

**FLOOD ADVISORY GROUP
2 May 2018**

GROUP MEMBERS: Councillor Philip Stanley-Watts - Chairman; Councillor Stephen Bartlett, Jackie Edwards and Michael Weinhonig.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor David Smith - Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment.

From Bournemouth Borough Council:

Paul Ambrose	Flooding and Drainage Manager
Anthony Kirby	Engineering and Major Contracts Manager
Zak Bourn	Flood and Coastal Engineer
Michael Rowland	Head of Parks Development

From Poole Borough Council

Matt Hosey	Head of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Growth and Infrastructure
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From Wessex Water:

Mark Bailey	Sewerage Manager (South)
Gillian Sanders	Flood Risk Co-ordinator

From Environmental Agency:

Matt Akers	Partnership & Strategic Overview Team Leader
Andy Bremford	Partnerships and Strategic Overview Advisor

NOTES ON ATTENDANCE:

The meeting commenced at 4.00pm
Councillor Stephen Bartlett arrived during item 5
Councillor Michael Weinhonig left the meeting before item 8
The meeting finished at 5.44pm

ELECTION OF CHAIR:

Councillor Philip Stanley-Watts was re-elected as Chair. The election of Vice-Chair was postponed until the next meeting.

SECTION I - BUSINESS RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL

No items

SECTION II - BUSINESS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWER

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor John Trickett.

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2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute members for this meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest at this meeting

For transparency Councillor Michael Weinhonig informed the Panel that he worked for Ageas insurance.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND ACTION SHEET

DECISION MADE:

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
2. The Panel considered and noted the action sheet

5. PUBLIC ISSUES

Three public questions were received from Susan Chapman. The questions concerned Climate Change, the Councils approach to publicising and educating the public on flooding issues and the future safety of railway lines. A copy of the questions and the Chairs responses can be accessed by the following link: <https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/councildemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteeMeetings/FloodAdvisoryGroup/2018/05/02/minutes/public-questions.pdf>

The Group heard a deputation from Sarah Fisher, a local resident who had concerns regarding a newly created shared use path leading from Throop Road to Throop Weir through the flood plain. It was explained that she felt the path was potentially dangerous because although pedestrians avoided it when it was fully flooded, partial flooding obscured a boardwalk section which led to a risk of pedestrians falling into the water either side of it. She urged the Council to either close the road during floods or to introduce warning signs.

No petitions were submitted for the Group to consider.

6. REVIEW OF THE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Agenda item 11 was moved forward to enable deliberation of the comments made in the deputation.

In considering the deputation officers explained that the Council were aware of flooding in the area but were working to ensure all people had access to the countryside. The route in question was designed in collaboration with partners

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as part of a sustainable transport link, from Bournemouth through to Hurn. A nearby pathway did not meet the accessibility criteria because access was by steps. An alternative option for a path along the embankment had been considered but the new path was the preferred option due to its ability to let water flow without trapping it. It was emphasised that members of the public were trusted to use good judgement and to make their own risk assessments when using the path. The Council had completed all the relevant risk assessments and did not find it necessary to close the gate or introduce signs. At the time the Council did not close any of its sites due to flooding but The Flooding and Drainage Manager agreed to consider closing pathways as part of The Review of The Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The Group were given an update on the progress of the Flood Risk Management Strategy Review. The Group were informed that the Risk Management Authorities had been consulted and the responses were being used to develop a draft strategy. Once this was complete the Strategy was to go out for wider consultation. This would be followed by a report to the Flood Advisory Group. The Group were also informed that since the publication of the original Flood Risk Management Strategy a Wessex Regional Flood Defence Committee Strategy (Wessex RFDC) had been produced. The Councils reviewed strategy would take the Wessex RFDC Strategy into consideration.

