

Background

Smallfield, along with much of Surrey, experienced very high levels of rainfall during the winter of 2013/14 and subsequently was subject to severe instances of both surface water and foul sewage flooding. As a result of this, a number of roads were closed and many residents suffered water ingress within their properties [approximately 150], the majority of which were located in central Smallfield along Woodside Crescent and Wheelers Lane.

At the time a number of reactive works were carried out by each of the relevant Risk Management Authorities [RMAs] to alleviate the situation and keep the flood water moving. This included jetting of pipes, removal of debris within ditches and pumping of foul water.

Surrey County Council [SCC], as the designated Lead Local Flood Authority [LLFA] for Surrey, was required to produce a Section 19 report for the purpose of determining whether each RMA fulfilled their specific duties in response to the flooding. This report, published in August 2017, is available online and highlights the key aspects of the flood event along with the consequent responses.

S19 Investigation link: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/flooding-advice/more-about-flooding/surrey-s19-flood-investigations>

Flood Forum

A local community flood forum was formed by Parish Councillor Liz Cutter, with the aim of bringing each of the relevant RMAs together to identify and solve the causes of flooding. This included representatives from Surrey County Council, the Environment Agency and Thames Water.

From this, and using data gathered during the flooding, an action plan was compiled listing the key issues and whose responsibility each was to manage.

Surrey County Council Drainage Works

Following the immediate response by SCC to clear blockages within the drainage network, a list of all the issues within the surface water system was compiled with a number of blockages and defects identified along Wheelers Lane in particular.

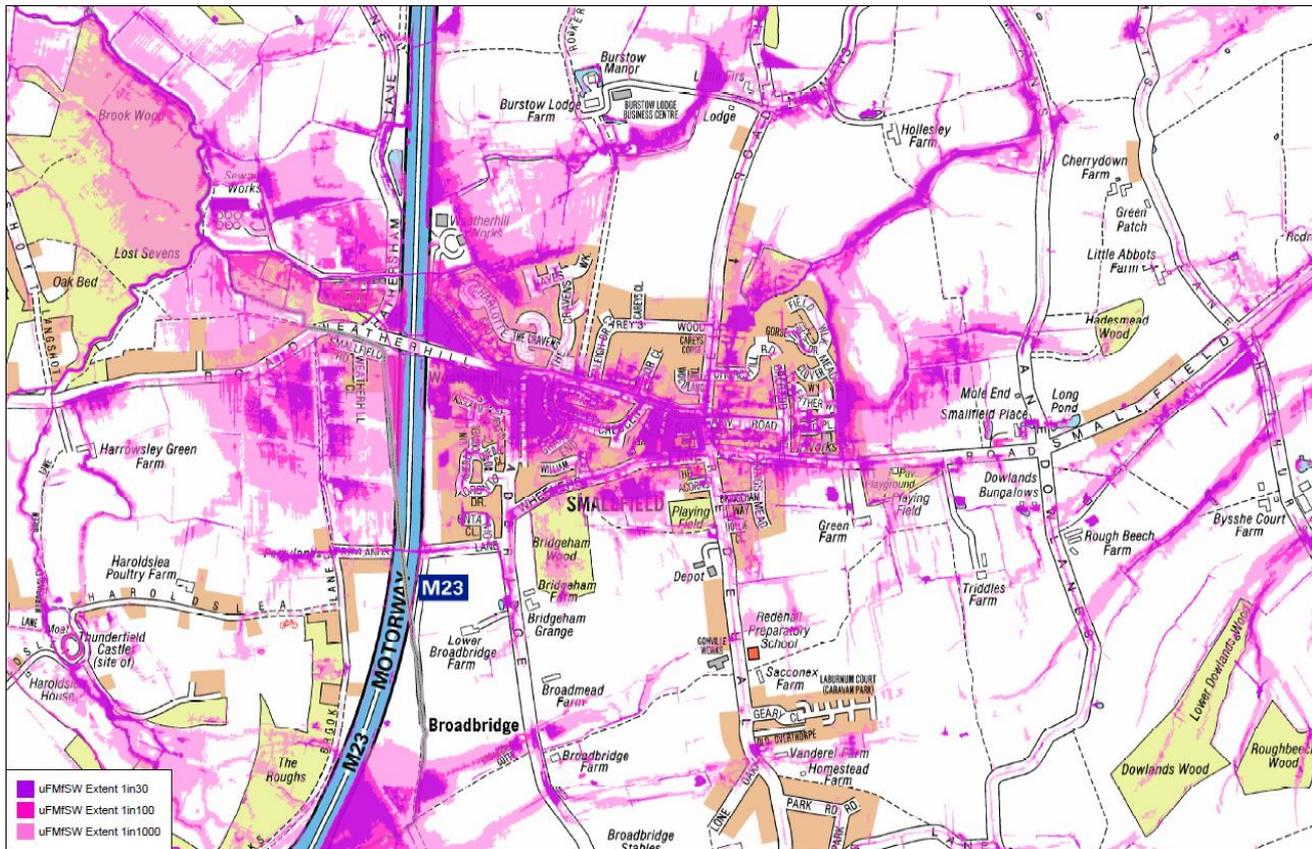
As a result of this, SCC undertook a programme of works in 2016 to restore and upgrade the Wheelers Lane / Broadbridge Road network. The scheme totaled in the region of £60k and also involved the replacement of open ditches with a piped network. These works are still being monitored, however recent heavy rains suggest they have been successful and are working as intended.

Smallfield Flood Alleviation Scheme

Through our experience on site and in discussions with residents it became clear that maintaining the existing drainage system, whilst beneficial, would not be sufficient to mitigate flood risk in the area to an

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acceptable level. As shown in the map below, a large segment of the Smallfield community is at risk of surface water flooding.



Smallfield: Risk of flooding from surface water.

Surrey County Council, having identified Smallfield as a high priority area, submitted a bid to the Environment Agency for Grant in Aid funding, the purpose of which was to complete a flood risk study and explore the economic and technical feasibility of flood risk management options.

A sum of £15k was allocated for the completion of an Initial Assessment which has since been expanded to allow for the creation a Strategic Outline Case [SOC] - including the provision of an additional £25k. This report is scheduled to be published in October 2017.

Providing the SOC displays the appropriate benefits to make a scheme both financially and technically viable, SCC will then request further funding in order to progress through the EA Grant in Aid process; this will include an Outline Business Case, a Final Business Case, and then should a scheme be proven viable, design and construction.

Before any scheme can be given the go ahead, it must have a 'partnership funding' score of 100%. This number is calculated by the EA and is dependent upon the cost/benefit ratio and properties protected, as evidenced in the business case. The partnership funding score represents the percentage of funding the scheme will receive from Grant in Aid, with the shortfall needing to be secured from other sources including local councils, organisations and even residents.

In anticipation of this, the EA submitted a bid to Tandridge District Council [TDC] for the purpose of obtaining CIL funding for the eventual design and construction of the scheme. This was consequently successful and a total sum of £300k was approved to be paid in two instalments; £150k in 2017/18 and £150k in 2018/19.

As the Smallfield FAS is currently within study phase, no contributions are required at present as the costs are fully met by Grant in Aid funding. It is likely however that, should a viable scheme be identified, contributions will be necessary for detailed design and construction starting from 2018/19. SCC have discussed with Tandridge District Council, who are partners on the Smallfield FAS Project board, as to how the CIL money can be spent and whether payment can be deferred until next financial year.

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August 2017

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