

**SOUTH DERBYSHIRE FLOOD LIAISON MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote**

**PRESENT:-**

**District Council Representatives**

Councillor Martyn Ford, Councillor John Harrison, Councillor Andy MacPherson, Councillor David Shepherd, Councillor Peter Smith, Councillor Peter Watson.

Allison Thomas (Strategic Director Service Delivery) (Chair), Kevin Exley (Planning Policy), Phil Lenton (Cultural Services Technician), Tim Summers (Senior Environmental Health Officer).

Tom Sloan (Clerk).

**Derbyshire County Council Representatives**

Councillor Martyn Ford.

Ashlea Kidger, Stephen Peace (Emergency Planning), Richard Ward (Senior Flood Engineer).

**Environment Agency Representatives**

Laia Canadell Gallart, Mary McCann, Reece Oakden, Nathan Sutton (Flood Risk Management – East Midlands), Mark Swain (Flood Risk Management – West Midlands), David Turnbull (Partnership & Strategic Overview).

**Severn Trent Water Representatives**

Mark Heysmond (Senior Area Technician), Kevin McCallin.

**Parish Council / Meeting Representatives**

Kevin Birch (Elvaston Parish Council), Charles Cuddington (Hilton Parish Council), Graham Davis, Anne Heathcote (Barrow Parish Council), Stephanie Marbrow (Rosliston Parish Council).

**1. Apologies for absence**

Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Mrs Lisa Brown, Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton, Councillor Mrs Hilary Coyle, Councillor Andy Roberts, Newton Solney Parish Council, Smisby Parish Council, Ticknall Parish Council, Weston on Trent Parish Council, Zelia Lockett (Severn Trent Water).

## **2. The minutes of the meeting held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

Councillor Peter Smith moved the minutes and Anne Heathcote seconded them.

### **3. Matters arising from the minutes**

#### **ACTION: Zelia Lockett to report back on work at Stenson Road**

Mark Heysmond reported that a crew had attended and repaired a water main near the location.

#### **ACTION: Tor Coombes and Phil Lenton to liaise over issue in Civic Way**

Phil Lenton reported that work had been completed by DCC and SDDC to alleviate flooding at the roundabout.

#### **ACTION: Stuart Batchelor to report jet skis at Ambaston to the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership**

Mr Lenton reported that it was a civil matter.

#### **ACTION: Tor Coombes to copy Councillors Kim Coe and Peter Smith into an email sent to Highways**

Richard Ward reported that he was unsure if the action had been completed. He would liaise with the new South Area Manager to find a resolution.

## **4. Reports from agencies**

### **South Derbyshire District Council**

**Phil Lenton** (Cultural Services Technician) reported on the following works:

- Old Station Close, Etwall (March 2018). Previously overgrown 200m section of water course on public open space cleared. Water course is flowing much better.
- Willington Reservoir, Boundary Road, Egginton (May 2018). Following statutory inspection by supervising engineer, remedial work to be carried out. Included are maintenance of the spillway,

stabilising work to the embankment and crest levelling by applying new topsoil.

- Bakeacre Lane, Findern: Field and highway flooding ongoing. Following Mr Lenton's investigation, developer Miller Homes is looking to connect south west at a road side ditch privately owned by farmer / landowner. Mr Lenton was seeking assistance from EA/LLFA, re: consent to discharge.
- Melbourne Flood Working Group: Mr Lenton continued support, attending meetings and working with Severn Trent and DCC.
- Robinson's Hill, Melbourne (May 2018). Works completed to re-profile the ditch at the bottom of the embankment to the sports field and the residential boundary, including re-profiling the flood attenuation area. This will mitigate the flood risk to adjacent properties on Robinson's Hill.
- Huntingdon Court / Station Road, Melbourne (Planned for early next month). Piece of public open space which SDDC maintains. Following heavy rainfall events the piece of land is prone to flooding which affects the front and rear gardens of 107, Station Road. Following improvement works completed at the end of last year by DCC Highways to the surface water system, SDDC to proceed scheduled work to lay land drainage and a separate soakaway that will mitigate the ground water flooding.
- Ashby Road, Melbourne – flooding. Report received from Alliance Solutions re: flood mitigation. Currently in discussions with Melbourne Sports Partnership on report findings and flood mitigation conclusions.

