

**SOUTH DERBYSHIRE FLOOD LIAISON MEETING**

**June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote**

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Malcolm Roseburgh (Chair), Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown, Councillor Peter Smith, Councillor Peter Watson.

Tom Gunton, Matt Holford, Tim Summers (Environmental Health), Phil Lenton (SDDC Flooding Technician).

Tom Sloan (Clerk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Richard Campbell, Nick Elliott, Victoria Coombes, Kevin Jones.

**Environment Agency Representatives**

Daniel Clancy, Susan Russell.

**Severn Trent Water Representatives**

Mark Heysmond, Zelia Lyne.

**Parish Council / Meeting Representatives**

John Houghton (Willington Parish Council), David Lindop (Scropton Parish Council).

**1. Apologies for absence**

Stuart Batchelor (SDDC Director of Community and Planning), Vikki Candlish (Environment Agency), Councillor Hilary Coyle (SDDC), Councillor Martyn Ford (SDDC), Stuart Foster (Environment Agency), Anne Heathcote (Barrow on Trent Parish Council), Mark Swain (Environment Agency), Councillor Bob Wheeler (SDDC).

**2. The minutes of the meeting held on June 24, 2015**

The minutes were duly noted as a true record of the meeting.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes**

4.5: Phil Lenton to discuss further work in Hartshorne Road, Woodville, with Mark Heysmond from Severn Trent Water.

**Phil Lenton reported that the capital programme for Hartshorne Road had been updated**

4.6: Stuart Batchelor to write to Severn Trent Water to request a briefing be held on infrastructure plans to cope with growth in the district.

**Action completed by Stuart Batchelor and Severn Trent in attendance at Flood Liaison Meeting**

4.9: Phil Lenton to arrange meeting with DCC regarding culvert adjacent to Hilton Garage.

**Meeting held on site to discuss the culvert**

4.33: Vikki Candlish to arrange the presence of a representative from Derby City Council at the Flood Liaison Meeting.

**No representative from the city council present. Action for Vikki Candlish carried forward to next meeting**

4.36: Vikki Candlish to continue dialogue with the Environment Agency regarding the road to the marina and the flood arch to the Old Shardlow Bridge.

**Vikki Candlish unavailable to update on action. Carried forward to next meeting**

4.37: James Biddlestone from Derbyshire County Council was due to chase up 'Richard' from the Environment Agency regarding responsibility for flood defences between the A6 and the River Trent.

**Victoria Coombes updated the meeting that James Biddlestone had been seconded to another department. His action had been completed in his absence**

4.39: James Biddlestone had agreed to pass on a parish council's desire for specific flood warnings to Andy Ellis at Derbyshire County Council.

**Victoria Coombes confirmed this had been completed**

4.52: James Biddlestone had agreed to share a link to a cabinet paper with Egginton Parish Council when it was published.

**Victoria Coombes said she could provide the link**

4.53: James Biddlestone had promised a report back regarding planning conditions for surface water run-off.

**Victoria Coombes said the report was in its very early stages and that they tended to be bespoke to each planning application. Something electronic would be circulated to attendees at the meeting**

4.71: Attendees expressed their disappointment that there was no representative from Severn Trent present.

**Stuart Batchelor ensured the company was invited well in advance and two representatives were present**

5.6: Complaints had been received regarding flooding in the car park of Hatton Village Hall. There was also surface flooding near the turkey plant. James Biddlestone had promised a response for Hatton Parish Council

**Victoria Combes reported it was an issue she hadn't checked. An update would be sought for the next meeting**

5.7: Overseal Parish Council had reported silting up of the Hooborough Brook on the county boundary with Leicestershire, querying whose responsibility it was. Mark Swain (EA) agreed to report back.

**Susan Russell reported that the EA did not believe that a build-up of silt would cause property flooding and anyone with evidence to the contrary should pass it on to the agency**

**4. Reports from agencies**

• **South Derbyshire District Council**

Phil Lenton reported that in January and February 2016 there was overtopping of the River Trent, with sandbags being requested and delivered to properties in Barrow on Trent and Willington.

At Willington, Mr Lenton met with Councillor Andy MacPherson and Steve Foulk (EA) where Sands Brook meets the Egginton Brook. Residents had raised concerns that the area was overgrown. Mr Foulk discussed the likelihood of de-silting and vegetation clearance which was likely to be undertaken in the near future.

At Barrow-on-Trent, SDDC undertook some clearing of vegetation in the water course adjacent to Greenacres Lane and Church Lane. Further work was required once ground conditions were improved

SDDC undertook ditching works on the corner of Fishpond Lane, Egginton, to improve the flow of water in the ditch to alleviate highway flooding in Hilton Brook. Solution was unlikely due to the levels in the ditch.

