

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 9 DECEMBER 2016



SURREY

LEAD OFFICER: TOR PEEBLES, FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS TEAM LEADER

SUBJECT: CATERHAM SECTION 19 FLOOD INVESTIGATION

DIVISION: CATERHAM ON THE HILL

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report is to provide an update of activities and plans following the flooding in Caterham on the Hill and Coulsdon on the 7 June 2016. Although a number of flood resilience activities have taken place since the event, further work will be required to provide the most effective methods of mitigating the impact of future flood incidents.

This report details the findings of the section 19 flood investigation in relation to the flood event that took place in Caterham on the Hill and Coulsdon on 7 June 2016 and lists the ongoing actions being taken by the Risk Management Authorities in this area.

Members are asked to note the findings of the investigation and the suite of ongoing work by relevant authorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to:

- (i) Note the findings of the section 19 investigation.
- (ii) Note the current, future and completed work by the Risk Management Authorities.
- (iii) Support the activities of the Flood Action Group.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The impact of flooding to its victims reaches far beyond the physical impact on property and possessions; it can also affect the physical and mental health of individuals and communities. The approach to mitigating the impact of flooding is therefore holistic in nature, with the method taken in Caterham and the rest of Surrey being resident-led through Flood Action Groups and concurrent Risk Management Authority (RMA) collaboration. This places residents at the heart of the work that will be carried out in the Caterham on the Hill catchment and will enable the relevant authorities to deliver an approach to flood risk management that will best serve the needs of its residents.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Surrey County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority has a duty under section 19 of the Flood And Water Management Act 2010 to investigate flood incidents with the objective of establishing “*which Risk Management Authorities have flood risk management functions and if they have or are proposing to exercise those functions*”. This report summarises the findings of this investigation and actions taken during and after the flood event in question. (The full set of findings are attached in **Annex 1** – Section 19 Flood Investigation Report Caterham on the Hill – 11 November 2016).
- 1.2 The RMAs in this case include: Surrey County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority, Highway Authority and having responsibilities for Emergency Management; Tandridge District Council and the London Borough of Croydon as drainage authorities and authorities with responsibilities for Emergency Management and Thames Water as having responsibility for operating the foul and parts of the surface water network. The Environment Agency has a key role as the strategic flood risk management authority.
- 1.3 On the 7 June 2016, Caterham on the Hill and its’ environs were flooded following a severe storm. The flood affected over 140 properties, 40 highways and 5 schools. The investigation established that during the afternoon of the 7 June 2016 between 1230 and 1500 hours 77.62mm of rain fell over the Caterham on the Hill catchment. This volume of rainfall exceeded the monthly average by 24.2mm. The resulting surface water inundated the drainage systems of the affected properties, highway and public surface water and foul networks. Over 86 properties were flooded internally and a further 62 reported to have flooded externally.

2. FINDINGS AND ONGOING WORK:

- 2.1 Since 7 June 2016 RMAs have been engaged in a number of recovery activities to return the area’s assets to normal working order and to support residents with their recovery. Completed work includes:
- Held three public engagement meetings, with specific purposes: two were set out to gather information to ascertain the order of magnitude of the event and gather data for the investigation. The other was at the invitation of the Parish Council to hold a public question and answer session.
 - Meetings with specific residents to target specific concerns (primarily replacement of damaged drains).
 - Requested grants from DEFRA similar to the repair and renew grant of 2014. (This was unfortunately unsuccessful).
 - Responded to detailed individual questions from residents.
 - Cleared the majority of the highway drainage network.
 - Cleaned and repaired the Thames Water network
 - Cleared and further surveyed the Money Pit structure (at approx. cost of £135,000)
 - Submitted a bid for Grant in Aid funding to develop potential schemes to improve the risk of flooding.
- 2.2 Ongoing work includes:
- Continuing to troubleshoot defects on the highway drainage network

- Completing the maintenance and making safe work on the Money Pit.
- Continuing to establish the ownership of the main surface water carrier through Caterham on the Hill.
- Supporting the National Flood Forum in developing a Flood Action Group and its role in the community.
- Responding to new enquiries

Looking Ahead

- 2.3 Significant work is required if the impact of a future event is to be mitigated against. The Section 19 investigation found that the responsibility for this mitigation crosses a number of RMA and resident areas of responsibility. To achieve this there are three main streams of work to be carried out in the future:
- a) Providing multi-agency support to the Flood Action Group and its action plan that will enable residents to grow confidence in their own resilience and in the authorities' activities for mitigating the impact of future floods.
 - b) The formation of an officer Project Board to steer the feasibility study examine capital scheme options and to address the recommendations of the section 19 investigation. This Board and the officers from this group will also be the correct forum to address the Action Plan from the Flood Action Group. (The initial meeting of the officer group took place on the 16 November 2016.)
 - c) Continuing work with residents to maintain the existing drainage systems and improve the individual and community resilience.
- 2.4 The three courses of action set out above have been used in other areas of the County to good effect. It aims to put the resident at the core of the work and also maintain their active involvement in flood resilience activities. The Flood Action Group's multi-agency meetings will be the primary vehicle for communicating with residents and for them to bring issues back to the RMAs. The officer group will serve to ensure that all RMA and resident interests are served by the feasibility study and also that all authorities are engaged in looking for contributions for capital works at the earliest stage.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The section 19 investigation sets out a series of recommendations for the RMAs, residents and the Nation Flood Forum to action. It is the intention of Surrey County Council to see these recommendations to their conclusion and report to this Committee and the residents on the outcomes achieved.
- 3.2 Members are asked to interrogate the courses of action detailed above to ensure they are objective and results-focused in the interests of the community of the Caterham on the Hill catchment.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The RMAs who were subject to the investigation have been consulted on the draft report, as was the Divisional Member for Caterham on the Hill, Councillor John Orrick. This was to ensure the details were accurate and the recommendations robust. Surrey County Council's Legal Team have been

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consulted on the legality of publishing the full investigation report and have approved its publication.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 The recommendation of the Section 19 report to develop a flood resilience scheme for Caterham on the Hill will incur financial and value for money implications. These costs will be shared across RMAs and will be agreed via a comprehensive report from the officer group or project board as development of the scheme progresses.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 There are no equality or diversity issues identified with the section 19 investigation or the recommendations of this report.

7. LOCALISM:

7.1 The proposed courses of action are specifically set out in order to support the community’s resilience, to empower the community and encourage self reliance in-line with the core focus of Localism. The method of delivering this will be through the Flood Action Group whose action plan sets out the residents’ priorities. The Flood Action Group will be supported by a multi-agency officer group.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to:

- (i) Note the findings of the section 19 investigation.
- (ii) Note the current, future and completed work by the Risk Management Authorities
- (iii) Support the activities of the Flood Action Group

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 The comments and recommendation of this Committee will be included in courses of action and communicated to the residents through the Flood Action Group and to the officers of the multi-agency group.

Contact Officer:

Tor Peebles,
Flood Risk Management Strategy and Partnerships Team Leader

Consulted:

N/A

Annexes:

Annex 1 - Section 19 Flood Investigation Report Caterham on the Hill – 11
November 2016.

Sources/background papers:

N/A

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