

FLOODING MEETING HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
PARISHES WITHIN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

21st March 2013

**PRESENT:-**

**South Derbyshire District Council Representatives**

Councillors Atkin, Ford, Lemmon, Roberts, Shepherd and Watson, S. Batchelor (Head of Community and Planning Services (Chairman)), C. Payne (Engineer) and P. Spencer (Democratic Services).

**Derbyshire County Council Representative**

Councillor Ford, N. Elliott and J. Biddlestone.

**Environment Agency Representatives**

N. Le Mare, S. Pymm and M. Swain.

**Parish Council/Meeting Representatives**

E. Hicklin and M. Selby (Aston-on-Trent Parish Council), A. Heathcote and K. Slater (Barrow-on-Trent Parish Council), A. Badger (Bretby Parish Council), K. Cresswell and D. Muller (Etwall Parish Council), S. Bell (Findern Parish Council), J. Bates and T. Beresford (Foston and Scropton Parish Council), R. Brooks (Hatton Parish Council), B. Walton-Knight (Hilton Parish Council), J. Thompson (Ingleby Parish Meeting), D. Forster and F. Hill (Newton Solney Parish Council), M. Clifton (Shardlow Parish Council) and K. Gibbs and J. Houghton (Willington Parish Council).

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from District and County Councillor Mrs. Patten and D. Taylor (Hatton Parish Council).

6. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th September 2012 were noted.

7. **REPORTS FROM AGENCIES**

(a) **South Derbyshire District Council**

The Council's Engineer gave a report, initially on flooding problems since the last Meeting, emergency works undertaken to issue sandbags, the use of door protection guards and he gave individual reports on ongoing investigations. It was confirmed that there was a closer working relationship between the District and County Councils since Derbyshire County Council had become the lead flood authority. In particular, reference was made to the series of public meetings held recently.

Mr. Payne reported on the flood prevention works undertaken since the last Meeting for watercourse maintenance and those works planned for the coming months. Questions were invited and responses provided, initially to clarify the flood prevention works at Barrow-on-Trent. A request was submitted for further works to nearby brooks which Mr. Payne would inspect and respond to the representatives on. There was discussion about flooding underneath a railway bridge at Heage Lane, Etwall, on which Mr. Payne was working with Derbyshire County Council, the Authority responsible for this issue. A site Meeting was requested to pursue this matter. There was also discussion about Ford Lane at Willington where one property was being affected by surface water flooding.

A Councillor expressed disappointment at the lack of representation from Severn Trent Water and it was agreed to write to the company in this regard. In response to a request from the Councillor, an update was provided on the works undertaken on the Doles Brook in Findern. A particular issue was fly-tipping including some railway sleepers being placed in the brook. Discussion also took place about watercourses in the Marson-on-Dove area, planned maintenance and additional funding being sought for further maintenance. The Environment Agency representatives offered to look into a particular point made regarding the Nestlé development and damage to the surface drains in the area. It was noted that the Company was proactive in resolving any issues.

A Shardlow representative explained that pollarding of willow trees had resulted in debris in the Shardlow Brook and was asked the contact Mr. Payne after the Meeting in order that this could be pursued. Flood prevention measures including door gates were also discussed, and whilst there were limited funds available, applications could be made.

Thanks were recorded to the Council's officers for their works during the recent flooding problems. Particular lessons learnt were more localised storage of sand to speed up the distribution of sand bags and further flood wardens were being sought.

**(b) Environment Agency**

S. Pymm provided statistics on flood alerts for the period, referring particularly to those in the Drakelow and Marston on Dove areas. There had been three discreet events in the recent months. She also spoke about the review of the flood warning assessments to make these more effective. It was requested that the monitoring equipment at Marston on Dove be checked.

