

**FLOODING MEETING HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
PARISHES WITHIN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

11th May 2009

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Councillors Bale, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Coyle (also Elvaston Parish Council Representative), Ford, Harrison, Roberts and Timms. M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), C. Payne (Engineering Technician) and P. White (Democratic Services).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

K. Jones and J. Waite.

Parish Council Representatives

K. Slater (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), D. Taylor (Hatton Parish Council) and S. Brown (Hilton Parish Council Flood Committee).

Environment Agency Representatives

V. Candlish, M. Goodall and T. McManus.

Severn Trent Water Representative

T. Smith.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Hood and Watson (South Derbyshire District Council representatives), J Bates, K. Gibbs and L. Kolkman.

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd October 2008 were received, subject to the addition of K. Slater (Barrow-on-Trent representative) being added to the list of those present.

2. **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 meeting had been held on 4th February 2009 between representatives of the Coal Authority, Leicestershire County Council and the Environment Agency to discuss minewater rebound which resulted in future seepage to the surface and watercourses of various minerals, predominately iron oxide and iron ochre. The Coal Authority had addressed a similar issue, which had occurred in

Durham. This situation had arisen following the cessation of mining and pumping. The situation was currently being monitored and consideration was being given to the possible provision of balancing areas to control the iron oxide levels.

- Concern had been raised for some time about the erosion to the west bank of the upper pond and the unstable overflow channel from the upper to the lower pond at Midway Fishponds. In 2006, a commissioned feasibility study had recommended the construction of a new reinforced concrete overflow weir and a brickwork and reinforced concrete overflow channel. Tenders for the work would be invited in June 2009, with a view to work commencing September 2009. An ecological report had been produced and consultees included the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, local residents and the local angling club.
- The Environment Agency and Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Services had given a joint presentation on Flood Warden Schemes on 27th June 2009. The meeting had been attended by representatives from seven parish council's, although the Environment Agency had not been approached for any further details from any interested parties. The contact at the Environment Agency dealing with the scheme was Lucy Smithhurst. The Environment Agency intended to improve the Flood Warden Service, provide further information on flood zone maps and river gauge locations and levels. It was questioned whether individuals were eligible to join the scheme and confirmed by the Agency that this was believed to be the case.
- A pollution incident had occurred to the Darklands Brook, Swadlincote during November 2008. Cement had entered the brook from the nearby Bison Works. The company's drainage systems and interceptor chambers were currently being monitored and it was noted that a balancing area existed between the works and the brook where pollution could be dealt with should there be any recurrence.

The following land drainage issues were reported:-

- Flooding had occurred in December 2008 to five properties on Mill Green Close and Lullington Road, Coton-in-the-Elms and had been resolved by the laying of a culvert diversion to replace the collapsed original.
- Ditchworks at Robinsons Hill, Melbourne to resolve flooding to two properties from the rugby ground had been completed in February 2009.
- Works had been undertaken to a blocked land drainage system at High Street, Ticknall, to prevent recurrence of flooding to two properties on the highway.
- A collapsed culvert at the Sandhills, Midway, had been replaced to prevent flooding to two properties on Tennyson Avenue, Midway.
- A re-grading of a watercourse to relieve flooding at a property had been undertaken at Linton Heath.
- Drainage channels at a culvert had been constructed together with re-grading of the watercourse to relieve flooding to Mount Road, Woodville from the adjacent sports field.

- Re-grading and clearing works had been undertaken to the watercourse at Egginton Road, Hilton, to improve the outlet for the public service water sewer and to help highways flooding which had caused a serious traffic hazard.
- A dead tree trunk had been removed from Doles Brook at Hazel Close, Findern.
- Flooding had occurred to a nursery, playschool and industrial units at the Brookfields Business Park, Heath Lane, Etwall in November 2008. A blockage within the watercourse, which was a tributary of Etwall Brook flowing through the site caused the restriction to flow and overtopping of banks.
- Ditchcourse clearance work had been undertaken to relieve flooding to a pedestrian subway at Etwall Road, Willington. The Parish Council had also requested clearing of the ditch on the western side of the road. However, it had not been possible to undertake this work, since this related to a half kilometre stretch and would therefore be very costly to clear. It was, however, noted that the surface water from the new surface area did not flow into the ditch, but discharged to a balancing area and a watercourse to the east of the site.

