

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)**

**DATE: 2 MARCH 2018**



**SURREY**

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

**SUBJECT: FLOODING UPDATE**

**DIVISION: ALL TANDRIDGE DIVISIONS**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To provide an update on the flood resilience work being undertaken in Tandridge by Surrey County Council (SCC) and its partners.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to:

- (i) Note and comment on the work achieved to date by SCC and its partners in promoting flood resilience in the District.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To allow the Local Committee to continue to inform and support the work as required.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

1.1 The Committee received a flood resilience work update in September 2017. This report sets out both the capital schemes that have been or are due to be completed in Tandridge since that update, along with the wider strategic work that supports this.

**2. FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS IN TANDRIDGE:**

2.1 The Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have carried out a number of flood alleviation works in Tandridge over the last 12 months and have future works planned. These works can be divided between wetspots, capital schemes and drainage investigations.

**Revenue works**

2.2 The following revenue works are from SCC's wetspots programme. Projects on this programme are smaller scale flooding issues confined to a specific road or

ITEM 10

location. They are significant enough to require more than routine maintenance work but not large enough to warrant a flood alleviation scheme.

Location	Summary	Cost (£)
Clare Cottages, Bletchingley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address persistent flooding resulting from blocked highway systems</li> <li>Jetting machine to clear network in Feb 2018</li> <li>Option of installing additional soakaways to increase drainage capacity will be considered following jetter clearance in Feb 2018</li> </ul>	Investigation on 8 February 2018, cost estimate to follow.
East Hill, Oxted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address road and pavement flooding caused by surface water runoff and ineffective discharge into river</li> <li>Jetting machine to clear network and structures team to inspect bridge to validate/repair damaged connections</li> <li>Work pending - To be completed by end of financial year 17/18.</li> </ul>	£1,500
Wheelers Lane, Smallfield	<p><b>Work complete</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Piping of drainage ditches and repair of defects including main outfall to prevent internal property flooding.</li> <li>Residents have reported faster surface water draining than prior to works</li> </ul>	£60,000

**Capital Programme**

2.3 The projects below are the capital projects in development in Tandridge. These are larger scale schemes that aim to reduce flood risk to properties and infrastructure in the local area.

Location	Summary	Cost (£)
A22 Eastbourne, South Godstone	<p><b>Work Complete</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replacement of culvert</li> <li>Replacement of collapsed retaining wall</li> </ul>	£326,000
Bourne culvert	<p>Part Complete – 50%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearance of blocked sections that were causing fluvial flooding</li> <li>Maintenance of rivers is usually the responsibility of individual landowners however SCC carried out this work given</li> </ul>	£250,000

	the impact and scale of the flooding being caused	
Bourne Flood Alleviation Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Led by London Borough of Croydon</li> <li>Modelling underway to create shortlist of options. Outline Business Case (OBC) will then be completed in 2018</li> <li>A detailed update on this scheme is attached as <b>Annex A</b></li> </ul>	£100,000 (to date; further costs dependent on chosen option)
Caterham Hill Flood Alleviation Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Outline Case (SOC) in final draft and being review by RMA partners, responses provided by 9 February and we expect publication to follow shortly afterwards.</li> <li>SOC demonstrates several feasible options for alleviating flood risk to some properties in lower intensity storm events. This would involve a series of attenuation measure to manage surface water flood flow.</li> <li>The next stage is for the partnership to develop these options to Outline Business Case to better define the feasibility and demonstrate benefits. This will be commissioned in 2018 by the project board, using Grant in Aid funding managed by the Environment Agency (EA).</li> <li>Once the OBC is completed and if approved, a Full Business Case will be developed which will enable the scheme to be funded and constructed through Grant in Aid and partnership contributions</li> <li>Item to note: no single intervention makes a significant change to flood risk across the catchment.</li> </ul>	£40,000 (to date; further costs dependent on chosen option)
Farleigh Road, Warlingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of deepbore soakaway and minor repairs</li> </ul>	£83,000
Smallfield Flood Alleviation Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOC in final review prior to publication</li> <li>If options in SOC are feasible, further funding will be requested from Environment Agency to develop an Outline Business Case which will be completed in 2018.</li> <li>This Outline Business Case will be developed through the project board of RMAs. If a viable scheme is proved at Outline and Full Business Case, the scheme can be constructed through</li> </ul>	£55,000 (to date; further costs dependent on chosen option)

	Grant in Aid and partnership contributions.	
Woldingham Viaduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 storage areas have been completed and the 3<sup>rd</sup> has been negotiated with the land owner.</li> <li>• Earthwork structures to replace sandbag walls constructed in response to groundwater flooding, work to start in 2018.</li> <li>• Works are due to commence March 2018.</li> </ul>	£600,000

### Drainage investigation/repairs

2.4 These works have been completed by the Local Highways Team. They consist of general maintenance to existing systems where there have been reported issues of flooding resulting from problems such as blocked drains/gullies or damaged drainage assets.

