

FLOODING MEETING HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
PARISHES WITHIN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

19th November 2009

**PRESENT:-**

**South Derbyshire District Council Representatives**

Councillors Bale, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Coyle (also Elvaston Parish Council Representative) and Mrs. H. Wheeler. S. Batchelor (Community and Leisure Development Manager), C. Payne (Engineering Technician), T. Summers (Private Sector Housing Officer) and P. White (Democratic Services).

**Derbyshire County Council Representative**

K. Jones.

**South Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council Representative**

Councillor J. Harrison.

**Environment Agency Representatives**

L. Foord, S. Mallett, L. Smithurst and M. Swain.

**Halcrow (Environment Agency Consultant) Representative**

P. Marsh.

**Parish Council Representatives**

P. Waters (Ambaston Parish Council), K. Slater (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), S. Jackson (Castle Gresley Parish Council), F. Mitchell (Elvaston Parish Council), S. Bell (Findern Parish Council), J. Bates and T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), M. Stephens (Hartshorne and Ticknall Parish Councils), D. Taylor (Hatton Parish Council) and D. Buchanan (Newton Solney Parish Council).

**Member of the Public**

M. Todd, M.P.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING**

In the absence of the Chairman, it was agreed that S. Batchelor be appointed Chairman for the Meeting.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from M. Alflat (Chairman), Councillors Mrs. Plenderleith and Timms (South Derbyshire District Council representatives), J. Waite (Derbyshire County Council Representative), Severn Trent Water representatives, V. Candlish (Environment Agency Representative), K. Gibbs, N. Ireland and L. Kolkman.

6. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th May 2009 were received. It was noted that T. McManus (Environment Agency representative) present at the last Meeting was from the East Area rather than the Central Area.

7. **MATTERS ARISING**

An urgent response was requested from Severn Trent Water regarding repeated flooding of the Marlpit plantation at Etwall which was under their ownership and being investigated by them.

Elvaston Parish Council was still awaiting an update with regard to the Ambaston floodbank arising from the Lower Derwent Management Strategy.

It was advised that, despite initial improvement to the blocked carriageway at Leathersley Lane, Scropton after jetting, the problem had now returned. A willow tree root system was causing the blocking. The Parish Council had contacted Derbyshire County Council to advise of the issue.

Further information was sought for Willington Parish Council from the Environment Agency concerning flood management.

**It was suggested that a Flood Incident Management Team representative contact the Parish Council.**

Concern was raised that no further updates could be provided on Severn Trent Water issues raised at the last Meeting since there were no representatives from the agency present at the Meeting. It was advised that T. Smith, who had attended previous Meetings, was unable to attend as he had suffered a recent serious accident.

Reference was made to a presentation made by the Environment Agency on Flood Warden Schemes in January 2009. There appeared to be little enthusiasm for the implementation of such schemes, although the Agency would be happy to offer support to any Parish Councils who showed an interest.

It was advised that consultation had been undertaken with Parish Councils/Meetings on the preferred day and time for future Meetings. The majority of representatives were happy for the current start time of 10.00 am to remain and did not have a preference for Meetings to be held on any particular day.

8. **REPORTS FROM AGENCIES**

(a) **South Derbyshire District Council**

C. Payne reported on various aspects of work completed and programmed since the previous meeting. This consisted of:-

- A Draft Water and Flood Management Bill had been outlined in the Queen's Speech yesterday. Should the Draft Bill ultimately become law, Local Authorities would gain a larger role with regard to flood risk

management. A duty would also be placed on all relevant bodies to share information with regard to the establishing of ownership and legal responsibilities. All Developers would have to investigate fully the use of sustainable drainage, which Local Authorities might have to adopt and maintain. Local flood risk assessment information would have to be provided and recommendations on training issues.

- Further to the previous report of mine water rebound causing a pollution threat to the Darklands Brook, the Coal Authority was now undertaking a mine water extraction test at Cadley Hill.
- Works had commenced on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009 to the Midway Fishponds and were scheduled to finish on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009. The feasibility study recommendations had raised concerns regarding the stability of the existing structures.

