

Spring 2017

# Flood Risk Management

## Newsletter

Welcome to our second Flood Risk Management newsletter. We intend to issue a seasonal newsletter 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 Councils' Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was approved at the Cabinet meeting in April 2016. Taken together with our associated Action Plan, these help us to target our resources on the areas within Warwickshire that are at greatest risk from flooding and provide helpful advice to areas which are not a current high priority. Why not take a look to understand what this might mean for your community and others across Warwickshire at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/lfrms](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/lfrms)

### Asset Register – Making it available to the public

Under Section 21 of the Flood and Water Management Act, the Council is required to establish a register of all structures within Warwickshire that are anticipated to have an effect on flood risk. We are planning to make this viewable to the public online for the first time. There will be more information about this in our next newsletter.

### Flooding from July to December 2016

Last summer got off to a very wet start but improved significantly during July, August and September. Forecasts that we would have a scorching summer on the back of last year's El Nino event and the jet stream's swing northwards bringing scorching air from Africa and the Continent, never quite materialised.

We did not have any reports of internal property flooding in the second half of the year although we did have reports of sharp rainfall events resulting in standing water on highways. Highway drains are not designed to be able to cope with extreme rainfall events and occasionally we will experience highway flooding. Standing water can be a hazard to motorists, other road users and neighbouring properties so try to avoid driving through standing water if you can. If you do need to enter a flood or standing water drive steadily so that you do not make a bow-wave.



**Bow-waves** can cause considerable damage to properties adjacent to highways, often reaching the first floor windows of affected properties. Warwickshire County

Council are working with the Fillongley Flood Group to operate a trial scheme to enable the local community to use our flood warning signs as a way to raise awareness and reduce the impact. If you would like to know more please contact us at [flooding@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:flooding@warwickshire.gov.uk).

The autumn brought a good deal of dry and relatively warm weather with reported flooding highlighting local issues with drainage systems where some further investigations and repairs were required.

# Partnership working

Since we issued our summer newsletter, there have been a couple of important reports published: the government's National Flood Resilience Review, published in September and a cross party report from MP's on future flood prevention. Both highlighted the importance of adopting natural ways to reduce flooding, such as tree planting and putting logs in rivers

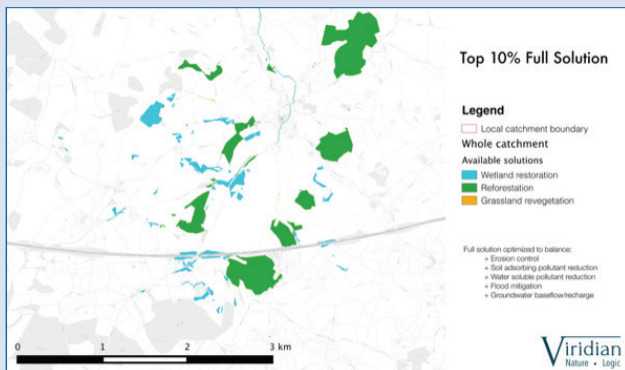
and streams to slow water flow. These are often termed Natural Flood Risk Management Measures (NFM). Below are two examples of how Warwickshire County Council is working in partnership to implement NFM schemes. These have come from the local Flood Action Groups in Fillongley and Shipston:

## Fillongley

Fillongley Flood Group was formed following a village-wide open meeting, hosted by the National Flood Forum (NFF), in January 2014. Fillongley had experienced four significant flood events between July 2007 and November 2012. Since then we have also seen flooding in February 2016 and have had several close calls.

Our flood problem is on a relatively small scale in terms of the number of properties seriously affected by flooding but the stress and misery is just the same for those individuals who experience the upsetting impact of seeing their homes flood and the inconvenience that follows. Thankfully those affected can always rely on friends and neighbours who are quick to muck in with bailing out and cleaning up in times of need!

14 properties in the village have been identified as being at risk of flooding, although only six flood every time.



A study commissioned by North Warwickshire Borough Council (Bourne Brook Catchment and Flood Alleviation Study, Fillongley, North Warwickshire, July 2010) identified a number of flood alleviation solutions but the current preference is to slow flood water upstream through Natural Flood Risk Management Measures (NFM) schemes. Warwickshire County Council have been working with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to identify where in the catchment the most effective locations for NFM solutions might be.

One of the key factors in moving us toward our goal is the implementation of "Multi-Agency Meetings" (MAMs),

which are co-ordinated and set up by NFF on our behalf. These meetings are very positive and we have a rolling Action Plan, which ensures that agreed actions are implemented and promised help and support is provided when needed.

We've learned that nothing major will happen overnight but we're quite proud of what we've achieved so far with some much appreciated help and support.

## Shipston

The Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG) continues to make excellent progress with its Natural Flood Risk Management project across the large River Stour catchment. SAFAG is supported by Warwickshire County Council, the Environment Agency, the National Flood Forum and several other partners.

