

FLOODING MEETING HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE PARISHES WITHIN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

12th April 2005

PRESENT:-

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Councillors Atkin and Hood.

M. Alflat (Director of Community Services), C. Payne (Engineering Technician) and J. Bellm (Democratic Services Assistant).

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Harrison, N. Elliott (Emergency Planning) and L. Unwin (Highways Department).

Parish Council Representatives

J. Bates and T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton), C. Barker (Barrow-upon-Trent), R. Buxton (Hatton), S. Brown (Hilton), J. Clemerson (Shardlow and Great Wilne), M. Clifton (Shardlow), K. Gibbs (Willington) and F. Mitchell (Elvaston).

Environment Agency Representatives

M. Swain and M. Wray.

Severn Trent Water

G. Timms.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Ford, Mrs. Renwick and Mrs. Walton, L. Brown (Egginton Parish Council), B. Cowley and L. Kolkman.

6. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th October 2004 were received.

7. **MATTERS ARISING**

It was reported that the tree felling at the back of the Railway Tavern in Hatton, which should have been completed as part of the Hatton Flood Alleviation Works Programme, had not yet been undertaken. C. Payne reported that he had recently contacted the relevant brewery with regard to this issue and had been assured that the work would be completed in the near future.

It was reported that a fallen tree was blocking the water course which ran from the A516 to Marston-on-Dove. C. Payne advised that he would inspect the relevant stretch of water and would contact the riparian owners if necessary.

It was noted that the discussion which had taken place at the previous meeting with regard to an online storage plan was actually in relation to Barrow-upon-Trent and not Weston-upon-Trent as recorded in the Minutes.

At the previous meeting T. Beresford had queried when work would be carried out to repair a blocked pipe in Watery Lane, Scropton. He reported that this work had been carried out subsequent to the previous meeting and he thanked the County Council for their swift response.

River bank erosion at Ingleby had been a topic of discussion at the last meeting. Councillor Atkin queried whether this situation had been monitored. L. Unwin confirmed that the Highways Authority were monitoring the situation and that there was no immediate concern. He explained that although erosion was currently taking place, no action was required at the present time.

8. **REPORTS FROM AGENCIES**

South Derbyshire District Council

C. Payne provided information on some of the areas within the District which were most vulnerable to flooding. He reported the progress to date on the Hatton Flood Alleviation Works as follows:-

- ❑ The Salt Brook was cleared of debris in December to minimise the risk of flooding before the commencement of Hatton Flood Alleviation Works.
- ❑ Five tenders had been received from contractors in December 2004 and Greenways Construction had been appointed in January to carry out the contract.
- ❑ Application had been made to DEFRA for further grant aid, as all tenders had exceeded the grant sum awarded.
- ❑ Negotiations had taken place with nine landowners for both access to land and compensation. Agreement still needed to be reached with one outstanding landowner and it was hoped that this would be concluded in the near future.
- ❑ The works had started on schedule on 28th February 2005 and were due to be completed by the end of July 2005. Work completed so far included the regrading and widening of the water course adjacent to Nestles factory, essential tree felling and hedge cutting under the restrictions imposed by an independent ecologist (with the exception of one tree) and it was noted that two bridge structures were about to be replaced as a wider span was now required to cross the improved water course.
- ❑ Services were being diverted where necessary to accommodate works – telecommunications, water mains, sewers and street lighting.
- ❑ Highway culvert improvement works at Station Road, which were part of the scheme, were scheduled for June and it was reported that traffic management would be in operation.

It was reported that works were progressing satisfactorily and were on programme for completion by the end of July.

It was reported that Doles Brook, Findern had been de-silted and regraded downstream of Bakeacre Lane to accommodate the culvert cleansing by Derby County Council. This work was undertaken to relieve a restriction to flow in this location. It was also reported that fly tipping had been removed from Doles Brook to the rear of properties on Doles Lane and that a tree trunk blocking Doles Brook had been removed upstream of Bakeacre Lane.

At Repton Road, Willington the retaining wall to the banks of Sands Brook had been reconstructed as it was reported that it had collapsed during flooding of August 2004. A second phase of culvert replacement had been carried out in Ivy Close in December 2004 to aid prevention of flooding to the Close. Derbyshire County Council had provided financial assistance to this project as the flooding affected the highway. It was also noted that funding had been arranged for the replacement of the final length of the collapsed culvert in Ivy Close this summer.

