

Summer 2016

Flood Risk Management

Newsletter

This is our first Flood Risk Management newsletter. We currently intend to issue a newsletter four times a year as part of our commitment to better engage with our flood risk management partners and local communities to raise awareness of the work being undertaken by the Flood Risk Management Team in Warwickshire and the support we can offer.

Warwickshire County Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has now been officially adopted. This was approved at the Cabinet meeting in April and taken together with our associated Action Plan will help us: prioritise improvements; focus our resources on areas of greatest need and provide helpful advice to areas which are not a current high priority. Why not take a look at <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/lfrms>

WCC Flood Risk and Water Management Team

Your local Flood Risk Management Team has been strengthened with the addition of two new posts. These additional roles reinforce the commitment that WCC has to flood risk management and will enable us to deliver more support to the communities at risk from flooding.

Flooding in March and June 2016

Some of the heaviest rainfall in Warwickshire in a century led to some significant flooding in the county, including Stratford-upon-Avon district, Warwick district and Rugby borough. An inch of rainfall fell in the county on the night of Tuesday 9th March and the River Avon reached its highest recorded level since monitoring equipment was installed in 1973.



We have had reports of 68 properties suffering internal flooding in March with a further 14 in June and we are currently conducting a number of flood investigations in accordance with our role under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. These investigations will report and detail how the flooding occurred, the extent of flooding, the role of the various Flood Risk Management Authorities and will include recommendations for future action. Where possible we will identify quick win solutions which can be easily implemented at relatively low cost, identify where further investigations or detailed studies are needed and will update our action plan for future investment.

We will be leading or supporting Section 19 investigations in Southam, Marton, Long Itchington and Rugby. When these investigations are concluded they will be posted on the WCC website. If you would like to get involved please drop us a line at flooding@warwickshire.gov.uk.

We know that being flooded is a horrible experience and it is important that we have a full picture of flood risk in the county so if you were flooded, or came close to flooding, please do contact us at flooding@warwickshire.gov.uk. The next time we write we aim to have developed an online flooding reporting tool as part of our commitment to being a listening organisation.

Partnership working

Partnership working forms a large part of successful development and delivery of Flood Improvement Schemes throughout Warwickshire. With this in mind WCC are continuing to work closely with a number of partner organisations on a variety of schemes throughout the county.

For example, we are setting up partnership consultations with Severn Trent Water to collaborate during the feasibility of flood investigation projects.

Working together like this helps us to avoid duplicating effort, maximises the impact we can make and minimises disruption to local communities. In particular we will look to:

- share the data sources we each have,
- work together when undertaking hydraulic modelling and site investigations and
- deliver holistic solutions to communities affected by flooding.

A great example of partnership working in action is at Snitterfield.

The privately owned Bell Brook culvert which passes through Snitterfield is in a poor state of repair. In January 2015 part of it collapsed causing a large hole in a resident's garden.



Warwickshire County Council, the Environment Agency, Stratford District Council and Snitterfield Parish Council have all contributed funding towards

delivering an effective solution that prevents further collapse.

We have entered into a Public Sector Collaboration Agreement, the first time this has been used on this type of project, to enable us to deliver this project for the Environment Agency (EA). This approach will save in excess of £200,000.



We have also made an application for some funding from the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership for a project to better understand flood risk in Nuneaton Town Centre and identify options to improve the current situation. Nuneaton has experienced a number of significant flooding events in recent years as the River Anker flows through Nuneaton. Flood risk is a key consideration in development decisions and areas of high flood risk

tend to be avoided with significant implications for the economic prosperity of areas affected.

Our application has been supported by both Severn Trent Water and the EA and we will be looking to work together to support investment in new retail, housing, leisure and cultural activities and infrastructure in Nuneaton. Watch this space and we will continue to keep you updated on developments.

Flood Improvement Projects

The Flood Risk & Water Management Team has continued to develop a number of high priority flood improvement schemes, as well as the delivery of minor works and local resilience measures. These have been progressed in accordance with the Local Flood Risk Management

Strategy and in line with the funding allocations in Defra's 6 year programme.

A number of other minor flood improvements and resilience measures have been delivered through local funding opportunities.

Our improvement projects include:

Bilton Road and May Lane, Rugby:

Flooding in this area on the 8th of June identified issues with surface water drainage assets in the vicinity. Given that further heavy rain was predicted to fall on the 15th/16th, the Flood Risk Management Team attended site on the evening of the 15th to clean and remove blockages in the system. This prompt action averted flooding to local properties.

Aston Cantlow:

We are nearing completion of a scheme to provide property level resilience to a number of properties in the village of Aston Cantlow. WCC is committed to continuous improvement and as such we will be looking to complete a post project review to capture what went well and what lessons we can learn for future projects.



We are also undertaking property level resilience surveys in a number of small communities throughout the county, including at Eathorpe, Cherington, Kites Hardwick, Bulkington and Grendon.

The photograph above shows some typical property level protection measures being tested at a local manufacturer's testing facility.

We are also trying to understand flood mechanisms and developing hydraulic models at Fenny Compton and Ladbroke ahead of developing a suite of solutions to reduce flood risks for these communities.

Sustainable Planning Decisions

The Flood Risk Management Team has an important role in ensuring new development does not increase flood risk. Under current planning legislation, new developments must not increase the flood risk to the development site or elsewhere.

There is no requirement for a development to resolve existing flooding. However, where existing flooding occurs from, or very close to the development site, we require a Flood Risk Assessment proportionate to the risk.

Any additional run-off from new developments created by reducing the permeability of the site is typically managed by storing this water on site in features such as ponds. This is then released back into watercourses or

surface water sewers at a controlled rate, typically at the run-off from the undeveloped site.

Warwickshire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority, are statutory consultees on the surface water drainage aspects of major developments. We do not currently look at non-major applications. However in high risk areas, we may be able to provide advice to Local Planning Authorities who are responsible for surface water considerations on non-major applications.

Applications that are shown to be in the Environment Agency flood zones 2 or 3, will also need to consult with the Environment Agency.

Community Engagement/ Events

The Flood Risk Management team is involved in various aspects of community engagement ranging from providing advice, site walks, flood group/parish council meetings & multi-agency meetings.

We work in partnership with the National Flood Forum which is a national charity dedicated to supporting and representing communities and individuals at risk of

flooding and create and support a variety of Flood Action Groups all over the county.

Flood Action Groups are a representative voice for their community and their aim is to work in partnership with the Agencies and Authorities whose work involves flood risk.

Through these 'grass-root' groups, communities are able to do the following:

- Address their concerns over malfunctioning assets/and other issues.
- Be constantly in touch with what is intended for their community.
- Know procedures that are already in place for routine maintenance.
- Have a voice as to the future flood risk in their community through consultation.
- Instigate 'flood watchers'.
- Create awareness of flood risk to the wider community.
- Prepare to reduce the impact on the community should a flood event occur.

Over the past few months the team have supported community groups in:

- North Warwickshire: Austrey, Fillongley, Nether Whitacre, Grendon
- Rugby: Grandborough, Princethorpe, Marton
- Stratford-upon-Avon: Bidford, Barton, Welford, Shipston-upon-Stour (area), Alcester

If you would like to find out more about our work with communities please contact Sarah Payne at Sarah.Payne@floodforum.org.uk or Nick Metcalfe at nicholasmecalf@warwickshire.gov.uk

If you would like to find out more about the work undertaken by the Flood Risk Management Team please contact us at flooding@warwickshire.gov.uk