

**Flood Advisory Group
16 November 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Christopher Rochester - Chairman; Councillors Mark Anderson, Andrew Morgan and Michael Weinhonig

ALSO PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING:

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

Anthony Kirby - Engineering Design Manager, Bournemouth Borough Council
Alyson Whitley - Resilience and Safety Manager, Bournemouth Borough Council

Matthew Boon - Environment Agency

David Martin - Sewerage Planning Manager - Wessex Water

The meeting started at 10:08am and finished at 12.15am.

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/CouncilDemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteeMeetings/FloodAdvisoryGroup/2015/07/27/FloodAdvisoryGroup27-Jul-2015.aspx>

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Agenda item and Report No.	Clause No.	Decision Status	Matter Considered	Minute/Decisions	Action
Item 1 and 2	34	Public	Apologies and Substitute Members	Apologies were received from Councillor John Trickett. Councillor Morgan substituted for Cllr Trickett. Cllr Smith gave apologies for part of the meeting	
Item 3	35	Public	Election of Chair	Councillor Rochester was elected Chair for the remainder of the municipal year.	
No item-	36	Public	Election of Vice-Chair	Councillor Trickett was elected Vice-Chair for the remainder of the municipal year.	
Item 4	37	Public	Declarations of Interest	In relation to agenda item 8 Councillor Weinhonig declared for the purposes of transparency that he was employed by an insurance provider.	
Item 5	38	Public	Public Items A Public Questions B Deputations C Petitions	There were no Public Questions, Deputations or Petitions submitted for the meeting.	
Item 6	39	Public	Confirmation of Minutes and Matters Arising	The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July were agreed as a correct record. Wessex Water Assets - PA provided an update to the Panel on the drains and sewers which were identified on Wessex Water's (WW) GIS. The Group asked a number of questions regarding the sewers which were identified and adopted under Section 105a of the Water Industry Act 1991 and the Water Industry (Schemes for the Adoption of Private Sewers) Regulations 2011. These were previously private and the responsibility of homeowners to the point where they joined the main sewer but were taken over from the property boundary by regional Sewage Undertakers from October 2011. In response to a question the group was advised that since 2011 WW has had a policy of unblocking drains on the first occasion but would try to identify the owner. However water companies were not funded for this and were reviewing this policy and were notifying customers that there were other contractors available who could clear a blockage. WW advised that only about 80% of assets were known to them and that there was still a large percentage of surface water drains in private ownership. WW acknowledged that it would be useful if there was one body with responsibility for all surface water sewers. In response to a question WW agreed that they could provide figures for the number of blockages recorded since 2011 in Bournemouth.	DM

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Item 7	40	Public	Update on Local Flooding Issues	<p>The Flooding and Drainage Manager (FDM) updated the Group on the most recent flooding issues:</p> <p>Weather - Rainfall data from Kings Park was provided which showed rainfall in August was more than double the monthly average. Rain gauges across the Borough recorded both the duration and quantity of rainfall which can provide useful information for measuring intense periods of rainfall. Members asked about the water table in Bournemouth. It was noted that it was thought that this was not a major contributing factor to flooding but that during periods of heavy rainfall there were some localised groundwater issues reported.</p> <p>Rain Gauges - Councillor Oakley asked whether it may be appropriate to move rain gauges in order to align them with areas which were most susceptible to flooding. It was noted that as present the four gauges were positioned to give a reasonable coverage of the Borough within a 2km radius of each gauge. The FDM also advised that it could be difficult to find places to position rain gauges as they needed to be accessible to take measurements but also protected from damage. WW and the Environment Agency also had rain gauges and there were a number of private weather stations around the Borough.</p> <p>Flooding - There was flooding in the Lower Gardens on 26 August 2015 during a period of heavy rainfall and a combined sewer surcharged. There was flooding in a number of areas of the Borough on this date including Turbary Common where a new scheme to appraise flood risk was being developed. Since 2012/13 there had been an overall increase in the number of flooding incidents in the Lower Gardens and a new Flow Survey had been commissioned for the surrounding area.</p> <p>3 July Flood Report - This had been completed and was currently with the Environment Agency (EA) for comments. Once these were received it would be shared with the Group by email prior to its publication.</p> <p>Planning Enquiries - The Group received an update on the number of planning related 'flooding enquiries which continued in a steady upward trend. The FDM did not have access to the number of schemes where this was an issue but went on to be approved but it was noted that these would be taken into consideration according to planning policy when each application was determined. Planning approval only looked to prevent internal flooding.</p>	PA