Flooding was experienced on the Foston Brook and the River Dove at Scropton during early January. This was perhaps the worst affected village in the district. The flood defences on the River Dove did the job for the majority of the village, but water seemed to be coming from under the culvert of the railway back into the village. There was a suggestion that the non-return valve was not seating correctly. Soon after, the river and brook levels dropped off quickly and the potential flood risk passed.

With regard to ordinary water courses, SDDC had actively carried out work to mitigate the risk of flooding. On the Doles Brook at Findern, to the rear of Sycamore Avenue, heading towards Common Piece Lane, obstructions that would block the water course had been removed, including siting sandbags to protect the embankment of the adjacent gardens. Further issues had been identified upstream, with trees and tree stumps within the water course that increased the flood risk. Discussions were being held with the landowners with a view to progressing the removal. SDDC had carried out some desilting works on the water course that runs along Egginton Road at Hilton. Severn Trent had also carried out some cleansing on its sewer water system. This was believed to have addressed the long-standing flooding issue. Thanks went to Mark Heysmond from Severn Trent. SDDC had also been actively involved with Morris Homes on the development along Darklands Lane in Swadlincote. On Darklands Brook, SDDC managed to negotiate that the developer batter back the embankment and it had removed some of the overgrowth in the watercourse. With this improvement, flooding of the allotments will reduce.

SDDC had carried out further maintenance works on the following ditches and watercourses that would reduce again the risk of flooding in the district:

- Stanton Brook at A444 by the village hall – clear of grill.
- Thulston Brook at Colwell Drive Bolton Moor – remove fly tipping.
- Culverted water course, over fields adjacent to Bakeacre Lane Findern.
- Culverted water course, rear of Ivy Close and the Green at Willington.

All was going very well until the district was hit with the rainfall events in June. Around 20 tonnes of sand was ordered and sandbags were filled by the depot workforce. More than 800 sandbags were distributed within a two-week period. By far the worst affected villages were Melbourne and Ticknall. Other villages that were affected and where SDDC responded included Repton, Bretby, Hartshorne, Woodville, Castle Gresley, Smisby, Shardlow and Aston.

- **Environment Agency**

Dan Clancy reported that on June 15 there was flooding in Brook End, Pinfold Close and Church Close, Repton. There was a large amount of debris in the brook at Pinfold Close. The EA carries out desilting operations in the water course at Repton and that work may be brought forward as a result of these floods.

CCTV trials were planned for 2016-17 in Meadow Lane, Willington Brook.

In Shardlow, a channel leading to the pumping station was due to be cleared. In terms of planning, there were a few developments in Shardlow, including in London Road and out towards Great Wilne. However, nothing especially controversial in terms of flood risk was coming in.

Susan Russell confirmed that works would take place at the Monks Bridge, near Egginton. Arches would be cleared and access improved for future works.

Councillor Neil Atkin asked if it was possible for sandbags to be stored at localities around the district. He also asked how people could apply for sandbags to store for future use and where the delivery of sand came from.

**ACTION: Phil Lenton to report back to Councillor Atkin regarding sandbags**

Nick Elliott (DCC) said that people often only realised they needed sandbags when it was too late. They were needed in advance. DCC encouraged people to be proactive and abandon the mind-set that the council could help them when water was lapping at their door. Councillor Peter Watson added that a lot of householders in Aston had paid a large amount of money for water barriers. He felt they should be encouraged. Mr Elliott said that people needed to appraise their risk before fitting a barrier. Victoria Coombes said that DCC offered 'flood sacks', an alternative to sandbags. David Lindop (Scropton Parish Council) said the problem was that wet sand rotted the bags and that barriers were a better idea. He asked if the local authorities could use their purchasing power to get them at a better rate. Ms Coombes said it cost £5,000 per property for barriers but there were grants available at a national level. Tim Summers (SDDC) added that three projects had been undertaken to protect properties from flooding. He had examples of more affordable barriers, air brick covers and back flow valves to show to parishes around the district. Chair Malcolm Roseburgh said there would be an internal debrief to look at issues raised – and sandbags. Unfortunately, funding could not be guaranteed for property-level protection.

Councillor Andy MacPherson said that residents across the district wanted information regarding the flood risk their property would be at in future. Mr Clancy said the EA had 'crude' data which showed whether a property was at risk. Mr Elliott said the flooding recently experienced in Ticknall and Melbourne was more unpredictable. Furthermore, residents would often not want to be told their house

was at risk, with the concomitant drop in its value and rise in house insurance premiums.

