

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING: 19 MARCH 2019

TITLE OF REPORT: MULTI AGENCY AND PARISH FLOOD FORUM UPDATE

Report of: Head of Technical And Environmental Service

Cabinet member: Councillor Alan Oliver, Technical Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Overview and Scrutiny on the Multi Agency and Parish Flood Forums, the Councils Flood Alleviation Schemes, and a brief note to clarify the Environment Agency process for delivering a project to reduce the impacts of flooding.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the arrangement for ensuring the Council and key partners are engaged as part of a wider strategic discussion around flooding, is noted.

3 BACKGROUND

Hart District Council currently runs two types of regular flooding meeting, the Multi Agency Flooding meeting and the Parish Flood Forum. These meeting have slightly different audiences and scale of focus.

3.1 Update on the Multi Agency Flooding Meeting

- 3.1.1 The Multi Agency Flooding meetings are strategic meetings run by Hart District Council, aimed at District and County Councillors and attended by the Environment Agency, Thames Water and Hampshire County Council including Highways. The purpose of these meetings is to enable two-way discussion of wider strategic flooding issues within the District and to keep councillors abreast of key flood risk issues and projects. Issues are deemed strategic if they affect 3 or more properties. These meetings are held every 6 months with one in February and one in September.
- 3.1.2 At the recent Multi Agency Flooding meeting on 25 February the Environment Agency gave a presentation on the project process that flood alleviations schemes receive funding through which is detailed in Appendix 1.
- 3.1.3 Updates on all the flood alleviation Scheme projects and from the partner organisations within Hart, are detailed in the minutes and attached as Appendix 2.

3.2 Update on the Parish Flood Forum

- 3.2.1 The Parish Flood Forum deals with the small scale, parish level flooding issues, and is where members should escalate non-strategic matters.
- 3.2.2 These meetings facilitate face-to-face discussions with the partner organisations that are most suited to address issues. The forum starts with a short talk of the day by one of the partner agencies, which is then followed by booked mini meetings between individual parishes and the partner agency to address their concerns.
- 3.2.3 Parish Flood Forums are attended by Parishes, district and county members, and partner agencies of Environment Agency, Thames Water, and Hampshire County Council [Water and Highways], and are held in May and November.
- 3.2.4 Since its inception there has been two Parish Flood Forums and have been well attended with nine parishes attending each event. The talk of the day in May was on the Scottish and Southern Energy's Community resilience fund, and in November was on Hampshire County Council's role as Lead Local Flood Authority.

4 ACTION

Subject to comments made by the Committee on the efficacy of the arrangements, we will continue to liaise with our key strategic partners through the Multi Agency Flooding meeting and Parish Flood Forum.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Environment Agency stage gate process for "Delivering a project to reduce flood and coastal erosion"

Appendix 2 - Minutes of Multi Agency Flood Forum 25 February 2019 and Action Notes

Environment Agency stage gate process for “Delivering a project to reduce flood and coastal erosion”

1 in 6 properties in the UK are at risk of internal flooding. There are insufficient funds available to defend every property that is at risk of flooding and not every location will have a viable solution. As a result, there is a strict process to determine which schemes can receive funding and which do not. Often it becomes apparent, as schemes investigate their options, whether there exists a promising solution. Those projects that do not have a promising case will lose their funding. This is done to prevent wasteful spends on expensive ineffective schemes.

Flood Alleviations Schemes can receive part funding from Central Government’s Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGIA) funding pot. This is administered and regulated by the Environment Agency but the rules managing the process come from DEFRA. There are strict rules that govern what a project can receive funding for. There are also a few break points along the project process where the decision to continue to fund the project are made. FDGIA funding can be received at all stages of the project.

No Scheme can be 100% funded through FDGIA. The shortfalls in funding must be made up from other sources. These other sources are known as partnership funding could be from a council, housing association, business, Local Levy or other source. Local Levy is a council tax funded pot that is administer in our area by the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Local Levy can be used to top up shortfall in project funding where a scheme is promising and has received other partnership funding contributions. Central Government requires all flood alleviation schemes that receive FDGIA to go through 6 main stages or gateways.