The following land drainage issues were reported:-

- Reinstatement works had been carried out to raised embankments at Willington Balancing Reservoir.
- Drainage works had been undertaken in September 2009 to playing fields and pathways in Hilton.
- Works had been undertaken at railway cottages in Stenson Fields.
- A watercourse at Woodland Road, Stanton had been regraded to prevent a recurrence of flooding downstream at Woodlands Road.
- Works had been undertaken to the watercourse between Alma Road, Newhall and the Darklands Brook.
- Replacement of a collapsed surface water culvert at Eureka Park.
- Maintenance had been carried out to the balancing area at Tetron Point following pollution into it from Bison Concrete. This had been resolved through liaison with them. The District Council continued to check Bison's surface water drainage and interceptor arrangements to avoid a recurrence.
- There were four surface water balancing areas that housing developers had requested the District Council to adopt and that were being negotiated. These were at the Wilson Homes site, Castle Gresley; Woodville Woodlands; Station Road, Melbourne and Egginton Road, Hilton.
- In respect of action to be undertaken at the Gega Lotz Works reported previously, Severn Trent Water was currently awaiting funding prior to the commencement of works. The Company had contravened the Water Industries Act.
- The emergency 24-hour standby duty was put into place on the weekends of 26/27<sup>th</sup> June and 6/7<sup>th</sup> July 2009, though no flooding to property occurred.
- Grant applications had been applied for in respect of works to Midway Fishponds, Willington Reservoir and the Hatton flood alleviation scheme.

Concern was raised regarding potential leakage into watercourses following the siting of the new incinerators at Spondon and Sinfin. The Environment Agency advised that its Environmental Management Team routinely monitored and sampled these sites, together with regulation of the site owners. T. Summers advised that, under the provisions of the

Environmental Protection Act, the Environment Health Department at Derby City Council would have been consulted on the siting of the incinerators.

The extent of sustainability of drainage systems referred to in the Draft Flood and Water Management Bill was queried. It was suggested that SUDs would not work where sites were already waterlogged and that, in responding to the consultation on the Draft Bill, it be requested that other methods, including rain collection, be investigated as an alternative to SUDs. It was advised that balancing areas could possibly be provided, which would be beneficial to those most susceptible to flooding.

The outstanding works relating to landowner compensation in respect of the flood alleviation scheme at Hatton were queried.

In respect of the Draft Flood and Water Management Bill, it was suggested that M. Todd, M.P. be advised of Parish Council's views.

T. Summers reported on the following matters:-

- Funding of £33,000 had been provided by DEFRA for domestic and mitigating flood prevention schemes in the areas of Willington, Barrow-on-Trent, Shardlow and Hartshorne. Funding bids had also been submitted from the areas of Foston, Scropton and Swarkestone. With regard to flood mitigation, the availability of various suitable products was currently being investigated. It was noted that it was difficult to access those areas at risk of flooding from the Local Authority's flooding records. It was anticipated that new products would be deployed before the Christmas holiday. A number of parishes queried progress with regard to their applications to DEFRA,
- Reference was made to the recent Flood Fair held in Swadlincote, which had been attended by representatives from the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, leading Companies and the National Flood Forum.
- The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health had advised of a change in legislation introducing a rating system for housing, to include risk of flooding to the property. This would enable the Council to serve an enforcement notice on the owner to ensure preventative works were undertaken.

Reference was made to the range of available products recommended at the Flood Fair.

**It was suggested that details of work in progress throughout the District be provided by T. Summers.**

It was advised that T. Summers had met with Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council to ascertain which properties within the parish were most at risk of flooding. The next stage would be characterise the risks. A list of properties at risk in Foston and Scropton was offered to be provided. DEFRA's criteria for flood prevention schemes to be successful in receiving funding was queried.

A local Ward Member requested whether notices could be posted through residents letterboxes in Swarkestone advising of future Flood

Fairs and the information they provided, as the parish did not have a Parish Council to communicate with. It was noted that the nearby river was close to bursting its banks. The parish had previously been issued with flood barriers. Other Parish Council representatives advised that they had not received notification of the events. It was suggested that the information could be provided to parish councils.

