

Flood Awareness Town Meeting

18:00, Thursday 7th October 2021, Imperial Rooms, Matlock

Speakers:

Cllr Steve Wain, Lead Flood Warden for Matlock
Lucy Jarvis, Environment Agency
Richard Ward, Derbyshire County Council
Stephen Peace, Derbyshire County Council
Tim Braund, Derbyshire Dales District Council
Zelia Lockett, Severn Trent

1. Introduction by Cllr Steve Wain, Lead Flood Warden in Matlock

The purpose of meeting is to ensure town is prepared before winter and potential flooding events.

The role of a volunteer flood warden is:

To help support the community; monitor the rivers; keep residents informed; contribute to community flood plan; help prepare the local community; offer support to the community during flooding; monitor situation locally and report back.

He has been working with Matlock Town Council (MTC) to focus on flooding and is aware in Matlock that issue is not just the river, it is also surface run off.

2. Lucy Jarvis, Environment Agency

The Environment Agency (EA) are responsible for:

Main rivers- maintenance, construction, clearing debris in the channel.

Warning and informing. There is a mechanism set up for flood warnings for River Derwent, but not currently for Bentley Brook, this is an aspiration.

Water quality and biodiversity.

Types of flooding:

Fluvial River Flooding-flooding from the actual river.

Tidal flooding.

Pluvial/surface water flooding.

Sewer flooding.

Groundwater flooding.

Reservoir flooding.

EA only issues warnings for River Flooding

Flood forecasting Centre produces a forecast for flooding. It has a 5 day outlook on the EA website.

Met Office also have their own set of warnings for severe weather, which are given a level of severity.

EA offers a warning service for river flooding:

Flood Alert-Flooding is possible, be aware and remain vigilant.

Flood Warning- Flooding is expected- this is a call to action. A two hour lead time is the situation for Matlock.

Severe Flood Warning- Issued in extreme cases, when there is a risk to life and/or there is significant impact on neighbouring properties.

To receive warnings you can sign up online or by calling the Flood Line number if you live in a flood risk area. If you still want to receive warnings but you do not live in an area at risk you can email the East Midlands EA team.

Met Office App, Flood Alert App and River Levels App are also information sources that can be signed up to.

EA website offers- live warnings, 5 day forecast, flood risk maps, river levels, flood preparedness information, personal flood plan templates etc.

EA Twitter and Facebook pages are kept up to date.

Useful websites: Communities Prepared and National Flood Forum.

Flood Wardens:

Help get EA messages to the local community. Flood Wardens are trusted in the local community. They also have valuable local knowledge. They promote information about flood awareness and flood preparedness.

3. Richard Ward, Senior Project Engineer, Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Flood Risk Management Team

DCC's role is as the Lead Flood Authority and also performs the Emergency Planning role. Highways team also has an important role in flooding issues.

EA have strategic oversight for risk of flooding.

Water companies manage sewage and surface water.

Other stakeholders work with DCC too, such as town and parish Councils and community groups.

Role of DCC

Co-ordinate the management of flood risk from local sources.

Develop flood risk strategy.

Duty to investigate local flooding incidents, where 5 or more properties have had internal flooding.

Register of assets.

Statutory consultee for surface water drainage matters, for Development.

Flood Risk Strategy

Available on DCC website. This is reviewed every 5 years and goes out to public consultation.

Ongoing Works in Matlock

- Continue to provide support before, during and after flooding incidents.
- Continue to work with all authorities on flooding matters.
- Highway drainage repair programme 2021-2023: to reduce the flood risk on highways throughout the county. Existing network is being surveyed with cameras to identify any issues. Repairs will be carried out during this repair programme. This work will take place over the next 12 months.
- Assisting with the Property Flood Resilience Grant Funding Scheme, encouraging people to apply and processing the applications.

- Working with EA and Severn Trent (ST) to build a hydraulic model for Matlock to help determine the mechanism for flooding in Matlock. This would require external funding. This is a long-term aspiration that they are working towards.

Challenges

- Climate Change- Recent decades have been wetter.
- Funding- Funding from Government is committed but still has to be applied for.
- Working together- build on existing cooperation with other agencies.
- Using more Natural Flood Management Solutions, e.g. leaky dams.
- Increase resilience of properties at risk of flooding.