A presentation was made by Mark Swain about the construction of new flood defences for the lower Dove area. Some delays had been experienced due to adverse weather, but the contractor had since caught up and was now back on schedule. An update was given on the individual elements of the scheme with photographs being displayed. At Hatton, the works were ahead of schedule and reference was also made to a new channel for the Salt Brook which had operated effectively in the

November floods. Mr. Swain also spoke about works in neighbouring East Staffordshire, near to the Tutbury Fire Station and Mill. Construction works would start shortly in Egginton. There was recognition of the disruption that would be caused, although endeavours would be made to minimise this. Questions and comments were invited. Barrow representatives recognised the support of the Environment Agency in getting flood maps reviewed.

Mr. Swain responded to questions about funding bids for additional flood defence works. He confirmed the need for evidence to build the case for each scheme and contributions in kind also helped. Regarding the works undertaken in Hatton, it was noted that there were clay deposits in the drains which would need to be cleared.

Nick Le Mare then gave a presentation on the Lower Derwent Scheme through Derby. A project update was provided on the overall funding required for this scheme and the current funding gap. The programme of works was outlined with construction starting in October 2014 and continuing through to 2017. Further information about the project could be viewed on the website:- [www.ourcityyourriver.co.uk](http://www.ourcityyourriver.co.uk).

It was stated that the works to be undertaken would not impact downstream on South Derbyshire villages for the first five years. A number of graphics were included in the presentation showing the flood defence measures. Mr. Le Mare spoke about the phasing of the works and part of phase 2 would include improvements in the Ambaston and Shardlow areas. These were needed before phase 3 of the scheme was commenced, as there would be an impact downstream thereafter. A District Member reminded of concerns in Ambaston, as the flood bank was cracking. There was a target to repair this before the end of the current financial year.

**(c) Derbyshire County Council**

A report was provided on the flooding problems since the last Meeting, the joint work undertaken with the District Council and the public meetings that had been held. This included surface water flooding problems in Scropton and the study commissioned to seek a solution to this. Further Meetings were planned with the community to keep them informed of progress. A public meeting had also been held in Findern, on which a report was provided. The officer reiterated the benefits of local storage of sandbags and explained about a new product that was being trialled as a replacement for sandbags. He also spoke about work behind the scenes with the District Council to look at legal issues, planning issues and the aims to better inform development at an earlier stage, although it was noted that the Flood Risk Management Team was not a statutory planning consultee.

The officer explained the review of gully maintenance policies to ensure resources were targeted more efficiently. He gave a specific example of how information technology would be used by operatives in vehicle cabs to report problems and enable the prioritisation of service levels. A

comment was made about the maintenance levels of roadside ditches and culverts under roads. Another point was the erection of flood warning signage and particularly the time taken for such signage to be removed after the flooding problems had ceased. The officers responded and were looking at a community based signage scheme. A Scropton representative explained the difficulties in that area where the signage would need to be placed in adjacent parishes.

Further reference was made to the difficulties at Heage Lane, Etwall and the County Council's representatives agreed to pursue this matter. Mr. Elliott then gave an update about sustainable urban drainage schemes. This was an additional duty for the County Council and for developments of two or more properties, the Authority now had to approve the drainage scheme for surface water. It was confirmed that the Flood Risk Management Strategy was a critical document which would drive everything the County Council did on flooding, including future funding for schemes.

There was discussion about the closure of the A38 trunk road by the Highways Agency, with clarification of the section that had flooded. It was suggested that the Highways Agency be invited to attend the next liaison meeting. The County Council was also asked to investigate issues reported about why the Fire Service had located an engine obstructing a main road through Barrow-on-Trent during the recent floods and to seek relocation of police signage used at Twyford when that area was flooded. A further issue discussed was the County Council's powers to pursue land owners who were not maintaining their watercourses and ditches properly.

8. **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILS**

Thanks were again recorded to District Council Officers for their assistance during periods of flooding.

4. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Flood Liaison Meeting would be confirmed in due course, but was anticipated to take place in late September 2013

S. BATCHELOR

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 12.15 p.m.