Location	Summary
Flower Lane, Godstone	<b>Works completed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two gullies and outlets repaired</li> <li>• Exposed outlet pipe</li> <li>• Improved headwall outlet to surrounding land</li> </ul>
Rook Lane, Chaldon	<b>Works completed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repaired damaged/root infested pipe</li> </ul>
Godstone Road, Bletchingley	<b>Works completed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repaired damage/root infested outlet pipe</li> </ul>
A25, Bletchingley	<b>Works completed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repaired damaged/root infested pipe in footway</li> <li>• Other root clumps removed</li> </ul>
Limpsfield Road, Warlingham	<b>Works completed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repaired damaged/root infested pipe</li> <li>• Other root clumps removed</li> <li>• Capacity improved though further maintenance works required</li> </ul>

### 3. RIPARIAN AWARENESS AND ENFORCEMENT

3.1 Anyone whose property adjoins, contains or is adjacent to, an ordinary watercourse is a 'riparian owner' and is legally required to ensure that the watercourse is free of obstruction, under section 25 of the Land Drainage Act 1991. A diagram explaining when and how riparian responsibilities apply is attached as **Annex B**.

- 3.2 Since becoming the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood Risk Regulations (2009), SCC has assumed the same permissive powers as the Environment Agency and Local Authorities for enforcing maintenance of watercourses under the Land Drainage Act 1991.
- 3.3 These powers allow the RMAs to enforce maintenance work to watercourses to ensure that flow routes are kept clear of obstruction. With these powers, the RMAs can - but are not obliged – to serve notice on a landowner to have this maintenance carried out. If this notice passes and the relevant party fails to carry out the work requested, the RMAs have the power to undertake the work itself and recharge cost back to the landowner. An overview of the enforcement process and the legislation is attached as **Annex C**.
- 3.4 Resolving landowner maintenance issues is generally most effective when an affected party contacts SCC or the relevant RMA directly. However, local Members are also welcome to report any issues to [flooding.enquires@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:flooding.enquires@surreycc.gov.uk) and these will be investigated.
- 3.5 As LLFA, Surrey County Council has been appointed as the consenting authority, with the duty to consent works to an ordinary watercourse, the Environment Agency also has permitting power for works on a “Main River”. This means that if a person wanted to undertake any work, permanent or temporary, within a channel or flow route, they would require ordinary watercourse consent from SCC or a permit from the EA. Examples of work that require consent are:
- Culverting of a watercourse
  - Dams or diversions whether permanent or temporary
  - Bridges that have supports within the channel of the watercourse
  - Headwalls protruding into the channel (not level with the bank)
- 3.6 If work is carried out within a watercourse without consent and is causing additional flood risk, SCC and the EA have the power to enforce reinstatement of the original conditions, with this process working in the same manner as the enforcement of maintenance. It is important to note that no authority has the power to require improvements to a watercourse.

### **Riparian Enforcement – the Bourne**

- 3.7 Following the winter floods of 2013/14, SCC dispatched several Highway teams to the Woldingham area. One of these teams was tasked with investigating and clearing the culverted sections of the Bourne in Whyteleafe. Although this is a main river and the flood risk is managed by the Environment Agency, it was felt that the County may be better placed to reduce the flood risk quickly. A number of blockages were removed (54%); however some still remain and the County are now working with the Environment Agency to have these remaining issues addressed.
- 3.8 One of the major blockages identified was along the rear gardens of Downsway. Following the event, the County worked with the riparian owners to clear the sections of culvert along the rear gardens. The work commenced at the upstream section near the petrol station and progressed approximately halfway along the downstream length of the culvert. At this point negotiations with the riparian land owners became difficult and broke down and consequently the work had to be stopped as the County has no powers over enforcement on Main Rivers.

- 3.9 The County are now working with the Environment Agency to have this section cleared. The Environment Agency's Operations Maintenance team have carried out an initial appraisal of the maintenance requirements and are now requesting funding so that works can be carried out. The EA, once funding is approved, will contact the land owners to initiate the next phase of works.