The Group has recently carried out a comprehensive engagement process with local landowners/farmers along the Knee Brook and has successfully completed the first area of natural flood defence interventions on farmland within the catchment area. This work involves installation of a temporary flood storage area as seen in the photograph below which will assist the main objective of 'Slowing the Flow' on one of the main tributaries of the River Stour, upstream of Shipston. SAFAG work closely with Coventry University, which is assisting with research/modelling/forecasting. This liaison has helped the project to proceed at pace.



£100,000 of funding has recently been allocated to SAFAG from the EA.

SAFAG always enjoy talking to other groups about flood related matters, please email either Phil Wragg on [wragg1@btinternet.com](mailto:wragg1@btinternet.com) or Mike McCarthy on [mmccarthy@fastmail.fm](mailto:mmccarthy@fastmail.fm)



# Flood Improvement Projects

Your Flood Risk 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.

## Our improvement projects include:

### Eathorpe:

We have completed a Property Level Resilience scheme at Eathorpe which has provided additional flood protection to 4 residential and 1 commercial property. We have arranged a post project review session with local residents in early April to capture what went well and what opportunities there might be for continuous improvement as we deliver similar schemes throughout the county.



A flood proof door being installed at one property in Eathorpe.

### Grendon and Bulkington:

A capital scheme at Grendon and Bulkington is progressing well. The delivery contract has been placed with UK Flood Barriers and manufacturing for property level resilience measures to 9 properties has commenced with planned installation dates this financial year.

We are currently working on business cases and feasibility studies for flood alleviation schemes in various locations, including Ladbroke, Fenny Compton, Cherington, Kites Hardwick. We should have more information on these in our summer newsletter as we look to deliver schemes here later this year.

We are also trying to understand flood mechanisms and developing hydraulic models at Whitacre Heath, Pailton and Princethorpe ahead of developing a suite of solutions to reduce flood risk for these communities and seeking external funding from Defra and the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.



Flooding at Pailton.

# Community Engagement/ Events

**On Saturday 1st April, the Warwickshire Flood Summit 2017 will be taking place in Stratford-upon-Avon, starting at 10:00 and finishing at 16:30.**

There will be two venues on the day:

The first will be at the Stratford Arts House, Rother Street, CV37 6LU. Here, agencies, consultants and volunteer organisations will have stands to display themselves and what they do. This will be a fantastic chance for you to come and speak to the professionals and get any questions you have answered, or to simply learn a bit more about what they do.

The second venue will be along Waterside, where we will have an outdoor display area. On display will be the National Flood Forum's trailer, a Warwickshire Fire and

Rescue Service rescue boat and emergency equipment, and an Environment Agency emergency response vehicle. Representatives from the agencies will also be present to answer any questions you may have and tell you a little more about what is on display.

The day will be rounded off by a Question and Answer session, starting at 3pm, which will be a fantastic chance for you to put your questions to a panel of experts including County Council Joint Managing Director, Monica Fogarty. This session will be run using questions taken throughout the day, so make sure to get your questions in whilst you're having a look around the hall!

This promises to be a fantastic event, and will be a rare opportunity to speak to several partners in the flooding sector all under one roof! We hope to see you there.

## Are you planning on carrying out works to a watercourse?

**Before starting, do you have the right consents? Minor works such as maintenance of open channels, litter picking and clearing silt generally will not require consent, but the construction or addition of anything into the watercourse usually does.**

### Why are consents required?

This is because Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 requires that before the erection or alteration of any obstruction to the flow in an ordinary watercourse, a written consent is obtained from the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the area. These obstructions include; any mill dam, weir or like obstruction, or a culvert.

In some cases, your proposed structure itself may not require a consent as it does not affect the flow

in the watercourse, however the temporary works to construct the structure may include obstructing the flow to make a dry working area. If this is the case, a consent application should be made.

### How to apply

For more information, please contact the team on FRMConsenting@warwickshire.gov.uk or 01926 412 982. The application form and guidance are available on our website at <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/watercourse>

### Other permissions

This consent only relates to works within an ordinary watercourse and not main rivers. Main rivers are the responsibility of the Environment Agency and further details can be found on the Gov.uk website.

## Flood Reporting Tool

**If you have experienced flooding, Warwickshire County Council would like to hear about it!**

In our summer newsletter last year we said that by the time we write our next newsletter we aim to have developed an online flooding reporting tool as part of our commitment to be a listening organisation. I am pleased to confirm that we now do have an online flood

reporting tool. It is important that we have a full picture of flooding within Warwickshire so that we can prioritise or work correctly. Please do help us by reporting flooding were you see it via our website [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flooding)

**Remember if we do not know about flooding at your location we cannot investigate it and your location may not receive the focus it deserves.**