**It was agreed to consider alternative methods of advertising the Flood Fairs, particularly to those parishioners without Parish Councils.**

The use of alternative flood alleviation equipment to sandbags was discussed.

C. Payne and T. Summers were thanked for the work undertaken since the last Meeting.

**(b) Environment Agency**

L. Foord of the Environment Agency's National Capital Programme Management Service and P. Marsh of Halcro, the Environment Agency's consultant, gave a detailed presentation on the Lower Dove Flood Risk Management Strategy Update. The following aspects were explained:-

- Why the Strategy was being undertaken;
- What the Strategy involved;
- Links to other studies and policies;
- Flood risk;
- Study area;
- Development of Flood Risk Management Schemes;
- Project objectives;
- Stakeholder engagement;
- Technical overview including 2D modelling;
- Flood risk management options.

Arising from the presentation a number of queries and comments were raised, to which responses were provided, in relation to the following issues:-

- What is increased proportion of flow rate as a result of climate change?;
- Evaluation of the process against flood modelling procedures;
- The effect of mineral extraction on floodplains;
- Effects downstream of gauges erected in River Dove;
- Consultation with parishes not in vicinity of River Dove;
- Impact on confluence of Rivers Derwent and Trent.

L. Smithurst of the Environment Agency (East Area) provided a report to update on the following issues:-

- The Lower Derwent Strategy was recommended for approval by the National Review Group (NRG) in May 2009 and signed off by the Environmental Agency Chairman and Chief Executive in October 2009. The final Strategy document, including information from the public consultation held September – December 2008, was to be

released early in 2010. Key recommendations from the Strategy relating to villages upstream and downstream of Derby were:-

- Raising existing flood defences to an optimum standard of protection (SOP) where viable outside of Derby;
- Continued maintenance of the existing defences outside of Derby where not viable to raise them. At the end of the defences' operational life, replace them to the optimum standard.

Other key recommendations relating to the whole of the Strategy were to continue with flood warning and provide advice on flood resilience and to use powers under the Byelaws as well as influencing planning decisions by applying Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25). A single project appraisal report (PAR) for the whole of the study area (from Milford to the Trent confluence) would be produced based on the Strategy. The work would be let as an alliance project to a team made up of two civil engineering consultants, together with a civil engineering contractor. Contract negotiations were currently underway with the successful consultants and contractor and work on the PAR was expected to commence in January 2010.

- The Willington river gauge, situated approximately 16 km upstream of the Shardlow river gauge, was originally installed in 1996. During 2005, improvements were made to the Willington river gauge to enable improvement of the flood warning service, as the Willington river gauge now provided more detailed and accurate data that could be used in flood forecasting models. Communities such as Willington, Barrow-on-Trent, Swarkestone and Twyford will now have flood warnings issued based on the Willington river levels. Flood warnings would also continue to be issued for those communities from the Shardlow river level gauge until Officers were happy with the calibration and performance of the Willington river gauge. It might take a number of years/flood events to check the performance of the gauge. The Willington gauge was chosen for development as it was already established and only required improvements. Also, due to resource shortages, it was not possible to add any new river level gauges without first removing a gauge from another site. The Environment Agency had specific targets to govern how far a gauge could be either upstream or downstream of a community in order to provide a warning service. There were no current plans to add a river level gauge for flood warning purposes at Borrowash Bridge. However, it would be possible to install a gauge board if this would benefit the community.
- In response to the summer 2007 floods, a flood warning service improvements project (FWSIP) had been implemented. The Agency had acted on feedback from its partners and the public to address concerns that the existing codes were not understood well. The new codes formed part of the staged flood warning service, which would provide flexibility to target individuals by providing different stages of the service relevant to those individuals. People would be able to choose which stages were right for them.
- In advance of potential flooding, information would be provided based on likely impacts of advancing weather patterns. The information would be shared one or two days in advance of potential

flooding. It would help to raise awareness of the situation and allow people to make decisions early on. It would be based on forecasts from the Flood Forecasting Centre and would be communicated through the media, for extensive flooding and the Environment Agency's website. It would not be sent directly to the public.