DECISION MADE:

The Group agreed to note the Flood Risk Management Strategy update

7. UPDATE ON LOCAL FLOODING ISSUES

The Flooding and Drainage Manager gave an update on the flooding issues that had occurred since the last meeting of the Flood Advisory Group. He informed the Group that flooding was included in the Governments National Risk Register 2017 which highlighted potential risks over the next five years. National Government had also published a 'Flood Recovery Framework: Guidance for Local Authorities in England' the guidance highlighted a core package of business and community recovery support to serve as a framework for accessing funding. Additionally, a Parliamentary Question had been asked requesting the introduction of a flood insurance scheme for small businesses, the response from Government was that there wasn't sufficient evidence that this would be beneficial. A member requested that the Council's Champion of Local Business be made aware of the Parliamentary Question. The Flood Risk Manager informed the Panel that the Council hadn't been contacted by any businesses that were struggling to get insurance following flooding.

The Flooding and Drainage Manager gave an update on the work of the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency (EA) had introduced a new webpage as part of its Flood Action Campaign. The campaign sought to raise awareness of the risk of properties flooding. The EA purported that 5.2 million properties in England were at risk. The campaign was accompanied by a press release that warned climate change would lead to more frequent flooding, the importance of being prepared for flooding was also emphasised. It was

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highlighted to the Group that BSI had revised their code of practice for assessing and managing flood risk in developments. There had also been a report from The Social Market Foundation, which found the availability of insurance had led to a reduction in homeowners implementing measures to protect their property. The insurance scheme was an interim measure that was due to conclude in 2039. Members were also informed that there had been a first reading of a Private Members Bill that would give powers to the Secretary of State for The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to establish new bodies called River Authorities.

The Flooding and Drainage Manager informed the Group that there had been Storm Emma but no other major storms. Locally January and February had been drier than average but March was the fourth wettest since 1879. There had been coastal flooding alerts, surface water flooding risk alerts and river flood alerts but no major issues and no evacuations. On the 14th February, there had been a heavy, localised rainfall event in Northbourne that had led to the roundabout being submerged. There had also been an incident in Kinson where the pressure from surface water outfall had removed the lid of a manhole because of a blocked screen, the need to understand the risks associated with blocked screens was emphasised.

The Group were reminded that there had been a perennial problem caused by a build-up of fats in gullies on Charminster Road. A ball of fat had been discovered in a gully connection in that area. It was also highlighted that the department were working on fitting telemetry at the three remaining highway pumping stations; the development of a gully cleaning strategy; a new drainage system at Millhams Recycling Centre and ditch clearance adjacent to Whitelegg Way, Northbourne. The Group were also informed that repairs to gully pipes in Gervis Place were complete and that the next meeting of the Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee would be held on the 19th June in Bridgewater.

The following are the main points that were raised and discussed by members;

- Areas with the biggest risk of future river flooding;
- Whether future BH Life articles were planned and whether there had been feedback following the previous article;
- Whether specialist fat traps were used by the restaurants on Charminster Road;
- Flooding outside of a property on Wilfred Road.

The Flood Risk Manager was due to retire at the end of May. The Chair thanked him for his hard work, diligence, expert knowledge and methodical approach and said he would be greatly missed.

DECISION MADE:

The Group agreed to note the flooding issues update

8. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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This item was moved forward at the Environment Agencies request.

The Group were informed that the EA had held a workshop for all Risk Management Authorities to update their capital grant and aid funding needs for projects up to 2021. The EA were also due to meet with HM Treasury and DEFRA in the Autumn to review capital investment needs beyond 2021. The EA were in discussions on this with Bournemouth. The Group were also informed that there had been a Natural Flood Management Conference that had highlighted opportunities for working closer with natural processes. The Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) were supportive of investigations for measures that could be implemented at sources of flood risk and had been in discussions about the suitability of the Kinson Stream for such measures.

DECISION MADE:

The Group agreed to note the Environment Agency's update.

9. WESSEX WATER

The Group were informed that the Flood Risk Coordinator - Wessex Water was to move into a new role as a Planning Liaison Manager from 4 June 2018. The new role would involve dealing with developer enquiries, commenting on planning applications and planning investment for capacity; liaisons with the Flood Advisory Group would continue. The Flood Advisory Group were also informed that nationally, since the 1st April 2018, there had been a change to Wessex Waters infrastructure charges. This included the introduction of a flat rate connection fee and infrastructure charge for developers seeking to connect to Wessex Water's network. There had also been Sewers for adoption vs 8, which encouraged the adoption of more Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) features, including softer engineering solutions, such as ponds, for flood risk management.