Mr Lenton also reported that he was investigating Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), specifically looking at:

- Sites where SDDC as a local authority had adopted public open space with SuDS.
- The Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
- The SuDS approval body was not adopted / implemented within the Act. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/schedule/3>
- A stipulation that developers should no longer connect the surface water drainage directly into the piped surface water system that runs directly into a main river or water course.
- Containing surface water on site swales, ditches and attenuation ponds etc.
- Concerns around health and safety which had been raised where SDDC had adopted SuDS, involving health and safety risks, maintenance liability etc.
- Working with DCC – LLFA and looking at what other local authorities had done.
- Considering developing adoption guidelines that could be inserted within the planning process as an appendix. Getting in early to steer designs that are fit for purpose ahead of construction.

- Development of management strategy re: SuDS.
- Appendices for developers to follow given standard of requirements.

Councillor Martyn Ford said that the work done in Bakeacre Lane was important and of real concern. Problems were occurring halfway through the development of 1,200 houses. There were issues with housing applications coming in piecemeal – a joined up approach was needed to prevent problems occurring. Water now sat on Bakeacre Lane after rain and in fields and ditches where it never used to sit. A problem could be stored up for future generations if a better response was not found. Richard Ward agreed that a co-ordinated approach was needed.

**ACTION: Phil Lenton and Richard Ward to set up a meeting with all interested parties to discuss co-ordinated approach to drainage**

Councillor David Shepherd said there was a balancing pond on a development in Stenson Ward which was causing concern. It had been independently inspected and no issues arose, but he was still worried. Mr Lenton replied that there were guidelines around balancing ponds. Guidelines would help avoid similar situations in future. Also, such a pond should usually be empty so it could fill up during heavy rain.

Allison Thomas said county-wide guidelines were needed, ideally a supplementary planning guidance. Kevin Exley added that SuDS was a very difficult issue. There were policies in place which drainage could be hung off, such as a better design policy. However, more rigorous planning could be needed to better mitigate schemes.

**ACTION: Kevin Exley to send guidance to Councillor David Shepherd**

Councillor John Harrison thanked Mr Lenton for his work on various issues in Melbourne, including joint mapping work with Severn Trent. The community was very disappointed that a liaison meeting due in March with the company hadn't happened due to the lack of a room. The next meeting was due in November but could it be brought forward due to the disquiet? Councillor Harrison was pleased with the progress being made with SuDS – however, there was a need to make sure developers were responsible for what they'd already built, as well as for future schemes.

Councillor Andy MacPherson asked if there was a maintenance programme for balancing ponds after their adoption. How was the work completed if a pond was totally fenced off? Mrs Thomas replied that she was managing two pieces of work, one around SDDC's adoption policy and another pulling together various strands for a maintenance policy. The two would help clarify Councillor MacPherson's questions.

Charles Cuddington reported surface water issues in Hilton. A recent planning application had a retention pond halfway up a hill. He was unsure

how it would prevent flooding of adjacent land. Getting SuDS in early during the planning process would only be positive in his opinion. When would that happen? Mrs Thomas replied that SDDC had only just started looking at the issue. Mr Ward added that SuDS would be rolled out to all eight planning authorities in Derbyshire. DCC sought consistency across the county. South Derbyshire was a good example as the authority had already been heavily involved with SuDS. He hoped a document could be quickly pulled together.

### **Environment Agency**

**Mark Swain** (Flood Risk Management West Midlands) reported that:

- There had been two recent incidents of serious flooding in the West Midlands this year, but neither were centred on South Derbyshire. High levels of water occurred in neighbouring Staffordshire on March 12<sup>th</sup>, with Rolleston and Marchington flooding. There were high levels in Egginton and Watery Lane, Scropton, but nothing more than routine winter flooding was reported.
- May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> saw exceptional rainfall totals recorded in Birmingham and the Black Country. For example, 50mm fell in four hours in Walsall (almost a month's worth) and a man died when his vehicle became trapped in floodwater. Several hundred properties flooded while Selly Park and Sparkhill in Birmingham and Walsall and Wolverhampton also experienced serious impacts.
- The desilting of Monks Bridge aqueduct on the River Dove was successfully completed in August. It was not programmed to be cleared again this year, but the level of silt would be monitored.
- Reinstatement works had been completed at Egginton, repairing the damage caused to the flood banks by cattle. New fencing and access tracks had been provided to reduce the chances of damage occurring in future.
- Flood risk management authorities (including the Environment Agency, county councils, district councils and Severn Trent) had been asked to identify projects to reduce flood risk from watercourses or surface water for inclusion in the next six-year national programme (to commence in 2021). An initial response had been requested by the end of July 2018, but there would be further opportunities.

