

**Flood Advisory Group
27 October 2014
Minutes**

PRESENT: Councillor John Adams - Chairman; Councillors Andrew Morgan, Philip Stanley-Watts (for part of the meeting) and Michael Weinhonig.

ALSO PRESENT FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE MEETING:

Councillor David Smith - Cabinet Member for Planning and the Environment
Paul Ambrose - Flooding and Drainage Manager, Bournemouth Borough Council

Zak Bourn - Flooding and Coastal Trainee, Bournemouth Borough Council

David Martin - Wessex Water

Andy Gale - Wessex Water

Matt Boon - Environment Agency

Dave Taylor - Mouchel

Amber Austin - Emergency Planning Officer, Bournemouth Borough Council

Matthew Weller - Emergency Planning Work Experience Student, Bournemouth Borough Council

The meeting started at 10:00am and finished at 11:51am.

Note: To see a copy of the public reports that were considered by the Group at this meeting please visit:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocracy/Councillors/CouncillorCommitteeMeeting/FloodAdvisoryGroup/2014/07/28/Agenda/Flood-Advisory-Group-Agenda-and-Reports-2014.pdf>

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Agenda item and Report No.	Clause No.	Decision Status	Matter Considered	Minute/Decisions	Interests disclosed if any	Action
Item 1	37.	Public	Apologies	<p>Apologies were received from Councillor John Trickett.</p> <p>Apologies have subsequently been received from Councillors Mark Anderson and Roger West</p> <p>Councillors Philip Stanley-Watts informed the group that he would have to leave before the conclusion of the meeting.</p>		
Item 2	38.	Public	Substitute Members	The Flood Advisory Group substitutes Councillors Andrew Morgan and Philip Stanley-Watts substituted for Councillors John Trickett and Roger West.		
Item 3	39.	Public	Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest.		
Item 4	40.	Public	Public Items A Public Questions B Deputations C Petitions	There were no Public Questions, Deputations or Petitions submitted for the meeting.		
Item 5	41.	Public	Update on Local Flooding Issues.	<p>That the following update reports from the Flooding and Drainage Manager and the Emergency Planning Officer were received by the Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Holdenhurst Village - The Group was informed that a new drain had been installed at Holdenhurst Village to tackle a specific problem in the area. Weather - The Flooding and Drainage Manager informed the group that nationally September 2014 had been the driest September recorded, and that although this was not replicated when Bournemouth was taken in isolation it had nonetheless 		

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				<p>been relatively dry and this had helped lower groundwater levels to something approaching normal, which was positive news given the coming Winter.</p> <p>The Group was also informed that there had been a weather event on the 6th October 2014 which saw parts of the Borough suffer from torrential rain. It was highlighted that the Flood Forecasting Centre had not forecast that any flooding was anticipated in the Bournemouth area. However the Group was told that Southbourne seemed to have been particularly badly affected and looking at the rainfall data showed a very intense but short spell of rain at about 11.00 GMT (5.2mm in 15 minutes). It was felt that this again highlights the extreme difficulty of accurately forecasting these very localised events.</p> <p>3. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems - SUDS - The Flooding and Drainage manager informed the Group that central government had recently conducted a consultation asking for views on proposals relating to the “mechanism” to promote the use of SuDs” and to especially address the issue of their long term management and maintenance. It was explained to the Group that the government was now proposing to make SUDS part of the planning process and that the government “scrap” schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. This proposed making SuDs mandatory with a new Approval Body (SAB) to take ownership and maintain the SuDs of all new developments. It was explained that a SAB had never been implemented partly because the issue of costs / charges has not been resolved. The Flooding and Drainage Manager told the group that Bournemouth Borough Council currently had requirements for SuDs within its Planning Core Strategy (Policy CS4) and maintenance was a consideration but only from a practically point of view and not a long term responsibility. It was noted that c to “enforce” the effectiveness of SUDS would be highly time and resource intensive and that little or no policing took place and that it would also be a very long term issue.</p>		

