

FLOODING MEETING HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
PARISHES WITHIN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

29th June 2010

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Councillors Bale, Mrs. Brown, Lemmon, Roberts and Shepherd, M. Alflat (Director of Community Services) (Chairman), C. Payne (Engineer), T. Summers (Private Sector Housing) and P. White (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire County Council Representative

I. Shuttleworth.

Environment Agency Representatives

V. Candlish and M. Swain.

Parish Council Representatives

T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council) and J. Irons (Shardlow Parish Council).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District Councillors Harrison, Lane, Richards, Timms and Wheeler, J. Bates, S. Brown, C. Bunston, L. Kolkman and T. McManus (Environment Agency).

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th November 2009 were received, subject to clarification of two minor issues.

2. **REPORTS FROM AGENCIES**

(a) **South Derbyshire District Council**

The Council's Engineer updated on the Flood and Water Management Bill, which became an Act in April, but was subject to secondary legislation. The Officer explained how the Council was preparing for the new legislation, including a pilot study and he also spoke about the duties placed on property owners and those for the District Council.

The Environment Agency (EA) had invited the District Council to work in partnership on the project team for the Lower Dove Flood Management Strategy. The Officer spoke about essential structural works completed at Midway Fishponds, the works by Severn Trent Water to relieve flooding problems at Gegalotz, before giving details of other land drainage works, land drainage investigations and those not related to flooding.

A long standing drainage issue was raised regarding the bottom of Narrow Lane, Ticknall, which the County Council's Highways Department was looking into.

T. Summers reported on the DEFRA funded flood defence project. Works relating to the South Derbyshire Home Defence Scheme were progressing reasonably well, with approximately £24,000 spent on flood protection measures to properties in Hartshorne, Willington and Barrow-on-Trent. No applications had been received from the Shardlow area and further promotion and awareness raising was discussed. Details were given of the types of flood prevention measures provided, which cost on average £3,500 per household. The project had been hampered by varying interest from applicants. An observation was made that householders reluctance could stem from potential insurance implications, but it was confirmed there was a national agreement in place and the information submitted to the authorities would not be shared with insurance companies. Another issue highlighted was the psychological implications of being a flood victim and how this might have a bearing on people's reluctance to engage. Consideration was required as to a future flood event and the local authorities' ability to gather better data on flood victims, particularly following sand bag requests.

Note: At 10.35 a.m. Councillor Shepherd left the Meeting.

Further discussion took place about flooding problems at properties open to the street scene, the availability of funding for other areas of South Derbyshire, the lack of community engagement and the benefits and issues associated with sand bags.

Parish representatives contributed to the discussion, giving a local perspective on recent activity, efforts to engage residents and requests were submitted for further copies of available literature. A query was submitted on the funding availability for property surveys, administration of the grant scheme and a breakdown of costs was requested.

(b) Environment Agency

The Environment Agency (EA) representatives gave a flood risk management update and report on the Lower Dove Flood Alleviation Scheme. It set out the properties at risk of flooding presently and expected increases due to climate change. It had been recommended that the scope of the project be changed, with a move directly to development of a business case for the preferred option of improving and extending the current flood defences. This would reduce the time taken to get to the construction stage and reduce costs by approximately £150,000. The report included details of recent works undertaken in Egginton, Scropton and Foston and other proposed work in Egginton. Reference was made to a joint workshop held with Severn Trent Water and a new river levels online service.

V. Candlish, the EA representative for the East Area, referred to de-silting works planned for the Repton Brook and gave an update on the Lower Derwent Strategy and project. This report included details of modelling, the award of the contract and the anticipated next stages with this project.

(c) Derbyshire County Council

I. Shuttleworth of Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Planning team referred with sadness to the death of John Waite. He spoke about the Flood and Water Management Act and this enabling Act was important from a flooding perspective. The Officer referred to flood risk regulations and the implementation of the European Floods Directive. An explanation was given on the respective responsibilities of the Environment Agency and the County and District Councils. The requirements for flood risk assessments, maps showing the level of risk and flood risk management plans were highlighted. A partnership approach would be adopted and a Strategic Flood Risk Management Board had already been established. A number of other issues were raised including the preparation of a local Flood Risk Management Strategy, amendments to the Reservoirs Act of 1975 and the additional requirements that would be imposed. The Emergency Plan was to be updated within the next few weeks.

A Member welcomed the holistic approach to dealing with flooding problems. It was suggested that a presentation be submitted to the next Flood Liaison Meeting on this. A parish representative was appreciative of the permanent flood warning signs erected in the Foston and Scropton area and officers were thanked for their contributions. Disappointment was expressed at the lack of representative from Severn Trent Water, which would be raised at the next Strategic Flood Board.

3. **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILS**

Enquiries were submitted about the replacement of the Shardlow Pumping Station and a drainage problem at Cavendish Bridge Marina. These matters would be investigated and further details would be provided to the parish representative by Mr. Shuttleworth.

4. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Flooding Meeting with Parish Councils would be confirmed in due course.

M. ALFLAT

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 11.30 a.m.