**Nathan Sutton** (Flood Risk Management East Midlands) reported that:

- He was unaware of any serious flooding in the previous 12 months in his area.
- Around 100 tonnes of silt had been removed from the Shardlow Dyke. New pumps had also been installed
- The next six-year package of works was being worked on, including potential works at Willington. There were also plans to improve the River Trent modelling.

Anne Heathcote said that she'd been asking for improved Trent modelling for years. How close was it? Current models were incorrect and previous promises had been made to get a new model made. She thought it would be ready. Mary McCann replied that the new model was not yet publicly available. Modelling of the tributaries was needed to complete the picture. Mrs Heathcote said she'd been telling parishioners for four years that the model was due.

Councillor Ford raised the Calder Aluminium site at Willington. He said the model could have a big impact on the sale of houses if it showed flooding in a bigger area. It was imperative that the correct information was available. Mrs Heathcote added that there was a parishioner in Barrow whose house was shown under water in the current model but in reality the building stood above the flood line. Councillor MacPherson said he was concerned at the lack of data. It would seriously affect a homeowner. Mr Swain said data was constantly being refined and there was reams of it available. Obvious errors needed rectifying, however. Councillor Peter Watson said the error in Barrow was out by 500mm and had been there since 2000. There had been an 18-year wait for the data to be amended. He felt it was disgraceful that the Environment Agency had still not come up with an answer. It was about time the organisation went out and gathered some proper data. Mr Swain agreed that deadlines needed to be met.

Councillor MacPherson added that farmers were no longer encouraged to 'ditch out' due to contaminants which ended up in the silt and this caused further flooding. However, data was still needed and he urged the Environment Agency to take the lead on the matter.

### Derbyshire County Council

**Richard Ward** (Flood Risk Management) reported that:

- Ockbrook and Scropton were in DCC's medium-term programme of works.
- Not a huge amount of progress had been made in the previous 12 months, mainly due to resources. The flood team had been under-resourced for a considerable period of time but this was no longer the case. Schemes which had taken a back seat would now be taken forward as quickly as possible. Mr Ward had had a meeting with Foston & Scropton Parish Council the week before. Consultation would take place to ensure that the option being taken was the right one for the area.
- He had been heavily involved with a scheme at Melbourne. A bid was in for local levy funding to complete mapping of the area. That would inform hydraulic modelling.
- He had been liaising with SDDC Principal Area Planning Officer Chris Nash over drainage conditions for developments. DCC was

looking to introduce those conditions county-wide. Mr Ward added that he would lead on SuDS guidance.

- He had been carrying out an exercise to see which areas could be put forward for Government funding for 2021 and beyond. Anyone with concerns over an area could forward that to him.

**Steve Peace** (Emergency Planning) reported that:

- A multi-agency flood planning exercise had taken place in South Derbyshire in February.
- An annually updated multi-agency flood plan had been compiled in March and was accessible to the public.
- Government had ordered a review of flood planning and the findings had been published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).
- DCC and the Environment Agency were always willing to help communities that might be interested in emergency reliance preparation.

Councillor Ford said he hoped the agencies took back the meeting's concerns and did their best to allay them. He also asked DCC to revisit Heage Lane, Etwall, where flooding affected a dip in the road under a railway bridge. Excellent work had been done in the past to limit the flooding but could DCC revisit it to see what measures could be taken?

**ACTION: Richard Ward to investigate flooding at Heage Lane and provide a report back to the next Flood Liaison meeting**

Mrs Heathcote asked if localities would be involved in future flood exercises as in the past mistakes which were avoidable had been made in Barrow. Mr Peace said more localised exercises had been considered and Mrs Heathcote's feedback would be taken on board.