4. **Stephen Peace, Assistant Emergency Planning Manager, Derbyshire County Council (DCC)**

Roles and Responsibilities

- Risk assessments on likelihood and potential impact of flooding, and mitigations.
- Preparing multi-agency Flood Plan.
- Assisting communities with resilience.
- Coordination of Flood Wardens.
- Community Flood Plans.
- Provision of sandbags.
- Training and exercising with partners.

Response Role

- Set up and lead Tactical Co-ordination Group.
- Support emergency services.
- Act as a focal points for local authorities.
- Co-ordinate response of local authorities and voluntary organisations.
- Co-ordinate recovery phase.
- Temporary care for displaced persons.

Derbyshire Local Resilience Forum oversees everything.

5. **Tim Braund, Director of Regulatory Services, Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC)**

Director of Regulatory Services at DDDC is the official link to the DCC Emergency Planning team.

Role of DDDC

Readiness

- Respond in an emergency; DDDC has no statutory duty to assist with flooding incidents but believes it has a responsibility to do so
- Category 1 responder and is involved in planning from a strategic point of view.
- DDDC staff help with sandbagging etc. and worked closely with DCC.
- DDDC is involved in Strategic and Tactical Group meetings.
- Help in communications, spread messages, encourage people to prepare for flooding.
- Work closely with EA to help identify local hot spots.

Response

- To help those who can't help themselves.
- Protect life, then property.
- Sandbags- install them to stop properties flooding internally.

- Sandbags are delivered to Community Hubs. In Matlock it's the Imperial Rooms car park.
- Staff volunteer to work when there is an incident.
- Those who can help themselves should do so where possible.
- Evacuation and shelter- decide whether people should leave their properties.
- Communications updates.

Recovery

- Offer advice.
- Assist those affected.
- Arrange Waste/bulky items collections.
- Collate information for potential grant schemes.
- Feed into investigations after a flooding incident.
- Communications- what happens next.

6. Zelia Lockett, Severn Trent Water

Severn Trent (ST) look after sewage network and waste water. Water companies are not a statutory consultee when people want to connect their properties to their sewers, anyone has the right to do this.

Responsible for drains outside properties, but not those owned privately.

Sewer Flooding- Two types

Operational Flooding: blockages, fat, other obstructions, wet wipes.

Hydraulic Flooding: caused by being overwhelmed by water.

They aim to attend floods within 4 hours. Prioritise internally flooded customers first.

Population in Matlock area is 22,000 people, largely rural.

Main trunk sewer runs along Bakewell Road.

There are 171km of sewers in total and 12.7 km of rising mains which are pressurised pipes to transport sewage.

Reliant on people treating sewers well. Programmes of proactive planned cleansing in Matlock and Matlock Bath from January-Easter each year. 22km of this cleansing takes place.

Currently doing a study of the area to determine what works need to be carried out. Lot of activity taking place at the moment, including works on the sewers in centre of town.

Second aspect is topography surveys to help prevent flooding. Work is planned on the rising main.

ST work closely with EA, DCC and DDDC and are collaborating on all planned works.

Flow monitors will be going into manholes to establish what the flow is. This is planned work and should not be a cause for concern if people see it. This monitoring progress may take some time since a lot of data is required to be able to plan works and apply for appropriate funding.

Questions from the Public

Q- Severn Trent are not statutory consultees in planning applications so how do they make their views known about drainage capacity?

A- Severn Trent are engaged in those conversations and would make the other stakeholders aware of any concerns. They can't stop someone connecting to the system, but they do raise their concerns.

Q- Pavement issue outside Premier Inn. Drainage was taken away and now the pavement constantly floods. What is going to be done about it?

A- DCC are looking at where their highway drainage assets are and have removed lots of debris. DCC will look into that specific issue and will be contacting the resident along with the Lead Flood Warden.

Q- What is happening with the rise main on the A6? Worried if it rains heavily will there be sewage overspill?

A- Severn Trent apologised for the situation and explained that: The rising main is like a tap and is under pressure. Rising main runs from Premier Inn to Hall Leys Park. Sewage goes to the pumping station at Premier Inn from Darley Dale then is pumped under pressure to Hall Leys Park. There have been several bursts in the rising main in recent months and years. Every time it's repaired the pipe is camerared to check its integrity.

