Agency accepting responsibility for the road. Vikki Candlish agreed to continue dialogue on behalf of the representative for Elvaston & Ambaston Parish Council.

ACTION VIKKI CANDLISH

- 4.37 At the aforementioned meeting the question of responsibility for the flood defences between the A6 and the river was not resolved. James Biddlestone (DCC) advised that discussions are still ongoing, a response is awaited from Asset Performance and he promised to chase up Richard at the Environment Agency.

ACTION JAMES BIDDLESTONE

- 4.38 Discussion then followed regarding the long term plans for work on the River Trent flood defences which are due to be completed by 2023/24.
- 4.39 A parish council representative stated that he was compiling a Flood Plan and queried the availability of flood warnings from the Environment Agency for the Lower Derwent and the Trent. Vikki Candlish responded that warnings are only distributed when conditions are considered severe. James Biddlestone agreed to pass the matter regarding arranging more specific warnings to Andy Ellis at DCC at another meeting later this week.

ACTION JAMES BIDDLESTON

- 4.40 Councillor Davidson (DCC) expressed concern that Derby City Council, which will be responsible for the Trent scheme, may not act in the interests of affected villages outside the city area such as Barrow upon Trent, Swarkestone and Shardlow. He hoped that there could be a consensus as to how high the banks should be. Vikki Candlish responded that those villages mentioned would receive Property Level Protection, i.e. individual flood barriers. Full details appear in the planning application.
- 4.41 Further discussion continued regarding the levels of flood banks and concerns over plans for their future maintenance.

4.42 Derbyshire County Council – James Biddlestone

- 4.43 The representative from Derbyshire County Council informed the meeting that his department is no longer known as Environmental Services, but has been renamed Economic Transport and Environment Department.
- 4.44 Mr Biddlestone went on to thank Mr Payne and Mr Lenton for their work in partnership with DCC throughout the past year and followed with his report covering the following issues.
- 4.45 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy went to consultants in February/March 2015 Stakeholder meetings have taken place and the paper will be submitted to DCC cabinet in July.
- 4.46 The core objectives of the Strategy are to mitigate against flooding, including fluvial flooding. More and more issues arise from surface water and brooks and this sort of flooding is difficult to predict. Guidance notes for use at a local level will be issued and any feedback will be welcome when the Strategy is published.
- 4.47 There is a proposal for flood resilience for smaller communities which cannot secure funding for flood defence schemes. Local knowledge and observations are crucial so Parish Councils are asked for their comments in order to improve this living document.
- 4.48 A Pilot Flood Warden Scheme is being carried out at Scropton. Hydraulic models may be used to facilitate this. Parish meetings are being held in order to work with community. Will also looking at how to mitigate flooding when river is in spate.
- 4.49 DCC is trying to manage surface water on Foston Brook and River Dove upstream. Funding for this is in the medium term as part of a 6-year plan. Parishes are asked to suggest schemes for this 6-year plan. They will need to go through a calculator to determine the cost/benefit.
- 4.50 DCC Highways are adopting a flood response policy. It will include road sign and road closures. There have been protracted delays in developing this especially in the matter of communities closing roads. This down to legal definitions.
- 4.51 DDC is now a statutory consultee for SUDS (sustainable drainage schemes). District councils were to be the Suds Approving Body. This part of the legislation has not been enacted and seems unlikely to be in the near future. Therefore there are no arrangements for the management of Suds schemes and there is no direction for landowners. There is confusion for developers. There is a need for a robust maintenance schedule to be one of the conditions for approval of applications.
- 4.52 A request was received from the representative from Egginton Parish Council for a link to the cabinet paper when it is published.

ACTION – JAMES BIDDLESTONE TO PROVIDE LINK TO CABINET PAPER

- 4.53 Concern was expressed that ground water flooding should not be overlooked, as experienced near Newark recently.

ACTION – JAMES BIDDLESTONE TO REPORT BACK AT NEXT MEETING RE PLANNING CONDITIONS IN RESPECT OF PROVISION FOR SURFACE WATER RUN-OFF.

- 4.54 East Midlands Inter Modal Park
- 4.55 It is essential that peer reviews for calculations of groundwater/flow are carried out to ensure robust arrangements for maintenance are built into any agreement.
- 4.56 Government funding is heavily reliant on grants. Priority is given to those communities at risk using GIS and data sets. This gives better clarity for the business case. Groundwater was not looked at earlier. However a licence has now been obtained for the BGS (British Geological Survey) for groundwater studies.
- 4.57 A significant flood event is defined as if 5 dwellings in an urban community have internal flooding or 2 dwellings in rural areas. This reflects the differences between communities and this is used to prioritise the amount spent. In connection with planning applications, we would like to comment on all sources of flooding. While we can refer to all sources of flooding this is not on a statutory basis. Groundwater is not a consideration for planning authorities.
- 4.58 In a Defra consultation, both DCC and SDDC responded to say that planning should consider all sources and we still pass comments on applications covering all sources but that could be challenged on appeal. A dialogue with the EA will result in comments from more than just one response being included.
- 4.59 Flood Warden Schemes – During a flood event signs and their positioning need to be approved in advance by County Hall in liaison with other agencies such as Highways England.
- 4.60 A tender has recently been submitted to move to a more intelligent approach to cleansing using mobile tablet. The contractor is to record the details of each visit on a device that will provide a record of date, time and condition when inspected. This will be used to adapt the frequency of maintenance based on historical information. South Derbyshire is the last area where this is being implemented.
- 4.61 The representative from Aston on Trent Parish Council queried that as opposed to planning for new developments, what about existing developments affected by flooding if the development compromises land drains. This should be covered by legislation and James Biddlestone offered to give personal advice after the meeting.
- 4.62 **Emergency Planning DCC– Nick Elliott**
- 4.63 Under the Civil Contingencies Act, Derbyshire County Council is a Category 1 responder and produces emergency plans and promotes personal resilience.