- Flood Alerts would be issued directly from Floodline Warnings Direct and would advise people to be prepared for possible flooding from rivers or the sea. It would be targeted to specific areas and would tell people they were at risk of possible flooding and needed to be alert and stay vigilant. People could choose whether or not to receive this information.
- Flood Warnings would be issued directly from Floodline Warnings Direct and would advise people that flooding from rivers or the sea was expected in communities and would encourage them to take action. All properties in flood warning areas would be encouraged to sign up for this service.
- When the threat had reduced, customers would have the option of receiving a direct message from Floodline Warnings Direct telling them that the warning was no longer in force and what to do as a result. Floodline and the Environmental Agency's website would contain up to date information on each particular situation.
- The Agency would no longer be issuing a Severe Flood Warning, although those persons who previously received one would still receive a Flood Warning at the same river level. The new flood warning codes would be launched in Spring 2010.
- The flood warning pages on the Agency's website would be improved to include new codes and introduce a new service of accessing near real time river level information. Detailed testing had been undertaken with the public to develop the design of the service and it was currently expected that over 2000 river level measurement stations would be available.
- The Agency was currently working with BT to send flood warnings to all 'at risk' properties, including those that were ex-directory (rather than relying on public signing up). It would increase the take up of the flood warning service to approximately 90%. Those signed up to the service in this way would still be given the opportunity to opt out.
- Updates would be provided on the changes to the Agency's partners and members of the public already signed up to Floodline Warnings Direct.

**(c) Derbyshire County Council**

**Emergency Planning**

K. Jones provided a report to update on the following issues:-

- The Flood Contingency Plan would be updated at the end of November 2009. South Derbyshire details were now well developed. During 2010, training/familiarisation would be provided on the Plan for the partner agencies that received copies. A list of flood warning areas and properties at risk, drawn from the Plan, was available.
- The DEFRA website had a list of communities deemed at risk from surface water flooding. Those in Derbyshire had been extracted and

a separate list was available. The numbers of properties had been rounded to the nearest ten by DEFRA.

- The risk assessments under the Civil Contingencies Act had been reviewed for 2009. Minor amendments had been made to impact ratings and the assessments approved by the Risk Assessment Working Group. Formal approval was awaiting from the Local Resilience Forum prior to publishing on the County Council's website. The provisional scores for South Derbyshire were:-
  - Fluvial (river) flooding – very high risk;
  - Flash flooding (in specified types of river valley) – no catchment of this type existed in the area.
- Emergency Planning had supported the Swadlincote Flood Fair and would continue to support future events.
- An existing member of staff in the Environmental Services Department has their post partly-funded to compile a register of drainage assets. The funding is for a current temporary post, with further related work to be undertaken by a graduate trainee to be appointed shortly.
- Derby City Council has been allocated funds from DEFRA to produce a Surface Water Management Plan for the City area. The funds were provided to the top group of risk areas in relation to property numbers. It was believed that Chesterfield Borough Council had also submitted a claim.
- The County Council's representations had been submitted on the PITT Review and the new Draft Water Bill. These could be viewed on the DEFRA website.

## 9. REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILS

Reference was made to the repair of a broken pipe at Findern and it was requested that the Parish Council be notified of any future works to be commenced.

Concern was raised regarding the flooding of properties in Doles Lane and Frizams Lane, Findern. C. Payne advised of work already undertaken in the area of Doles Lane.

An issue concerning management of grass verges in Watery Lane, Scropton was raised. It was considered more appropriate for this to be considered at the next Meeting of the Highways Forum.

Flooding occurred from the culvert underneath the B5008 at Newton Solney. It was advised that this was the responsibility of the County Highways Authority.

**The County Council's Environmental Services representative would be requested to provide a response at the next Meeting.**

Discussion was undertaken concerning works to alleviate the displacement of water relating to the development at Highfields Farm, Findern, which would also alleviate the problems in Bakeacre Lane and Doles Lane.



10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Meeting would be confirmed at a later date, although it was anticipated that it would be held in June 2010.

S. BATCHELOR

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 12.20 p.m.