

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FLOOD ALLEVIATION MEETING ON 11TH OCTOBER 2005

16. **REPORTS FROM AGENCIES**

(A) South Derbyshire District Council

Mr. Payne provided a report on the works undertaken to areas that were most vulnerable to flooding. The report covered the Hatton Flood Alleviation Works and clearance of vegetation in the watercourse from Uttoxeter Road to Marston Village. The Leader of the District Council wished it to be recorded that the Hatton community was grateful to the District Council and particularly to Mr. Payne for the works undertaken. This was endorsed by Mr. Buxton on behalf of Hatton Parish Council.

Mr. Payne then outlined works undertaken in the Scropton and Hilton areas. In Egginton, part of the watercourse known as the Drain had been cleared. At the request of the Egginton Flood Committee, details were given of highway drainage systems provided by Derbyshire County Council. Efforts had been made to arrange a meeting between the Flood Committee and Severn Trent Water, but unfortunately no response had been received from the Company.

Mrs. Cowley reported on a recent incident where raw sewage had been discharged from inspection chamber covers into Fishpond Lane, Egginton. There were storm drains in close proximity and due to the concerns of contamination, some works had to be undertaken. Chris Payne sought further information about this problem, which was duly provided. He reminded that this was the responsibility of Severn Trent Water, but the District Council's Environmental Health Division could assist if there was a problem of contamination. Mrs. Cowley also sought further works to the ditch in Fishpond Lane. The Officer explained the nature of this watercourse and its lack of gradient. It was suggested that he meet with Les Unwin of Derbyshire County Council to discuss the problem and seek to identify a way forward.

The Officer provided reports on improvements in the Willington, Ticknall, Shardlow and Stanton areas. With regard to Barrow on Trent, the report identified works undertaken to the watercourse from Brookfield to the River Trent. Mrs. Barker noted that at least one further section of this watercourse was still to be addressed. Mr. Payne confirmed there were plans to contact the respective landowners to resolve these issues.

Mr. Payne then reported on the enmainment of critical ordinary watercourses (COW's) being transferred to the Environment Agency. Councillor Whyman M.B.E. sought clarification that riparian landowners would remain responsible for their respective sections of each watercourse, despite the transfer to the Environment Agency. This was confirmed and Mr. Swain added that the Agency would now have the power to act in default where landowners did not complete required works. Councillor Whyman M.B.E. referred to a particular problem in the Hatton area and he spoke of the action taken by Mr. Payne to resolve the issue. He sought assurances from the Environment Agency that a similar level of service would be provided. Mr. Swain recognised the District Council's excellent track record and explained the geographic area covered by this section of the Agency. He also touched upon the other issues taken into account by the Agency of an environmental or conservation nature and in some instances, obstructions would not be removed if there was no additional flood risk.

Councillor Whyman M.B.E. asked the Chair whether the Council could revisit its decision on enmainment. He assured that he would pursue this issue and asked the Director of Community Services to provide further information to him. Councillor Harrison questioned why the decision had been taken to transfer this service. Mr. Buxton also recorded his concerns, given the information provided. He recognised the previous service provided, the need for regular maintenance and he urged the District Council to reconsider its decision on transfer of responsibility. Mr. Payne referred to the decision made by the Council's Environmental and Development Services Committee. He felt that the Environment Agency would provide a good service and commented on the resources that the Agency had available. The Egginton representatives had found the District Council to be more responsive than the Environment Agency. Mr. Swain accepted that as a national organisation, the Agency could not respond as quickly as the local Council. Mr. Shuttleworth of Derbyshire County Council spoke of the concerns of a number of sectors about enmainment. However, there was little choice for local authorities, as whilst they could contract back the service for a period of up to two years, it would then have to be re-tendered. Mr. Swain added that even where local authorities contracted back the service, there were a range of issues to be taken into account, including the approach to conservation. Mrs. Barker sought further information about the conservation issues and this was duly provided by Mr. Swain. It was agreed that the District Council would look at this issue.

(B) Environment Agency

Mr. Swain provided a report on issues in the upper Trent area. This included further information about the enmainment of the Stanton Brook and Salt Brook and the plans to employ the consultants, Halcrows to undertake an asset survey of the watercourses. He referred to ongoing maintenance works and the Agency had been asked to justify all routine maintenance. This was undertaken by looking at each location, the likelihood of flooding and the potential impact of any flooding. The combination of these factors led to a location being graded as a low, medium or high risk. All locations on the River Dove down-stream from Sudbury were classed as a high risk, together with the Foston Brook and the Hatton Brook, downstream from the A50. Mr. Swain reported on the clearance of the vegetation and silt to speed flows through Monks Bridge.

He then referred to flood mapping. A presentation would be made by Shirell Saranga and Paul Crossley of the consultants, Halcrows on the study being undertaken for the River Dove and adjoining watercourses. He gave a brief outline of the areas covered by this study. Councillor Whyman M. B. E. questioned the timescale for completion of the study and this was likely to be March 2006.

The presentation concentrated on the technical aspects of planned works. Details were given of the project team involved, a catchment description of the watercourses and a schematisation of the Dove catchment area. Ms. Saranga demonstrated how computer modelling was used to assess the one in one hundred year flood risk