#### **4. SURREY LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

- 4.1 As Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), SCC has a number of duties in relation to flood risk management, including the duty to develop, implement and monitor a County-wide strategy for local flood risk management.
- 4.2 Surrey's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) was first published in 2014 and SCC and our partner RMAs signed off a refreshed version of this Strategy in the first 6 months of 2017. A refresh was required because the original document was pitched at the operational level not the strategic, did not set out the objectives for flood risk management clearly and did not take post-2014 changes to legislation into account.
- 4.3 The refreshed LFRMS was developed in partnership with all Risk Management Authorities in Surrey with an interest in flooding. This includes Districts and Boroughs, the Environment Agency and Thames Water among others. The principles of the Strategy are followed and supported by all agencies and form the basis for how flood resilience work across the County is co-ordinated. Its main objectives are as follows:
- Sharing information between authorities
  - Maintaining assets
  - Defining clear roles and responsibilities for all authorities
  - Promoting and enforcing riparian (private landowner) responsibilities
  - Making local communities more resilient
  - Managing the risk of flooding through the planning process
  - Investing in flood alleviation schemes
  - Managing the risk of flooding through formal investigations following a flood event
- 4.4 The Strategy can be viewed in its entirety on the SCC website via the following link: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/flooding-advice/more-about-flooding/surrey-local-flood-risk-management-strategy>

#### **5. NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM**

- 5.1 For the last 18 months SCC has been working in partnership with the National Flood Forum (NFF). The NFF engage with vulnerable and high priority communities in order to help them become more resilient to flooding and form Flood Action Groups to engage with the authorities.
- 5.2 To date this work has been very successful, having delivered a wide range of benefits to communities in Surrey, including:
- Delivering a well-received training event for Tandridge Council's frontline staff and emergency planners on the human impact of flooding and the needs & issues of communities in long term recovery (six to 18 months)

- Forming, coaching and structuring Flood Action Groups in Tandridge (Caterham on the Hill and Old Coulsdon, Smallfield and Whyteleafe) to a point of holding multi-agency meeting with the authorities to address specific concerns.
- Empowering these Flood Action Groups to understand and take ownership of their local flood risk, and support their communities. Including awareness events and providing data to inform the feasibility study.
- Supporting the Flood Action Groups in the creation of flood action and flood resilience plans, structuring the communication with the RMAs and improving resilience.
- Supporting Flood Action Groups to lead, organise and host public awareness, information gathering, and Flood Action Group recruitment events

5.3 Consequently all areas the NFF has engaged with have seen a community-led focus on concerns and a schedule of maintenance work undertaken by the relevant flood management teams. All Flood Action Groups continue work to reduce risk, prepare for any subsequent event, and bring about awareness to their wider community as well as meet the authorities in a multi-agency environment.

5.4 As a result of this success SCC has recently extended the consultancy arrangement with the NFF to run until April/May 2018. There are still a number of communities in Surrey that would benefit from further support and engagement work, such as Smallfield, and we are confident that the NFF will continue to build on the success it has already achieved.

## **6. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

6.1 There are no major financial or value for money implications arising from this report. The works listed will help to manage the risk of flooding to a number of locations in Tandridge which will reduced the cost associated with managing/repairing flooding issues and improve the reliability of access to the highway network for residents.

## **7. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

7.1 There are no equalities and diversity implications arising from this report. The works listed are projects that affect all residents equally.

## **8. LOCALISM:**

8.1 There are no direct localism implications arising from this report. However the schemes that have been constructed/are due to be constructed will help to manage the risk of flooding in specific areas, reducing the likelihood of the local community needing to approach the Council for support as a result of a flood event.

## **9. 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.

**10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

10.1 The Local Committee is asked to note and comment on the work achieved to date.

**11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

11.1 The Local Committee will be provided with further flooding updates as and when required.

**Contact Officer:**

Tor Peebles  
 Flood Risk Management Strategy & Partnerships Team Leader  
 Flooding.enquires@surreycc.gov.uk  
 0300 200 1003

**Consulted:**

N/A

**Annexes:**

Annex A – Update on Caterham Bourne Flood Alleviation Study  
 Annex B – Diagram of riparian ownership  
 Annex C – Overview of riparian enforcement powers

**Sources/background papers:**

Flooding update to Tandridge Local Committee (September 2017)  
 Land Drainage Act (1991)  
 Highways Act (1980)