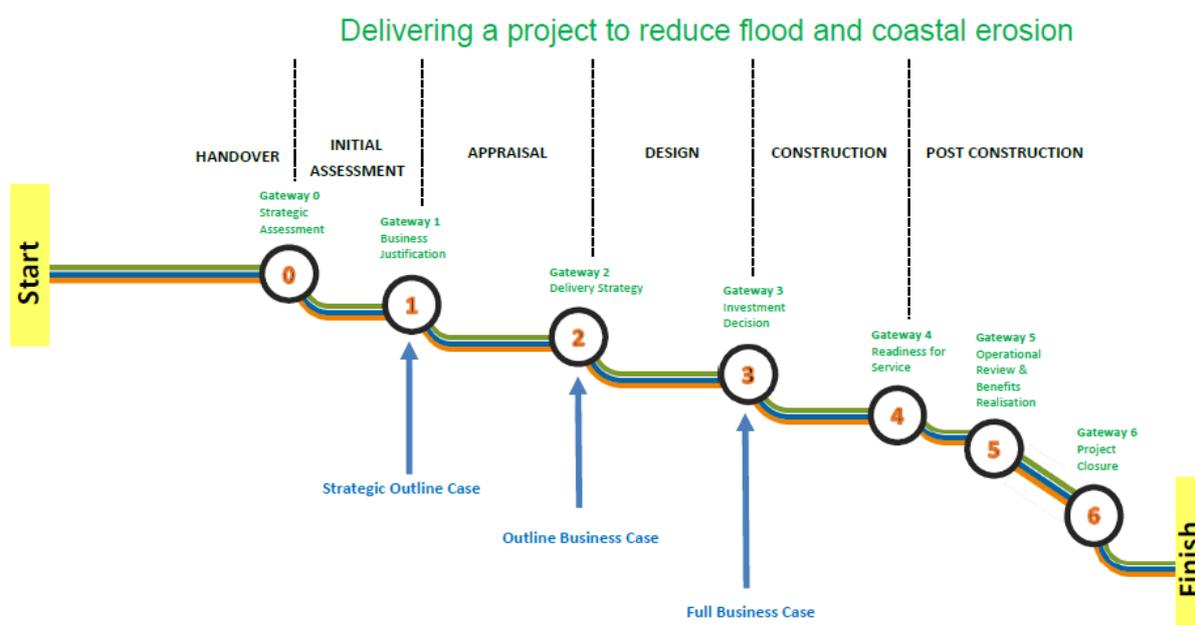


Figure 1: Shows the 6 gateways FDGIA funded projects must go through.

- **Gateway 0 – Handover.** Approval is received to open a project and initial allocated funding is provided. At this stage the project is given to a lead Risk

Management Authority, which is usually the Environment Agency for projects dealing with main river flooding, Hampshire County Council for surface water and groundwater flooding issues, or Hart District Council for local level surface water schemes.

- **Gateway 1- Initial Assessment.** This is a high-level assessment using existing data or basic modelling to indicate the likelihood of a deliverable and affordable options to prevent internal property flooding is achievable.
 - Fleet, Crondall, North Yateley, and Cricket Hill and Tudor Stream in Yateley are all EA projects that have completed this stage.
- **Gateway 2- Outline Business Case.** This involves investigating all possible options for protecting properties at risk to determine the most deliverable option; all likely project constraints (such as land owner, environmental and ground conditions issues) must be investigated as well as a project's cost/ benefit ratio and funding. Depending on the project size, the Outline Business Case must be presented to National Project Approval Service to get approval, and only projects with a good cost/benefits (i.e. money saved is greater than full cost of the scheme), all funding shortfalls covered, and potential constraints mitigated, can move to the next stage.
 - Kingsway in Blackwater is in the early stages of the Outline Business Case, while Phoenix Green is nearly at submission, and Mill Corner does not have FDGiA but is near the end of the Outline Business Case stage.
- **Gateway 3- Full Business Case.** This stage involves the detail design of the scheme, contractor procurement, obtaining permissions and permits. A final investment decision is taken at this point before the go ahead for construction is given.
- **Gateway 4- Readiness for Service.** Construction is complete and the defences should be working.
- **Gateway 5- Benefit Realisation.** A review is undertaken to ensure that the defence has been built as designed, is functioning correctly and all the properties that should be protected by the scheme are.
- **Gateway 6- Project Closure.** The project is formally closed.

The amount of time each project takes to pass through each gateway will vary from project to project depending on its size and complexity.