The emergency 24-hour flood standby duty was put into place on 8th and 9th December 2008 and sandbags were distributed to locations within Coton-in-the-Elms. Further sandbag distribution was undertaken during January and February 2009.

A query was raised with regard to flooding at Robinsons Hill, Melbourne and C. Payne advised that the rugby club situated at the top of the hill had re-graded the land extensively in order to create a balancing area to control flows into an existing culvert. Initially, not all of the water had found its way into the balancing area and so caused flooding, but this had now been rectified.

Further information was sought with regard to the flooding of the Marlpit plantation at Etwall, which had no obvious outlet or watercourse. A local resident had advised of an outlet pipe that was situated approximately six feet under water level. The resident was also concerned that a number of dead trees may fall onto the highway. Severn Trent Water Limited, as landowner, and Derbyshire County Council had been informed in respect of this matter.

Reference was also made to blockages in culverts on the A38 and flooding onto the A5132, causing a potential hazard, on land possibly in the ownership of Severn Trent Water.

J. Waite agreed to investigate these matters further, in conjunction with Severn Trent Water.

Reference was made to the service area at the Willington junction of the A50 and it was noted that the surface water now flowed east into a balancing area before entering a watercourse. Willington village was not therefore affected by flows from the service area.

C. Payne was thanked for the work undertaken since the last Meeting.

(b) Environment Agency

M. Goodall from the Environment Agency (Central Area) provided a report to update on the following issues:-

- The business case for the Dove Strategy had been approved and it was anticipated that the appraisal stage would be completed within 18 months.
- Works specified in the Dove Structural Survey had been completed on site, although laboratory work was currently ongoing. The main area of concern related to the floodbank off the Hilton bypass, although it was hoped that the width of the bank would compensate for the material.
- Works at Monks Bridge, Egginton were being included in the Dove Strategy, since recent modelling had highlighted that, unless four of the arches were blocked there would be no flood risk benefit of removing part or all of the gravel shoal. It was intended to continue ongoing maintenance to minimise shoal deposits in the culverts.
- Reference was made to an ongoing trial of a parish-led flood information website for Foston and Scropton Parish Council. The Environment Agency had provided the base information, with the intention that the parish would subsequently use and update the website with local information. Should positive feedback be received following the completion of the trial, similar schemes can be undertaken with other parish councils.
- As referred to earlier in the Meeting, the Agency's Flood Incident Management Team had been working with a number of parish councils based on district boundaries to set up warden groups with a local flood plan. The team would be happy to arrange a meeting for District Council based wardens if required.
- Recent maintenance works had been completed on the ring bank at Scropton to improve the condition of the bank around an outfall.

T. McManus from the Environment Agency (Central Area) provided a report to update on the following issues:-

- It was noted that any individuals within the community could become Flood Wardens.
- For flood warning purposes, the river levels in Willington were based historically on levels for Shardlow. However, it was intended in the future to use the gauging station at Willington, once sufficient data had been compiled.
- When the River Derwent was at a high level, the levels at Shardlow could read higher than those at Willington, due to the backing up effect of the Derwent on the River Trent.
- The Lower Derwent Strategy had been formally approved by the Environment Agency's National Review Group (NRG) in May 2009. Following the public consultation exercise undertaken during Autumn 2008, no significant changes had been made. A report on the results of the public consultation would be released at the end of the summer.
- Work was currently underway to establish a business case for two schemes arising from the Lower Derwent Strategy. One scheme

related to villages upstream and downstream of Derby and the other, for works in Derby City. It was anticipated that the business based documents would be submitted to the NRG for approval in September 2009. The contract for both schemes would be let as design/build to one consultant/contract partnership team. It was anticipated that works in the upstream and downstream villages would be programmed first, followed by the works in Derby City. The earliest date for the start of construction would be during the middle of 2011. Another round of public consultation would be arranged once details of the schemes were developed and planning permission had been sought from the local authorities for both schemes.

Arising from the Environment Agency's reports, interest was expressed by Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council in receiving further information with regard to a Parish Flood Information website. In addition, a further update was requested with regard to the Ambaston floodbank arising from the Lower Derwent Management Strategy.

It was agreed to keep Elvaston Parish Council updated on this matter.