This work started in 2018 with a couple of bursts, with a couple more in 2019.

The ongoing situation is assessed on a risk basis and is 2020 with more bursts and premises being affected the business case was accelerated to release funding more quickly.

Plan of action for rising main on the A6:

Short Term

Complete immediate repairs-complete.

Medium Term

Prepare business case for replacing the pipe, by gathering lots of data. This has been approved now. In the last couple of months the pipe has been relined using new technology from McDonalds to Hall Leys Park. The liner is not thick enough to reduce capacity.

Long Term

To put new pipe in. The new pipe will be upsized to future proof it. Spring 2022 is the target date for doing this, depending on getting the accurate data.

Disruption will be kept to a minimum once results are in.

ST will provide an update to residents and premises as soon as the plan is finalised.

Communication is very important and getting that strategy right can be difficult. ST will be liaising with DDDC and MTC to aid local communications.

Q- Housing developments in the town are impacting on the problem. Do they regard not being a statutory consultee as a problem? The economic impact of potential flooding events is going to be significant.

A- ST speaker not able to comment on planning consultee situation. With regards to the rising main, the pipe is being made bigger to help avoid future issues.

DDDC are working closely with ST to produce the hydraulic model to help reduce future risks. Model will be used as a tool for future flood mitigation. This is a long term aspiration, subject to government funding. To secure funding they must gather data and evidence.

Q- Should future development be stopped to reduce future risk?

A- DCC not the Planning Authority, but they do have to make sure that all legislation is adhered to.

Q- What are the EA and other authorities doing to work collaboratively?

A- There is already collaboration between EA, DCC and DDDC. When planning a project all agencies work on the bids together to make sure they are robust in order to secure funding.

Q ST say there is sufficient capacity in the system at the moment, to allow for a 5% increase. Is the sewage capacity enough for all the planned development in the Local Plan? Trees are being cut down and therefore there is more surface run off.

A- ST are unable to comment on what may come, they work on what we have already got. They do look at future growth and plan for this.

Q- The Planning Authority isn't communicating effectively with ST as it appears they don't know what is planned with new Developments. What are they doing to manage that risk?

A- Regular meetings are taking place between DDDC and ST and many different departments are involved. Matlock is a high profile location and ST is committed to producing a robust plan.

Water companies are not, in law, a statutory consultee, but the Planning Authority should be talking to them. ST should be informed of major applications.

Q- EA was proposing there should be a full survey of the whole Bentley Brook catchment area. The approach seems disjointed and more reactive, rather than strategic.

A- Model being developed will give an idea of how the whole system is working. There won't just be one solution and the issue is complex.

Q- Some developments appear to be running counter to Natural Flood Defences. What role does the EA have as a consultee with these Developments if their development go against this principle?

A- EA are a statutory consultee for some planning applications. If they are concerns about flood risk associated with development then they will raise them and object as appropriate.

Q- People are seriously worried about flooding and sewage in Matlock. There has been extra housing built in Matlock and Darley Dale- can they reassure the audience that this has not contributed to the problems we are experiencing now?

A-Every time there is an application for development, ST do review it and assess if they have capacity in the system. Illegal connections contribute to additional flow. The system has enough capacity to take that flow as things stand.

Q- EA and Lead Local Flood Authority (DCC)- who has powers for what?

A- EA is responsible for river flooding. EA has strategic overview of all flooding. DCC are responsible for the management of surface water. EA work closely with DCC, EA are responsible for making sure DCC follow the legislation. DCC aim to reduce flood risk on the ground. Developers must make sure there is a plan for looking after their flood management assets.

Q- Castle View School, Treetops Nursery and gardens in Hurst Farm get flooded every time it rains hard. The Derwent Aqueduct is a concern, when was it last inspected?

A- Planning enforcement is managed by DDDC. When the school was flooded DDDC were not aware as nobody reported it to them. DDDC would be interested in hearing about surface water flooding in Matlock at the time of the incident so they can look into it.

Q- Building Control can be an independent body and DDDC do not have control over this.

A-DDDC does have a function in building control but legislation was changed to allow private companies to provide building control and many developers choose this option.

Meeting closed at 20:05