FDGiA [Flood Defence Grant in Aid] funds project and runs in 6-year cycles; the current cycle ends in March 2021, and all projects funded in this cycle must have been completed by this date. To ensure that the March 2021 deadline is met, the Environment Agency are prioritising projects that can be delivered by this date.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thames Water, Environment Agency, Hampshire
County Council with
Hart District Council Members**

25th February 2019 at 2pm

Present:

Hart Councillors: Crookes (Chairman), Axam, Oliver, Parker, Southern

Hampshire County Council (HDC): Councillors Simpson and Glen, Vicki Westall

Thames Water Utilities (TW): Sarah Edmunds, Alice Keeping

Environment Agency (EA): Neil Landricombe, Janice Longman

Hart District Council (HDC): Philip Shepherd (Infrastructure Team Manager), Susanna Hope (SH) (Flood Risk Infrastructure Engineer), Gill Chapman (Committee Services)

In attendance: Councillor Radley, Church Crookham Parish Council

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Councillors Makepeace Browne, Forster, Worlock Collett and James Holt from Hampshire Highways.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting – 24 September 2018

The minutes of the meeting of 24 September 2018 were agreed.

3 Flood Alleviation Schemes and the Capital Programme (EA)

Neil Landricombe gave a presentation on the EA Capital Programme process. (Copy of presentation summary circulated.)

Members asked where specifically the HDC projects were on the timeline, and the amount of time between each gateway.

Action: EA to respond

Post meeting note: The questions above have been addressed within the presentation summary.

4 Crookham Park Ditch (Nepal Gardens-Naishes Lane) (HCC)

The ordinary watercourse section of the Sandy Lane ditch is causing flooding and erosion/deposition issues across Crookham Park particularly between Nepal Gardens and Naishes Lane and the Alethic Area on site. HCC was asked for an update regarding their discussions with Taylor Wimpy in July 2018. An update on this issue was to be provided by HCC post meeting.

Action: HCC to respond

Post meeting note: Taylor Wimpy are aware of the issues. The developer is still looking into options to address this issue but has not yet submitted an application for Ordinary Watercourse Consent to HCC.

5 Status Updates (including upcoming projects)

EA Projects

Sandy Lane Ditch & Fleet Brook, Griffin Stream, Cricket Hill & Tudor Stream, Frogmore, North Yateley

Prior to the meeting the EA sent out reports on Sandy Lane Ditch & Fleet Brook, Cricket Hill & Tudor Stream and North Yateley

Cricket Hill & Tudor Stream in Yateley- Modelling showed that the flooding was mainly in the road and there was insufficient property flooding to get Flood Defence Grant In Aid funding for a scheme. This scheme is not being taken forward in the current 6 year program.

A meeting is being held on the 21st of March with Yateley Councillors to discuss the reports and discuss alternative means of managing the flood risk.

Fleet Brook and Sandy Lane Ditch- this is a complex area with no existing detail modelling. To undertake detail modelling is prohibitively expensive. A high-level assessment has been done that suggests the flooding is from multiple sources and is spread across the entire urban area. The EA are investigating whether a phased approach to a scheme might be viable. A technical site visit is being held on the 5th of March followed by a meeting with Fleet and Church Crookham Councillors Date to be determined.

HDC projects:

Mill Corner – On the request of HDC, Thames water have sent out sewer surveys to residents and put cameras down some of the sewers. To justify increasing the gully cleanse frequency by Highways, HDC also sent out surveys to determine the extent of flooding issues from the B3349. HDC is still waiting to hear whether the Water Environment Grant bid has been successful. HDC to meet lead resident on the 1st of March to work on the Community Emergency Plan.

Phoenix Green – The Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee have reviewed the Outline Business Case and recommended more public consultation to be undertaken before submitting the Outline Business Case the EA for approval. Vivid have been approached for a firm financial commitment to the project. Project team to meet on regular basis in between the Multi Agency meetings.

Kingsway, Blackwater – Baseline modelling completed. Work has started on the high level review of the business case viability. This is to take an early sense check of the project, given the number of houses at risk, to see if any of the potential options likely to be financially viable. This is to prevent the waste of time and resources modelling options that would not be financially viable. Support from EA and HCC. TW have contributed funding to the baseline modelling work.

HCC projects: Webbs Corner (Highways & FWM) – On schedule to have finished works by October of this year. The project is using parish land to hold back water.

HCC section: Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)

VW reported that this had been put on hold for six months because the National Planning Policy Framework and latest climate change allowances have recently been updated. The delay is being used by HCC to reshape policy guidance within the LFRMS. However, work is still going on the 18 catchment plans that will sit behind the LFRMS. The Loddon Catchment Plan (of which Hart is within) is nearly finished.

Members wished to add:

- That, whilst acknowledging that the long timescales could be frustrating for residents and ward members, the meetings should strive to be positive and work with the agencies to get the most positive and timely outcomes.
- That HCC councillors and HDC ward councillors should be invited to any meetings with residents around flooding issues.