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				<p>4. Severe Weather Payments - The Emergency Planning Officer updated the Group on the various grant payments made available to the Council to help residents deal with the flooding that occurred during the winter of 2013/14. It was reported to the Group that the Council had administered the Repair and Renew Grant, which had the aim of making properties that had flooded more resilient in future, to 1 homeowner and 2 businesses who had been awarded the maximum £5000 grant. It was also reported that the Council had successfully helped the residents of Iford Bridge Home Park access £115,000 to raise the height of 38 out of 44 homes in the park to agreed levels set by the Environment Agency. The Group was further informed about the Business Support Grant, which had seen £70,000 made available to the Council to fund small and medium sized businesses that had suffered a loss of business as a result of the flooding, be that directly or indirectly. The Group was told that 4 grants had been awarded to businesses so far and that the Council would be proactive in continuing to contact businesses.</p> <p>The Group was further told that the Council had awarded Business Rate Relief to one business in the borough and Council Tax Relief to 70 homeowners.</p> <p>The Emergency Planning Officer also told the Group about a flood reporting system called South West Incident Management System - SWIM - that had been created by the Environment Agency in conjunction with Dorset County Council and that Bournemouth Borough Council was investigating to see if the system could be utilised in the borough.</p> <p>Members asked a number of questions to the Officers who, whenever possible, gave an immediate response and when unable to undertook to provide a follow up response. In particular the following issue was raised by Members of the Group:</p> <p>Grant Rollover - Members of the Group asked whether the unspent funds from the business support scheme - the remainder of the</p>		

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				<p>£70,000 awarded to Bournemouth Borough Council - could be spent in the event of further flooding events or whether the money could only be spent in relation to claims from the Winter of 2013/14. The Members of the Group also asked whether the other Government funding schemes will be made available for homeowners or businesses to apply for in the event of future flooding. The Emergency Planning Officer informed the Group that contact would be made with the Department of Communities and Local Government to enquire as to whether the existing funds could be used to alleviate future incidences of flooding.</p>		
6.	45.	Public	Confirmation of Minutes	<p>The minutes of the meeting on 28 July 2014 were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Members of the Group enquired as to when works would be completed at Holdenhurst Village relating to the road surface. The Flooding and Drainage Manager informed the Group that work on a drain had just been completed there which was required to be done before any road surfacing work could be undertaken.</p> <p>The Group resolved to write to the Cabinet Member for Planning and the Environment to liaise with the appropriate colleagues to press for a start to the road surfacing works.</p>		PA
7.	46.	Public	Action Points	The Group noted the action points.		

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8.	47.	Public	Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	<p>The following report from the Cabinet Member for Planning and the Environment was received by the Group:</p> <p>The Group was told that the recent Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee saw a vote to raise the Local Levy, the precept charged to local authorities, passed despite the position to the contrary taken up by Bournemouth Borough Council. It was reported that this amounted to Bournemouth Borough Council being compelled to contribute an extra £5000.</p> <p>The Group was also told that a presentation was given on Coastal protection by Bournemouth Borough Councils Coastal Protection Officer.</p> <p>The Group was further told that the Cabinet Member for Planning and the Environment had used the event to explore opportunities to further the prospect of a joint coastal / flooding team covering a regional area as opposed to individual teams at local authorities.</p>		
9.	48.	Public	Environment Agency	<p>The following report from the representative of the Environment Agency was received by the Group:</p> <p>The representative of the Environment Agency informed the Group that as a result of the increase in Bournemouth Borough Councils local levy contribution the Council would have access to local levy funds for flood related works amounting to a £1.5 million next year, £1.3 million the year after and £1.1 million the year after that. It was explained that Bournemouth would receive approximately ½ of the overall Local Levy funding over the next three years and that the representative of the Environment Agency felt that this represented good value for money.</p> <p>The representative of the Environment Agency also highlighted the</p>		