- 4.64 Often, heavy rain exceeds the capacity of the drainage system. These events are unpredictable. Flooding is one of the greatest risks in south Derbyshire. It includes the flood plains of the rivers Dove, Derwent and Trent. The response to most types of flooding is the Flood Contingency Plan.
- 4.65 At meetings with parishes they have been provided with their own small stock of sandbags for local issue. There is a need to push towards more resilient, prepared communities as incidents as a result of very heavy rainfall are very difficult to respond to.
- 4.66 **Emergency Planning DCC & SDDC – Kevin Jones**
- 4.67 Kevin Jones reiterated the statement that flooding due to sudden rainfall is very difficult to predict and sandbags are not always the solution. He has been meeting with local communities regarding flooding issues and working towards developing local Flood Warden Schemes. The next Flood Warden workshop is due to take place on 9 September in Matlock. The Environment Agency will lead on fluvial flooding whilst Local Authorities will lead on other types of flooding.
- 4.68 An investigation has been carried out in response to the flooding at Findern next to the A38 in 2012. The subsequent report identified responsibility for various assets and was passed to A1+ (contractor for Highways England) who have adopted a new system of maintenance for the culvert and watercourse.
- 4.69 In order to create increased resilience it is important to liaise with the Parish Councils as much as possible. Information on risks and practical measures to take can be found on the Derbyshire Prepared website in a document called “What you need to know”. A meeting of South Derbyshire Parishes will be held on 12 July when Liz Partington will be giving a presentation on emergency planning.
- 4.70 Further discussion followed on other flooding incidents in Egginton and Etwall where residents considered that sewers were insufficient to cope. Severn Trent Water is consulted on all planning applications which are approved although many developments meet up. Sewers are not capable of taking more than a 1:40 event so they are undersized and under capacity for more development, as in the case of Hilton.
- 4.71 Several member of the meeting expressed their disappointment that no representative of Severn Trent Water had attended today’s meeting, despite invitations to 3 different officers and the fact that they are Consultees as part of the Local Plan. The Chairman agreed to initiate dialogue with Severn Trent Water about setting up a meeting to discuss concerns and to identify flashpoints.

ACTION STUART BATCHELOR

- 4.72 The representative from Overseal Parish Council enquired about a proposed surface water / balanced water scheme at a new development in the village. Chris Payne, SDDC Engineer replied that the Flood Water Management Act is still open and that SDDC have adopted balancing areas in the past. However, in this case Severn Trent will not agree to adopt the developer’s sewerage system unless SDDC adopt the

balancing system. James Biddleston commented that it was unlikely that the SUDS provisions will be enacted.

5. Reports from Parish Councils

- 5.1 The representative from Barrow upon Trent thanked SDDC for sorting out the problem with the culvert, but advised that the clearance itself may be causing problems. SDDC will clear further.
- 5.2 The representative from Barrow upon Trent also had a query regarding planning permission for stables in an area prone to flooding. However she was assured that a flood risk assessment would have been done as part of the planning process.
- 5.3 The representative from Hilton Parish Council reported that the force of water in a downpour on Egginton Road had forced a manhole cover up. A joint agency meeting is to be planned to address this issue.
- 5.4 The representative from Weston on Trent Parish Council queried the responsibility for land drains compromised by builders. He considered that opinions of Parish Councils are ignored when planning applications are approved. James Biddlestone replied that land owners/property owners are responsible for maintenance as the County Council has no legal duty or budget. Chris Payne commented that records of land drains are poor and there is often very little to see on the surface when planning applications are made. However if the work has not received consent then enforcement may be used.
- 5.5 The Flood Warden Scheme at Scropton has formed a working group which will be meeting very shortly to discuss how they will work and what equipment is required. James Biddlestone offered his and Nick Elliott's help if required.
- 5.6 Flooding at Hatton Village Hall car park was reported where the brook needs clearing. Also surface water flooding occurred after heavy rain outside the turkey plant. This has been discussed with Highways Department and James Biddlestone agreed to take back the response to the Parish Council.

ACTION JAMES BIDDLESTONE

- 5.7 The representative from Overseal Parish Council reported that the Hooborough Brook on the county boundary appears to be silted up causing flooding in heavy rain. He queried whose responsibility it was as it is the county boundary. Mark Swain (EA) confirmed that it was the responsibility of the Environment Agency and the land owner. Mark Swain agreed to investigate whether silt build up would cause flooding.

ACTION MARK SWAIN

6. **Any other business**

6.1 Thanks were given by all to Chris Payne for all his wonderful work over the years.
Good wishes for his retirement.

6.2 There was no other business

6.4 The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12.30pm