C. Payne reported that the Watery Lane watercourse in Scropton had been inspected in early March and was found to be flowing satisfactorily. The overflow system on Leavesley Lane was clear and would operate in flood conditions. The Meeting was advised that the Hatton flood alleviation works would reduce flooding on Watery Lane due to the installation of an overflow system.

At Hilton, debris had been cleared from the watercourse at Egginton Junction and the New Road watercourse which had been inspected in March was found to be satisfactory, following the clearance works of Autumn last year.

The Meeting was advised that the blockage at The Drain at Egginton had been cleared in December 2004. The culvert under the A38 adjacent to Church Lane was now clear following works undertaken by the Highways Agency. It was noted that a meeting had taken place on 18th March 2005 between South Derbyshire District Council, Egginton Flood Committee, the Environment Agency, the Leader of the District Council and Mark Todd M.P. to discuss future flood defence and water course maintenance issues. It was noted that the District Council would liaise with Severn Trent Water for an assessment of sewerage systems and that they would also request the County Council to give details of their highway drainage systems. Further clearance works were due to be carried out at The Drain during the Spring/Summer season.

It was reported that in Barrow-upon-Trent, liaison had taken place with Severn Trent Water to arrange an inspection of public sewers at Brookfield, as the Parish Council had reported that these had been exacerbating flooding problems. A report from Severn Trent Water was awaited.

C. Payne reported that in Newton Solney, the Newton Park surface water culvert had an outfall to the River Trent, which was either collapsed or blocked along its length. A CCTV survey was being organised, in liaison with residents, in order to try to resolve the flooding problems that this blocked culvert was causing.

At Shardlow, an open watercourse between Wilne Lane and Canal was reported to be polluted and an investigation was taking place by South Derbyshire District Council, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water. It was noted that repairs had been carried out to a culvert at Wilne Lane after a CCTV survey had identified that there were structural defects. This work was carried out in co-operation with the Environment Agency.

The Meeting was advised that a culvert which ran under the A444 in Stanton was to be upgraded by Derbyshire County Council. A report from South Derbyshire District Council engineers had proved that the existing culvert was a cause of flooding at this location. Diversions of water mains and public

sewers were complete and work on the culvert was due to start immediately and would take twelve weeks to complete. It was also reported that a balancing area which had been created one kilometre upstream was proving to be effective.

In Swadlincote, recent pollution of the Darklands Brook had now been cleared through liaison with the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water. The Council was about to adopt a balancing lake at Tetron Point, which would act as a storage area for surface water drainage from the Bison development. This would control flow into the Darklands Brook during periods of heavy and prolonged rainfall.

C. Payne concluded his presentation by informing the meeting that there had been no flooding to property within the South Derbyshire area during the past six months.

C. Barker asked when the Severn Trent Water report on Brookfield in Barrow-upon-Trent would become available. C. Payne agreed to investigate this issue. The Officer also agreed to speak with C. Barker immediately after the Meeting with regard to clearing work required on private land within Barrow-upon-Trent.

Councillor Hood expressed his thanks to the District Council for works undertaken within his Ward over the winter period. The Councillor requested sight of the detailed notes from the Flood Defence Meeting which had taken place in Egginton on 18th March 2005. C. Payne agreed to provide these notes.

Councillor Atkin requested that a list be sent to all Shardlow Parish Council members for works both completed to date, and proposed, within the Shardlow area. Councillor Harrison queried the cause of the pollution in the open watercourse at Wilne Lane, Shardlow. C. Payne confirmed that this was due to a cross connection where foul water had entered the water course. C. Payne also confirmed that the inspection of the Wilne Lane culvert which was due to be undertaken by Derbyshire County Council would take place during the Summer Programme of Works.

C. Payne was asked whether he had walked the length of the Watery Lane/Salt Brook watercourse, which was upstream of the Hatton flood alleviation works. The Officer confirmed that he had inspected the full length of the water course in March and that there were no restrictions to flow.

It was reported that there was a considerable amount of winter debris in Scropton Lane which required clearing before it was washed into the gulleys. C. Payne agreed to report this matter to the relevant department at the District Council. It was also noted that the Disabled Riding School in Scropton had hedges and ditches which required attention. C. Payne agreed to contact the owners with regard to this matter. C. Barker queried the procedure if a landowner ignored requests, or any subsequent notices, to carry out works. The Meeting was advised that in these instances the relevant authority would prosecute.