(c) Derbyshire County Council

Environmental Services

J. Waite gave an update on current work undertaken by the Environmental Services Department:-

- Highway maintenance had been undertaken in Midway.
- A CCTV survey had been undertaken by Severn Trent Water in High Street, Newhall.
- The drainage channels had been cleared at the railway bridges at Weston-on-Trent.
- The culvert at Uttoxeter Road, Hilton had been inspected, since it had been thought to have attracted great crested newts which were a protected species.
- Following flooding at Heage Lane, Etwall, a cleansing programme on a three-monthly cycle had been commenced.
- Councillor Harrison was thanked for his support in respect of work undertaken to a collapsed culvert on the A5132.

Reference was made to a CCTV survey undertaken of the gully on The Green at Findern. It was requested that the Parish Council be advised of any work to be commenced. A further issue raised concerned a blocked carriageway at Leathersley Lane, Scropton, opposite Newton Cottages, which required jetting.

It was agreed to investigate the above matters further.

Emergency Planning

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

- Reference was made to the Flood Contingency Plan issued, which contained sections for South Derbyshire, Derby and Erewash.

- Consultation was being undertaken until July 2009 on the Draft Floods and Water Bill. I. Shuttleworth, the County Councils Chief Emergency Planning Officer, had been dealing with this matter, although attention had been diverted in view of the impending influenza pandemic.
- Environmental Services, rather than Emergency Planning, would now take on the lead role of water management.
- A new Local Resilience Forum website was to be created. This was currently part of the Derbyshire County Council website and would create a secure area for professional partners to be able to view full plans. There would also be pages available for the general public use.
- The DEFRA website now contained additional information including water situation reports, river levels, ground water and reservoir levels.

Progress in investigating the relationship between the gauges at Willington and Shardlow (Minute No. 46(c) of 23rd October 2008 refers) was queried. Reference had been made to this matter earlier in the Meeting, during the Environment Agency's report. Written confirmation of the situation was requested.

Concern was raised that a number of Parish Councils, including Barrow-on-Trent and Willington, were not included in the River Management arrangements.

It was suggested that the Environment Agency's Management Team speak to local parishes on this matter.

Further discussion was undertaken concerning the raising of river levels using gauges at Barrow-on-Trent, Willington and Shardlow.

It was intended to provide further information with regard to flood management at the next Meeting.

(d) Severn Trent Water

T. Smith provided a report to update on the following issues:-

- Reference was made to the floods register which was frequency-based and included flood risks from sewerage systems. There were currently 77 properties at risk from flooding, which had previously been based on storm intensity, although were now based on report data relating to verified flooding incidents following photographic evidence. The time period had now been increased to from five to ten years in line with other water companies.
- Seven Capital schemes were to be implemented to address flooding. Five of these were programmed until 5th April 2011 at a total expenditure of £8,000.
- A total of 15 internally flooded and 33 externally flooded properties had been identified.
- Following flooding incidents, schemes were to be undertaken at Castle Street, Melbourne; Brook Street and Repton Road, Hartshorne; Clarks Lane, Aston-on-Trent; Kiln Way, Swadlincote and Sandicroft, Midway.

Further information was sought with regard to foul water sewage entering surface water at Fishponds Lane, Egginton and the cross contamination of flood water at the pumping station at Church Road, Egginton.

It was agreed to investigate the above matters further.

Further information was provided with regard to a scheme at Repton Road, Willington which had been deferred until 2020 and another feasibility study had been undertaken in March 2009.

It was agreed to investigate the reasons for the deferral of the scheme.

3. **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILS**

Discussion was undertaken with regard to the transformers outside the flood zone area at Drakelow and Willington Power Stations.

Further information was sought for Flood Wardens on the development of a suitable website.

It was agreed to provide a presentation on this matter at a future Meeting.

Dates for future Flood Fair events were queried and it was advised that the next event was still to be arranged.

4. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Concern was raised at the lack of attendance by Parish Council representatives and it was noted particularly that District Council Members and Officers and outside agency representatives dominated the attendance.

It was agreed to request Parish Council/Meeting representatives to give consideration to any preferred day and time for future Meetings to be held, to enable a greater number of representatives to attend.

In the meantime, a provisional date of Wednesday, 11th November 2009 had been arranged for the next Meeting. The final date and time would be confirmed in writing once the consultation had been undertaken.

M. ALFLAT

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 11.50 a.m.