- **Derbyshire County Council**

### **Economy Transport and Communities**

Victoria Coombes reported that DCC's flood risk strategy had been published. It contained an action plan and set out how DCC wanted residents to prevent flood damage themselves. Three pilot flood warden schemes had been formed in Derbyshire and as part of these bespoke flood plans had been developed for those communities. The EA also had flood warden schemes supported by DCC. A store of sandbags had been created in one local community. A medium-term £2 million six-year plan of investment had also been created including South Derbyshire schemes such as Scropton. A joint flood warden scheme in Shardlow was underway led by the EA with support from DCC and Severn Trent.

Richard Campbell had recently completed two projects from the medium-term plan at Hartshorne and Melbourne utilising funding from multiple sources, including National Flood Risk Management Funding. A flood management scheme was also being implemented at Scropton.

On April 15, 2015, DCC became a statutory consultee for surface water drainage for major developments. That was taking 60% of the unit's resources to manage. All planning applications were put through a matrix to determine what level of response the team provides. DCC was working closely with SDDC on the subject.

In January there had been a multitude of highways problems due to flooding. DCC was now working closely with all risk management authorities after recent flooding events in Melbourne, Ticknall and Weston-on-Trent.

### **Emergency Planning**

Nick Elliott said it was a shame there were not more parish councils present.

The three main DCC teams involved with flooding – the flood team, the emergency planning team and highways – were all together in one department with Mike Ashworth as the director.

Nationally, an agreement had been reached between Government and the insurance industry. It would see a pooling of flood risk and would make flood insurance more affordable.

A meeting was planned with Ticknall Parish Council to discuss what could be done in the village.

Kevin Jones reported that sandbag packs could still be requested by any resident by contacting the county council's Call Derbyshire call centre. They would be posted out.

- **Severn Trent Water**

Zelia Lyne reported that the company had undergone a reorganisation and the majority of the Derbyshire team had changed. Invitations to the meeting had previously fallen between the cracks as a result.

Regarding Melbourne, the company had attended a meeting of the parish council and understandingly had a challenging time. A working group had been set up. This included DCC Highways, SDDC, MPs and parish councillors. There were monthly meetings and updates for residents. The company was better trying to understand the problems the village faces. Numerous flow gauges had been installed to provide data. There was a meeting on Friday and again next month. Despite media announcements, the public attendance at previous meetings was very poor.

In Ticknall, the company was working in conjunction with DCC and SDDC. There were issues with a culvert in Main Street which had been confirmed as belonging to Severn Trent. Drainage in High Street was also being looked at in conjunction with DCC. There were also still issues from overland flow from fields into the system.

In Woodville Road, Hartshorne, 16 flow meters were being installed in the next week.

## **5. Reports from parish councils**

Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown recorded her thanks for Severn Trent's attendance. She said it would be useful to have a list of contacts of people involved in the meeting.

### **ACTION: Kevin Jones to investigate producing a list of contacts**

Councillor Mrs Brown asked if Egginton Brook was going to be desilted seeing as the Monks Bridge nearby had been cleared. Councillor Mrs Brown reported that there would be a large amount of development around Etwall draining towards the brook, including 2,500 houses in the Mickleover area. Without proper remediation, it would become an area of South Derbyshire very prone to flooding – and an area with key industry to boot. She asked what measures were in place to inspect balancing ponds. Ms Coombes replied that the role of DCC had been watered down massively from the original intentions to enact Schedule Three of

the Flood and Water Management Act, which would have meant that DCC adopting and maintaining all sustainable urban drainage systems. The new statutory consultee role does not encompass this. Ms Coombes raised that there were concerns nationally over this. Mr Elliott said maintenance of balancing ponds did not live with a public body once they were completed and it was an unsatisfactory situation that was central Government's responsibility. Councillor Mrs Brown said this had highlighted a potentially very serious sustainability issue in one of the fastest-growing regions of the country, where building would take place in areas that flood. Councillor Watson added that his colleague had highlighted an astonishing point. He asked how many of these balancing ponds required mechanical maintenance. Councillor Watson said he would pursue the matter with South Derbyshire MP Heather Wheeler. Councillor Peter Smith said it was the first he had heard of the issue and that residents in future would blame the authorities if a serious flood resulted.

**ACTION: Maintenance of balancing ponds to be the subject of a further meeting with an SDDC planning officer invited**

Councillor Mrs Brown asked if Mr Heysmond could get in touch to discuss a project Severn Trent never completed in Egginton to relieve surface water flooding.