9. **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

M. Swain advised the Meeting that the final report of the Trent Strategy was published in March 2005. He explained that the delay in publication was due to a higher than expected public interest and the subsequent communication. The Officer explained that the high cost of producing the strategy had prompted queries regarding the justification for completing strategies on all major rivers. It had been decided that as an alternative, Preliminary Strategic Reviews (PSRs) were to be undertaken. These would examine the potential of flood defence schemes and recommend what, if any, further studies were required. The Dove PSR had identified the following areas for investigation/further study:-

- Ashbourne (Hanging Bridge)
- Scropton and Hatton
- Pre-feasibility study for Egginton.

M. Swain reported that a current area of concern was the height of the Stoke/Derby railway line. He explained that the usefulness of improving existing defences would be compromised if the railway line was lower than the new design level (need to await model results). Future works for the River Dove would depend of the results of a new model produced subsequent to a scoping report which was undertaken in February 2005. It was reported that the new model was to include:-

- Length of River – Rocester to River Trent
- Identification of problem locations
- Assessment of current defence standards
- Definition of flood plain envelopes (extents)
- Investigation of problems on Foston and Hilton Brooks
- Investigation of combined effects of Egginton/Hilton Brook and Rivers Trent and Dove at Egginton.

M. Swain advised that data gathering was a key stage of the model production. Collection of flood plain data would be done by aerial survey (LIDAR). Channel cross-section data already existed for most locations but additional surveys had been undertaken on the Hilton Brook. (A separate model was planned for the Hilton Brook). The River Dove model was expected to be completed by August 2005.

M. Swain then reported that the latest version of the flood map went live on 6th April 2005. Amendments had been made to areas around Burton, Egginton and Hatton. New CD's had been distributed to local planning authorities between 4th and 6th April. The Officer reported that NaFRA data (information on risk behind the flood map) would be updated in September.

The Officer explained that routine grass cutting and debris removal was undertaken as part of planned maintenance work. A maintenance project was planned at Monks Bridge in May/June 2005 to improve flood flow routes.

M. Swain then reported on Development Control. He explained that a site meeting was to be arranged at the Blue Posts, Egginton in order to review the need for enforcement action involving the Environment Agency's Principal Solicitor. He explained that they would like a representative from South Derbyshire District Council to attend this Meeting. The Officer also discussed a

proposed planning application at Willington. He explained that the developers would be submitting a flood risk assessment to the Development Control team within the next few weeks. The Officer also explained that Development Control, within the Environment Agency, continued to have ongoing discussions with quarries regarding their flood plain activities.

M. Swain reported that the two critical ordinary watercourses (cow's) in the Upper Trent area were scheduled to be enmained in April 2006. These cow's were Salt Brook and Stanton Brook. It was noted that cow's in the Lower Trent area were Sands/Willington Brook and Shardlow Dyke. It was noted that the Lower Trent area would be responsible for the negotiations of the enmainment of cow's in South Derbyshire. M. Swain advised that during the next year, the Environment Agency would be gathering asset data, making emergency arrangements and dealing with matters of finance. M. Swain also reported that the Environment Agency would discuss with South Derbyshire District Council the possibility of contracting back the maintenance work on cow's.

It was reported that the Lower Trent Strategy had placed proposed schemes for Shardlow and Swarkestone in the top thirty priority schemes but not within the top ten schemes. Therefore, they would not be addressed within the next five years. It was reported that Willington did not appear within the top thirty priority schemes.

It was finally reported that work would commence this year to improve flood defences at Ferry Green in Willington. A new flood bank would be constructed and outfall would be improved.

C. Barker reported that residents of Barrow-upon-Trent had expressed concern with regard to the lack of flood defences in this area. It was considered that as the surrounding areas of Willington, Shardlow and Swarkestone had flood defences, there could be an adverse effect within Barrow-upon-Trent. M. Wray explained that if the Trent Strategy displayed that there would be an adverse effect in Barrow-upon-Trent, compensatory works would be undertaken to ensure that water flows did not move and cause problems to this area.

Councillor Atkin queried if any flood defence work was proposed at Swarkestone. M. Ray confirmed that there were no detailed designs at present. Flood embankments were proposed but he did not have any further information at this time.