The Group were also informed that the debate around renationalisation of the water industry had been receiving publicity. The Chairman of Wessex Water had written an article in The Water Report that highlighted issues around the costs of renationalisation and the ensuing lack of competition. The Flood Risk Coordinator explained that improving competition would become part of Wessex Waters future business plans. The Panel were also informed that Drainage and Waste Water Management Plans had been developed. The plans streamlined the delivery of water industry services and offered structured, comparable, long term plans across the country. Plans for 400 catchments were being produced by 2022/23 and Bournemouth would be one of the earlier catchments to be considered.

The Flood Risk Coordinator informed the Group that locally modelling of the Kinson System was nearing completion. The modelling considered the introduction of additional gullies to the Priestly Road tank in order to reduce flood risk in the Columbia Road area. It was also highlighted that the introduction of SUD's guidance that offered local advice to planning officers was under consideration, the Chair highlighted that this would be an important

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document for planners. Local flooding incidents were considered and updates on renovation schemes were highlighted, which included an update on incidents caused by blockages and the potential for a joint scheme aimed at educating business owners on Charminster Road in proper disposal of fats. Additionally, all reinstatements at Percy Road were complete and the road was reopened in February. There had also been a 200m renovation of a Coastal Interceptor Sewer in Seafield Road, with completion expected by the end of May. The Chair wished the Flood Risk Coordinator good luck in her new role.

The following are the main points that were raised and discussed by members;

- Wessex Waters work with businesses;
- That road closures at Percy Road could be due to surveying.

DECISION MADE:

The Group considered and noted Wessex Water's update.

10. FORWARD PLANNING

A Member highlighted a flooding issue at a bungalow in Columbia Road and to properties in the surrounding area. It was pointed out that the area would be a good location to add more green, permeable space. The Flooding and Drainage Manager informed the Group that additional gullies would not solve the problem at the properties due to the large volume of water that caused the flooding; raising the footway had been considered but there were utilities that needed to be moved and if the footway was raised too high there was a risk of water running back to the bungalow. The work on the footway was part of a package of measures listed as potential future work.

The Engineering and Major Contracts Manager highlighted that drainage work could be carried out on the basis that Local Transport Funding had been secured by the Council. The Council were awarded band 3 status for their Highway Asset Management Strategy which ensured the full allocation of maintenance funding. It was also highlighted that the Council were working with their partners to develop a programme of flood risk schemes for funding and implementation beyond 2021. Members were informed that catchment based schemes would look at locations where flooding had been documented and although the schemes may have been difficult to progress due to grant and aid requirements previously, the EA had said it would look at additional benefits, such as environmental benefits, and this could lead to additional funding. The Engineering and Major Contracts Manager and the Chair highlighted the importance of residents reporting flooding in order to deal with localised flooding.

DECISION MADE:

The Group considered and noted the update on forward planning.

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11. WESSEX REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE

Local Government Reorganisation had led to a proposed change in the membership of the Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. It was proposed that Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and Dorset County Council would have a representative each which would take the total number of Committee members down to 19 from 21. The proposals would go out to public consultation, then the recommendation for the structure change would be presented at their meeting in June, to be adopted by December, to ensure the new membership could vote on the local levy for 2019/20.

DECISION MADE:

The Group considered and noted Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee update.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Group were informed that the Engineering and Major Contracts Manager and the Poole Flooding and Coastal Risk Manager would be performing the statutory role and providing the resource for the role of the Flood Risk Manager as he would retire at the end of May. This was an interim measure that recognised the changes that would be made following LGR. The Flooding and Coastal Risk Manager introduced himself to the Panel and was wished luck by the Chair.

The Flood Risk Manager highlighted that Bournemouth Council had offered a student placement to a student on a DEFRA sponsored training course. The student had since withdrawn from the course but the Council were keen to continue to offer the placement opportunity. A member highlighted the potential to advertise the funded university course at schools locally.

Please note that the next meeting of the Flood Advisory Group will take place at the Town Hall, Bourne Avenue on **25 July**. It is recommended that you double check this information with Democratic Services nearer the scheduled date of the next meeting in case the arrangements have been changed.

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