6 Update on Parish Flood Forum

The November meeting was successful, with 9 Parishes attending. The talk of the day was on HCC's role as Lead Local Flood Authority. The next Parish Flood Forum was scheduled for end May.

7 Enforcement Issues

St Michael Close Enforcement/ 132 Aldershot Road (EA) - This was a failed river bank in Fleet which had caused some flooding issues with an adjacent resident. Difficulties between two riparian owners both insisting that the other was liable has been resolved with a firm commitment from one riparian owner to undertake bank repairs. This was an issue for the Parish Flood Forum.

8 Highway Flooding issues (Highways)

West Green Road (HCC & SH) – Highways have completed jetting works, HDC have put in trash screen and desilted a section of ditch adjacent to the houses. Further works eg tree work, desilting of ditch are being undertaken by HDC before the end of March. Cllr Southern highlighted that there are flooding issues on the other side of Grange lane near the bridge.

Dinorben Avenue – In Highways programme for new financial year. The pipe from the catch pit onwards to the canal needs replacing. Crossing third party land is necessary, legal work being done with the landowner to ensure Highways will have access in future for ongoing maintenance.

9 Water Situation (EA & TW)

TW reported that there were no concerns with the water situation. Groundwater levels are average to low for the time of year and there is not expected to be significant rainfall in March. The rainfall for November and December were above average and in January this was below average. However, drought for the year ahead is not currently a concern.

- I Members asked if there were any major capital programmes from TW in the Hart area.

2 TW to respond to issues detailed on the Action Sheet

Action TW to respond asap - response to be attached to minutes

10 Any Other Business

Action sheet:

35 - Hunts Common – more detail needed from TW (see above)

7 - Mill Lane – engineers to be asked to go out

21 - Award Road – TW will CCTV prior to replacing the manhole cover. TW to update.

Up Green – to be discussed through Parish Flood Forum

36 – Beacon Hill Road - Highways have no record of this, to be discussed through the parish flood forum

Cron dall Road near junction to 287 - road flooding. SH to investigate.

Action: TW to provide update to SH for circulation

11 Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, 30th September 2019.

Multi Agency Flooding Meeting Actions

February 2019

Hart District Council- **HDC**, Environment Agency- **EA**, Thames Water- **TW**, Hampshire Highways-**HH**, Hampshire County Council **FWM-HCC**, Cllr Collett- **AC**, Cllr Crookes-**KC**, Philip Sheppard- **PS**.

Ref	Item/Issue	Status	Who	Date completed
2	Steering group for Fleet and Sandy Lane Ditch . EA to assist HDC set up working group for Fleet (including. Sandy Lane Ditch) and another group for Yateley area working group now to go through project reports with councillors	Delayed. Waiting for Phase 1 study. Steering group to be setup once governance & funding approved. Update in meeting	EA	
3	EA Flood Alleviation Scheme project plan and time lines Action: Neil Landricombe to provide email explaining the Flood defence Grant in Aid Process as an information pack.	Completed. Presentation in Multi Agency meeting	EA	25/02/19
7	Cllr Collett – Thames Water temporarily capped the utility manhole cover in the pavement outside 30 Mill Lane at the junction between Fry's Lane and Mill Lane in Yateley to prevent sewerage flooding affecting the utility services. Is this capping still in place? Should this be removed? Thames Water to find out the status of the capping to project the utility manhole cover on Fry's Lane.	Ongoing. TW will send out an engineer to investigate this.	TW/ AC	
14	EA would like to meet with councillors so that we can provide a detailed update on the Tudor and Cricket Hill Stream project and to discuss options for the scheme. The EA would like to develop the stakeholder engagement plan with the council. We will speak with Susanna about arranging a meeting at the earliest opportunity. Met councillors to provide an update. Further engagement delayed due to waiting for outcomes of study. Update at multi agency meeting. Engagement event to be arranged.	Ongoing. First meeting on 11/05/2018. Phase 1 study has been received and circulated. Meeting with Yateley Cllrs planned for 21/03/19.	EA/ HDC	
15	The EA would like to meet with councillors to provide an update and capture councillor's knowledge of flooding from the Fleet and sandy lane ditch , and discuss engagement with residents. We hope a date can be arranged early November. Following this meeting, we would like to set up a separate engagement event with residents - a flood surgery type event to capture local knowledge of the flood risk mechanisms in the area and provide an update. Date to be arranged.	Ongoing. First meeting on 11/05/2018. Further engagement to be arranged once Phase 1 study received. Update in meeting.	EA/ HDC	First meeting on 11/05/18
17	Main river - riverbank has collapsed blocking the watercourse and a neighbouring garden (132 Aldershot Road/ St Michaels Close) was submerged because the watercourse was blocked. The management company of the block of flats are saying that developer never passed on the rights. SH to liaise with EA and circulate. EA to update SH by end of October 2018	Ongoing but progress has been made. 1 landowner has agreed to do works.	EA (lead) /HDC	
21	Award Road, Fleet. Manhole in front of Sentinel properties - with intense rain the manhole is coming up and foul water is getting into the property numerous times last year. A resident has put a 1 tonne bag on top of the manhole. HDC and TWU are monitoring this. If effective and doesn't move flooding elsewhere TWU will screw the manhole cover down. TWU confirmed that the winter was too dry to test the impact of the 1 tonne bag so wants to monitor the situation for a further 6 months. The effectiveness will be reviewed post winter.	Ongoing CCTV completed. Awaiting update on next steps.	TWU (lead) /HDC	
26	Courtmoor Ave junction Reading Road South - water across road and footpaths affecting the main entrance to Courtmoor School. JH reported that some of the system had been CCTV'd, which were full of roots. The work would take about a week but had not yet scheduled.	Ongoing. Work to attend to the defects noted during the 2018/2019 CCTV survey have not yet been completed. It is expected that this work will	HH	