Mr. Mitchell expressed concern with regard to the Trent Fluvial Strategy and the consequences to Elvaston of the report findings. He advised Officers of the Environment Agency that Elvaston Parish Council had undertaken a survey and were of the opinion that flood defences in Elvaston were inadequate. M. Ray confirmed that the Parish Council would be consulted with regard to any planned works at Elvaston. Mr. Mitchell also reported that drainage was a major concern in this area. He stated that an area to the north side of Ambaston Lane was a problem during periods of heavy rain. Mr. Mitchell thought that drainage access to the river was somehow impeded. C. Payne agreed to meet Mr. Mitchell on site to investigate this issue.

M. Clifton expressed his concerns with regard to the control of development on the flood plain at Shardlow and the possible effects this would have on the flood defences. He discussed the problems being experienced due to

developments at Shardlow Marina and queried what restrictions were in place with regard to the prevention of development. M. Swain reported that the Environment Agency were experiencing problems with enforcement issues and that currently, there was an effort to try to improve this area. M. Swain explained that there was a re-organisation taking place within the Environment Agency in an effort to improve the area of enforcement. This re-organisation should be completed by the end of July. Councillor Harrison (Shardlow County Councillor) discussed the problems being experienced in Shardlow. He asked that a report on these issues be produced and forwarded to Shardlow Parish Council, the District Council and Councillor Harrison.

Mr. Mitchell reported on the condition of Thulston Brook which ran between the City and South Derbyshire. He explained that this watercourse ran through Elvaston and that it was vital that flow was unimpeded. Currently, the watercourse contained a large amount of rubbish, which he felt was a worrying situation. M. Wray responded by explaining that Thulston Brook was a critical ordinary water course which was maintained by Derby City Council. He stated that there was a possibility that this water course would be enmained and that if this was the case, consultation would take place with Elvaston Parish Council.

T. Beresford requested that Mark Swain provide a written report to Hatton Parish Council on any issues contained within this Meeting's reports, pertaining to Hatton.

10. **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

(a) Environmental Services

L. Unwin reported on various issues raised at the last Flood Liaison Meeting, including problems with drainage on A6 at Shardlow, a culvert on A444 at Stanton and a problem with flooding in Ivy Close, Willington. The Meeting was advised that all of these issues had been resolved.

It was reported that there was a problem of flooding during periods of heavy rain on Repton Road, Willington. It was queried whether there was a possibility of resurfacing in order to re-profile the road to alleviate this problem. L. Unwin advised that this was unlikely in the immediate future but that he would investigate to see whether any small areas of work could be undertaken to assist with this problem. L. Unwin confirmed that the Highways Manager would contact a member of Repton Parish Council in order to discuss this matter.

(b) Emergency Planning

N. Elliot addressed the Meeting and advised that there had been little, if any flooding since the last Meeting. He commented that South Derbyshire was the most flood aware district within the Derbyshire County mainly due to the successful partnerships with the County Council and Parish Councils. He commented on the importance of maintaining flood contingency plans and stressed the importance of these plans being updated continually.

The issue of flooding on Repton Road, Willington was raised again at this point in the Meeting. The road had been flooded, which then caused a problem to adjacent houses due to the large amount of water being pushed towards the

properties as cars passed through the flooded area. Residents had contacted the police in order to request cones to divert the traffic away from the flooding. It appeared that the police had not arrived at the area until some time later. N. Elliot was of the opinion that this was a Highways Operatives responsibility but he agreed to investigate the issue.

11. **SEVERN TRENT WATER**

G. Timms introduced himself to the Meeting as the new point of contact at Severn Trent Water. He asked the Meeting if there were any outstanding issues at this time. T. Beresford reported that there was an ongoing situation concerning a damaged flap valve in a corner of the allotments in Scropton. He advised G. Timms that this situation had been ongoing for a period of two years and had still not been resolved. G. Timms agreed to investigate this issue and to report back.

12. **REPORT FROM PARISH COUNCILS**

A member of Willington Parish Council queried whether access was available at the recently closed Calders Aluminium site in order to check on the Sands Brook watercourse. C. Payne agreed to investigate this issue and report back.

The Director of Community Services read out a letter received from B. Cowley (Egginton Parish Council) which gave thanks to South Derbyshire District Council and to the Environment Agency for the vast improvement in flooding conditions in Egginton. Mrs. Cowley requested that her thanks be recorded and hoped that the partnership arrangements would continue throughout 2005.

T. Beresford also thanked all concerned parties for the work undertaken to alleviate flooding problems over the winter.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 11th October 2005 at the Civic Offices at 10.00 a.m.

The Meeting was closed at 11.50 a.m.