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				<p>Environment Agency would welcome steps towards a cross border joint coastal / flooding team as suggested by the Cabinet Portfolio holder and that it was essential to have an effective succession plan in place to ensure that the knowledge officers held would be retained for the future.</p> <p>It was reported that looking forward the Environment Agency was getting prepared for the Winter and that a programme of recovery works had been completed from the previous Winter.</p> <p>Members asked a number of questions to the representative of the Environment Agency who gave an immediate response. In particular the following issue was raised by Members of the Group:</p> <p>Number of Properties at risk of Flooding - The Group asked the representative of the Environment Agency if the Winter of 2013-14 was repeated how many properties would be at risk in Bournemouth. The Group was told that there were approximately 200 properties at risk of flooding from river and coastal flooding and 4000 at risk from surface water flooding. The Flooding and Drainage Manager told the group that by the nature of flooding in the South West events tended to be localised so it was very unlikely to get 4000 properties flooding in one go given that these properties were spread out across the borough.</p>		
10.	49.	Public	Wessex Water	<p>The following report from the representatives of Wessex Water was received by the Flood Advisory Group:</p> <p>The Group was told that the paper circulated at '10' highlighted that at the Holdenhurst Village treatment works a pump failed and that the problem had been rectified.</p> <p>Wessex Water also informed the Group about the role the company takes in flooding issues. The Group was told that responsibilities for drainage issues were complex and depended upon a number of</p>		

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				<p>different factors. It was explained to the Group that water companies drain properties - that is they deal with drainage of kitchens and bathrooms and indeed some roofs.</p> <p>The Group was also told that Wessex Water spend £10 million a year on flooding which means they have to prioritise especially when set against the £13 billion assets the companies has in the ground. It was also highlighted that the company funded mitigation measures for affected residents if it was not cost effective to provide a main scheme.</p> <p>The Group was told that there are a number of current works taking place including on St. Lukes Road and another number of appraisals being undertaken including Gervis Place, Howard Road and The Lower gardens.</p> <p>Members asked a number of questions to the representatives of the Wessex Water who, whenever possible, gave an immediate response and when unable to undertook to provide a follow up response. In particular the following issue was raised by Members of the Group:</p> <p>Wet Wipes - Members of the Group asked about how many blockages are caused by wet wipes being entered into the sewage system. The Group was told that 80% of blockages could be put down to the flushing of wet wipes into the system and this is due to the fact they are very resistant to breaking up. The Group was told that Wessex Water was in negotiations with a number of retailers about the promotion of wet wipes and had run some educational programmes. Members of the Flood Advisory Group resolved to write to the Cabinet member for Planning and Environment to seek that an article outlining the issue be put into the Council's magazine BH Life. The representatives from Wessex Water offered to provide facts, figures and information for the purpose.</p>		<p>PA/TH</p>

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11.	50.	Public	Computer Modelling	<p>The following report from the Flooding and Drainage Manager and the Mouchel Consultant was received by the Flood Advisory Group:</p> <p>It was explained to the Group that computer modelling had been completed on four of the five key areas as outlined by the Group previously which were:</p> <p>Queens Park Avenue Maxwell Road Broadway Lane Winton High Street</p> <p>It was explained that a detailed model of the sewerage system, supplied by Wessex Water, was applied to the modelling system. In addition to this the modelling took into account the over ground flows. It was noted that the modelling system was being deployed in order to try and work up solutions that can help alleviate flooding issues in the areas identified and that SUDS had been considered at all points but that in the vast majority of scenarios it was deemed uneconomical to use SUDS.</p> <p>It was explained to the Group that at Queens Park Avenue potential measures that could be taken to increase flood resilience included the building of a earth bund on Queens Park Golf Course as well as improvement to the sewerage system. Elsewhere the Group was told that at Maxwell Road potential improvements could be made with sewer upsizing taking place, at Broadway Lane improvements to the sewerage system and at Winton High Street it was proposed that larger gulley's be inserted at the trough of Wimborne Road.</p> <p>It was explained that a decision matrix had been compiled to assess which solutions and which areas were the most viable for the Council to try and progress and that Wessex Water would also look at the projects and their feasibility.</p>		

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12	51.	Public	Any Other Business	There were no items of Any Other Business.		

PA - Paul Ambrose - Flooding and Drainage Manager
AA - Amber Austin - Emergency Planning Officer

TH - Tom Hancock - Democratic Services and Member Support Officer