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				<p>Echo Comments on Flooding - in response to the comments outlined by the FDM it was suggested that it might be useful to have some publicity on the large attenuation tank at the pier head. WW advised that it was not normal practice for them to respond to comments on websites. DM suggested that it would be useful to have a presentation to the next Group meeting on WW assets. A Member suggested that it may also be useful for the group to visit a pumping station. DM advised he could take this suggestion back to one of his colleagues.</p> <p>Integrated Catchment Monitoring(ICM) Live Trial - Richard Allitt Associates Ltd were using the conurbation to trial a model for enabling very localised predictions for flooding by using Met Office data for 30 minutes periods for predicted rainfall.</p>	<p>DM DM</p>
Item 8	41	Public	<p>Recommendations from the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Management Panel</p>	<p>The Group considered the minutes from the last meeting of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel which included recommendations to the Flood Advisory Group from an item on Climate Change Impacts - Town Centre Flooding and Seafront Storm Damage, which was presented at the Panel meeting by the Environmental Strategy and Sustainability Manager. The Panel discussed a number of issues arising from the Scrutiny Panel meeting. A Member expressed concern that the Town Centre BID Manager was disquieting in some of his presentation material.</p> <p>It was noted that a meeting had been set up with WW, FDM and the Town Centre BID Manager for early in the new year to discuss some of the issues arising from the Panel's recommendations. The Engineering Design Manager suggested three key areas to focus on in the meeting were the claim that parts of the town centre becoming unattractive to business due to flooding, understanding what the actual problems were which were caused by flooding as opposed to other issues and the lack of reporting of incidences of flooding. The Group supported the action which was being taken with regards to the next meeting and ask for this to be reported back to the ETOSP. It was also agreed for the Chair and Vice-Chair to meet to look into the issues in further detail and the actions being taken and that this be reported back to the next meeting.</p>	<p>PA/ AK / CJ</p>
Item 9	42	Public	<p>Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</p>	<p>The FDM advised the Panel that a number of amendments as suggested at the last meeting of the FAG had been made to the draft strategy before it went out to consultation. The consultation had now closed but unfortunately the response rate had been disappointing with only 5 responses received. The FDM had made a minor</p>	

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				redraft to one section of the strategy and it was agreed that this should be circulated to the Group for any comments prior to its submission to Cabinet. The Group noted that they endorsed the strategy and looked forward to it being accepted by Cabinet.	PA
Item 10	43	Public	Environment Agency	<p>MB reminded the group that the Wessex Regional Flood Defence Committee was meeting in Bournemouth on 25 January. It was noted that this provides an opportunity to showcase particular issues in Bournemouth and it will focus on issues covering both coastal and inland flooding. At the last meeting of the committee there has a proposal to increase the local levy which provided funding for specific programmes including the Bournemouth Beach Management Plan. However as there was a split vote the decision was still open with proposals for either no increase or a 2% increase. There would be a knock on effect on what schemes could be undertaken if a decision was not made on the increase. In response to a question it was confirmed that the increase would represent approximately £4k to Bournemouth but that Bournemouth would be likely to see a greater benefit than this.</p> <p>MB confirmed that he would suggest some dates for a Tour of the EA incident room for Group Members.</p> <p>It was noted that Defra had been one of the first government departments to settle its budget and the EA was forecasting a 30% reduction in funding. This was, However, unlikely to impact on capital expenditure. An announcement was expected at the end of November. The EA also confirmed that preparations for Winter had been completed.</p>	MB/CJ
Item 11	44	Public	Wessex Water	DM thanked PA for his presentation. DM advised that the ICL model predictions were being expanded and would and would be updated every 15 minutes through the Met Office. Developments in emerging technology would enable movements to be plotted for the direction of storms to improve focused tracking.	
Item 12	45	Public	Any Other Business - Flooding in East Avenue	Councillor Morgan informed the Group that he had recently had a site meeting with residents and a representative of the Talbot and Branksome Woods Residents Association. Houses 27,29 and 31 had been affected by both garden and domestic flooding a number of time over the last few years. It was noted that works had taken place on the even side of the road but the flooding issue remains in the natural dip where these properties are sited. It was noted that there was significant leaf fall in this area and that there may be an issue with the capacity of the gullies.	PA/AK

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				<p>The FDM advised that there were 4 old valleys crossing East Avenue causing the dips. It was noted that a similar scheme to that previously installed in the road was a possibility but funding sources were an issue. It was noted that this area was already on a priority list for gulley cleaning. The possibility of property level protection schemes was discussed and passive solutions for properties may be appropriate in this area. It was suggested that Councillor Morgan be updated with any potential solutions. The Group suggested that the area should be treated as a priority and be placed on the list of sites for Local Investment Fund funding should this become available in the future. Additional options such as electronic signage to ward drivers of flooding activated by the floodwater were discussed and PA agreed to look at this again. It was also suggested to seek the input of the Cabinet Member Transport, Sustainability and Carbon Management.</p>	

PA - Paul Ambrose - Flooding and Drainage Manager

MB - Matt Boon - Environment Agency

DM - David Martin - Wessex Water

AK - Anthony Kirby - Engineering Design Manager