**ACTION: Mark Heysmond to contact Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown regarding issue**

Councillor Mrs Brown reported that the roads in Etwall had become 'rivers' during a recent spike in rainfall as drains struggled to cope. All the water went into Etwall Brook, which overflowed, and then onto Egginton and Willington. The brook needed desilting, she said.

**ACTION: Environment Agency to review whether Etwall Brook needs desilting**

David Lindop (Scropton Parish Council) reported that where water lay in Leathersley Lane all that was needed was a pipe to remove the excess water into a ditch. He asked if this was part of the £100,000 DCC scheme. Part of the scheme involved moving water from Watery Lane and diverting it to the brook at the other end of the village near Chapel Lane and the Turkey factory. This, he said, was totally unacceptable as the brook struggled to cope without having the extra water. Most locals were unaware of the scheme being proposed. Ms Coombes replied that a lot of background work had gone into this new scheme but DCC would meet with local representatives and the engineers to take into account local concerns.

**ACTION: Victoria Coombes to meet with Scropton residents to discuss concerns and answer questions**

Mr Lindop reported flood warning signs left out in Scropton since the flood. DCC and the EA said the signs would be removed.

Councillor Smith reported that five of the villages he represented flooded recently because of surface water run-off. The biggest issue in Ticknall was with the culvert and with the raising of the road surface through resurfacing, with the pavement not raised at the same time. Irresponsible drivers made the problem worse. Councillor Smith called for an idiot-proof way of controlling traffic as the waves created went over barriers. Signs for a flood or 'slow' would help to ease speeds. Flooding in Hartshorne was caused by the culvert under Ticknall Road being blocked and unable to take any more water. Water coming off National Forest land and into the road did not help. It had blocked up previously and Chris Payne (ex-SDDC) tried for several hours attempting to dig it out.

Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton said she felt communication had always been the key in flood matters. Two issues were of concern: 25% of her constituents were over 65 and not computer literate in all cases. She asked if a flood contact sheet could be distributed with Council Tax notices and put up on parish notice boards.

**ACTION: Kevin Jones to produce contact sheet for notice boards (same as action above)**

Ms Coombes said DCC would take on board concerns regarding the highway. She had been working closely with Stefan Green from Ticknall Parish Council. The residents affected by the recent floods did not want to be involved, she said. Councillor Mrs Chilton asked that if meetings were taking place with residents, could she please be informed.

Councillor MacPherson said the blockages brought up by Councillor Mrs Brown were key for Willington. Toyota had a balancing lake and the company was not aware it had to manage it. In Bargate Lane, a local resident had a patch of land they were interested in turning into a wildlife pond and not worrying about flooding at all. Mr Clancy replied that the water flow and retention in such a pond would be overwhelmed by the volume of water in the River Trent at that location during a flood.

Councillor MacPherson reported that a fairly large non-return valve had been discovered near Bargate Lane which he thought belonged to Severn Trent and discharged onto the lane. The area was knee-deep in silt. Mr Clancy replied that it should be restricted. The balancing pond should be above the flood plain.

Councillor MacPherson said that farmers seemed happy doing ditching on their own land. Some, however, had no capacity in their fields as boundary hedges had been removed. Guidance for farmers was needed. Mrs Coombes replied that DCC had a guidance note on its website about rural management and there were some government initiatives.

Councillor Mrs Brown asked if South Derbyshire should have a drainage board like Newark in Nottinghamshire. Cemex had a complex application for a huge area of excavated land between Willington and Etwall. This had now been cleared, apparently without any further permission being granted from DCC. Having seen the work, her fears were allayed – but it had not been permitted. What efforts did DCC make to oversee that land? What measures were taken to ensure permissions were adhered to? Mr Elliott answered that no one at the meeting had the necessary expertise to answer a planning question.

**ACTION: DCC planning officer (minerals and waste) to be invited to future meetings**

John Houghton (Willington PC) said he had heard his village did not have a detailed flood risk plan. Was this correct? Mr Clancy said modelling for the Trent was quite old and was due to be updated in the next 12 to 18 months. Funding had been secured for it. It should give a better indication of risk areas and flow routes which the old model did not have. Mr Orme said water was standing in Hamilton Terrace and Twyford Road.

**ACTION: Dan Clancy to report back to a future meeting on the new model for the River Trent**

## **6. Any other business**

Councillor Smith said the meeting had been very useful one and it was disappointing that more parishes had not attended. He asked if the next meeting could be brought forward to a date later in the year. Councillor Mrs Brown seconded the request. It was decided that a meeting be arranged. Councillor Watson apologised for the poor attendance.

**ACTION: Malcolm Roseburgh to discuss next meeting date with Stuart Batchelor**

## **7. Date and time of the next meeting**

TBA.