Councillor MacPherson asked if plans existed for when pumps failed. Mr Sutton replied that contingencies were in place.

### **Severn Trent**

**Mark Heysmond** (Senior Area Technician) reported that:

- Investigations were undertaken to solve an odour issue at Burton Road, Repton. Works to add chemical dosing were planned to be carried out at the sewage pumping station in Newton Solney, which discharged into Burton Road. The issue was expected to be sorted soon.
- There was a collapsed section of highway outside No 23, Milton Road, Repton. It would be repaired on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

- Outfalls at Willington had been inspected and five highlighted for clearing so they could correctly discharge. They were now on an annual plan to ensure they continued to function.
- Two roads in Findern – Doles Lane and Bakeacre Lane – suffered surface water outfall in heavy rain. Work to remove tree roots was completed in January 2018. Further structural repairs were planned on the foul sewer too.
- A manhole survey had just been completed in Melbourne. Results would be available in July.
- Regarding flooding at Hartshorne, a further problem had been identified downstream and was at the investigation stage.
- Ditching out of a critical asset had taken place at Kings Newton.
- Ongoing issues were being tackled at Aston and Weston, including the flooding of Weston Road, Aston, after heavy rain. A 900mm uncharted culvert had been found. Historically, there were also two ponds – but Mr Heysmond was unsure if they remained. Investigations were under way to ascertain if the culvert was interacting with the foul sewer.

Mrs Heathcote said that Barrow had been disturbed 24-7 by tankers coming to collect waste from the pumping station. More and more houses were being built using the same ageing network and pumping station. Was Severn Trent any closer to putting a new pumping station in? Mr Heysmond replied that the sewer had recently been damaged by a third party putting a digger bucket through it. Any damage caused to Barrow as a result would be made good by Severn Trent. As for extra houses, the homes being built in Sinfin Moor would not affect Barrow's sewers.

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

**Kevin Birch** asked if a booklet from the Environment Agency containing emergency contact details was available in A5 format and specific to an area. Mr Peace replied that he would find out. Councillor MacPherson added that he thought it was an excellent idea for all communities.

## **6. Any other business**

Tim Summers reported that 40 household door flood barriers had been given away by SDDC but there were still a few available. Environmental Health was also dealing with a minor incident in Stanton by Bridge caused by an antiquated water main. SDDC was working to a point where the main could legitimately be cut to prevent the flooding.

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

To be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 11.18am



### **Addendum**

Clarification on the Environment Agency's flood model for the River Trent.

The EA was currently in the midst of renewing its hydraulic model of the River Trent in Derbyshire. The work was being carried out by framework consultants CH2M at a cost of more than £100,000, expected delivery being the end of this financial year.

**EA comments:** Unfortunately this modelling has not been delivered yet. We hoped it would have been completed by the end of the last financial year but we are now expecting it to be delivered in the autumn of this year. It may be delayed if the consultants encounter issues with the model though. Once it is completed we will use it to update the flood map for planning, provide it for RFI's etc.

On the modelling programme, EA also had the Trent tributaries down to be modelled in around 2020. This includes the main river sections of Willington Brook, Repton Brook, Milton Brook, Hell Brook, Twyford Brook, Cuttle Brook, Barrow Drain, Main Drain, Meadow Drain, Shardlow Dyke and Wilne Drain.

**EA comments:** We currently have it programmed to be started in 2021-22. So it would be delivered sometime in 2022-23 all being well. There is no funding committed to this project yet though so it may be delivered in a later year (or potentially not at all) if other areas become a higher priority for us to model or the way projects are funded is changed. As things stand at the moment this is the plan though. The Willington Brook is being looked at by the Programme Delivery Unit (also named PDU) so there may be something available for this watercourse before then but it will depend on how far that project is taken.

The hydraulic model of the River Trent in Derbyshire and the Trent tributaries are two separate models?

**EA comments:** The River Trent in Derbyshire project will deliver one model (Willington to the M1). The Derbyshire Trent Tributaries is one project but will deliver multiple individual models (HOMR to the River Trent) as there is no interaction between most of the watercourses we are looking at.