		be completed before the end of the financial year. If not resolved, the surface water flooding issue more jetting and CCTV will be done.		
28	Bottom Bracknells Lane - this was a known problem, Highways were investigating.	Ongoing. High pressure water jetting and CCTV work now complete. A future bid for funding under HCC's Operation Resilience works programme is to be developed by J. Holt. In the interim it is proposed that the system is jetted routinely jetted twice per annum	HH	
29	Junction prior to Winchfield Court – Pale Lane – JH to investigate	Ongoing. An outfall from the ditch adjacent to Winchfield Court has not been identified. High pressure water jetting remains an outstanding package of work along Pale Lane between The Hurst and the River.	HH	
30	EA Project Phase 1 study to be circulated via SH once available	completed	EA/ HDC	22/02/19
31	EA to send SH for circulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the cost benefit analysis of projects in Hart • Explanation of the project process and criteria of funding for projects 	Completed. Presentation in Multi Agency meeting on 25/02/19	EA/ HDC	25/02/19
32	Bracknell Lane: Jetted and CCTV'd. Submission created for future scheme. At a Councillor suggestion, Highways to confirm that this will go on their maintenance programme going forward. Action: Highways	Ongoing. High pressure water jetting and CCTV work now complete. A future bid for funding under the County Council's Operation Resilience works programme is to be developed by J. Holt. In the interim it is proposed that the system is jetted routinely jetted twice per annum.	HH	
34	Handford Lane junction with Cricket Hill - flooded even after rain had been stopped for a while.	Completed. We were aware of an issue of flooding in the access to Casa de Ceasari however this was identified as thatched over gullies. These were cleared and we believe the matter to be resolved.	HH	
35	Hunts Common, Hartley Wintney - sewer collapsed ten years ago, repairs said only to last ten years - can someone please look at it after ten years.	Ongoing TW have ask a network engineer to attend and carry out a look and lift.	TW	
36	Beacon Hill Road, 287/roundabout – surface water flooding, water coming off ranges. So bad traffic lights were put in.	Move to Parish Flood Forum. HCC have no records of a set of temporary traffic signals being erected for flooding at the Beacon Hill / Jackalls Hill roundabout although we are aware that on occasion water is slow to drain at this location into the various soakaways.	HH	

37	Blackwater Bridge - S&SSE laid new cable. Water now on side. Has been reported to highways, who are looking into it.	Ongoing. HCC have no knowledge of an issue at this location following work by SSE. I will need to investigate further.	HH	
38	Members asked where specifically the HDC projects were on the timeline, and the amount of time between each gateway.	New & completed. Covered in presentation summary paper	EA	07/03/19
39	Crookham Park between Nepal Gardens and Nasihes Lane –the Sandy lane Ditch (ordinary watercourse section) is causing flooding and erosion/deposition issues between Nepal Gardens and Nasihes Lane and the Alethic Area on site. HCC has been in discussion with with Taylor Wimpy in July 2018 on this issue. An update on this issue was to be provided by HCC post meeting.	New and ongoing. Taylor Wimpy are aware of the issues. The developer is still looking into options to address this issue but has not yet submitted an application for Ordinary Watercourse Consent to HCC.	HCC (lead) / HDC	
40	Thames Water to provide update on Action Table to go out with minutes.	New.	TW	