

MEASURES TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD AND IMPACT OF FLOODING TO PROPERTIES IN PENDLE

To: SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM

Date of Meeting: 13 SEPTEMBER 2016

Notes of: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
MANAGER

BRIEFING NOTE

BACKGROUND

1. Minute No 59 of the Scrutiny Management Team meeting on 22 March 2016 reads:

“Further to a request at the last meeting of the Team, the Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report which provided information on Pendle Council’s response to Storm Eva, which hit Pendle on Boxing Day 2015. The report provided details on the action taken by staff members during the event itself and also the follow-up work that had been carried out.

The Team received information on the number of properties flooded; the equipment used and number of staff involved in the incident response; the number of calls logged and the reasons for the call; and the current take-up of grants/relief available. Members were also advised of the engagement that had taken place with residents, borough and town and parish councillors and relevant agencies.

Areas where engineering flood alleviation/defence works were required had been identified and Environment Agency funding had already been secured for some of these works. The Department for Transport (DfT) had also allocated £5m to Lancashire County Council (LCC) for repairs to its roads and bridges infrastructure damaged by the floods. In Pendle, this would be used to fund four schemes. A number of other schemes had also been put forward for consideration.

It was acknowledged that, going forward, some changes needed to be made, in particular with regard to the Sandbags Policy (submitted as appendix 6 to the report); the existing Emergency Plan and Flood Plan; and the Environment Agency Floodline service.

RESOLVED

That a [light touch] review of the Council's Flood Policy be added to the Team's work programme for 2016/17."

BRIEFING NOTE STRUCTURE

2. This is divided into three elements:

(a) Recovery

An update on repairs to properties flooded during Storm Eva and property resilience works completed and grants paid.

(b) Planning

An update on flood warnings and emergency planning arrangements.

(c) Works

An update on proactive flood alleviation schemes being investigated, designed or delivered.

RECOVERY

3. Via the Department for Communities and Local Government, various payments, grants and relief to flood properties are available:

- £500 payment to residents;
- up to £5,000 property level resilience grants to residents and businesses;
- business support grants up to £2,500; and
- council tax and NNDR relief (residents and businesses).

The current take-up in Pendle (as at 25 August 2016) is:

| Available Schemes | Take-Up |
|--|--|
| £500 flood grant payments | 80 payments made |
| £5,000 resilience grants payments | 30 applications received (26 residential, 4 business). 2 refused, £87,394 approved, of which £49,755 paid. 9 applications paid in full |
| £2,500 business support grants (BOOST) | 16 applications approved and paid, with a total value of £43,999 |
| Temporary council tax relief | 83 awards with a total value of £31,710 |
| Temporary business rates relief | 7 awards with a total value of £17,406. One application pending |
| Community Foundation payments | 10 grants awarded with a total value of £18,095 |

4. The Council is about to embark on a final “push” to encourage eligible households and businesses to submit claims (deadline for applications is 26 December 2016; deadline for installation of property resilience measures is 31 March 2017). An explanatory leaflet is being prepared, a further press release will be issued and a workshop in Earby is being considered (tentatively for 17 October 2016).

PLANNING

5. Six of the main rivers in Pendle have river level gauges:

- Trawden Brook;
- Colne Water;
- Walverden Water (a new one);
- Pendle Water;
- Earby Beck; and
- Earby New Cut.

Flood alert/warning systems operate in all of these, managed and maintained by the Environment Agency (Lancashire and Cumbria region for the first four and Yorkshire region for the latter two). Residents in these areas can register to receive telephone/text messages from the Environment Agency.

Following the Boxing Day floods, more residents in Earby (particularly adjacent to New Cut) have signed up to the flood warning service.

6. The Borough of Pendle Local Civil Emergency Plan’s Flooding section has been amended – see Appendix 1.
7. In addition, the Pendle Multi-Agency Flood Plan Part 2 has been amended .

(NB: Part 1 is the Lancashire County Council county-wide overarching plan.)
8. The old Ghyll Meadows Flood Group has been re-established and several meetings have taken place. The next one is scheduled for 12 September 2016. The Ghyll Meadows multi-agency Emergency Plan has been revised and road diversion plans drawn up. (In Barnoldswick and Earby, the flooding problems on Boxing Day were exacerbated by thoughtless drivers on the main roads creating a bow wave. And of course traffic was comparatively light due to it being a holiday period.) Sandbag stores are being established.
9. With the Environment Agency (Yorkshire) taking the lead, the old Earby Flood Wardens’ plan is being developed into a multi-agency emergency plan (based on the Environment Agency’s Hebden Bridge model). The inaugural meeting (officers from various agencies plus borough and town councillors) was held on 17 May 2016. Road diversion plans have been drawn up. Sandbag stores are being established.

10. The possibility of mini Flood Defence Groups will be investigated for the following areas:

- Cotton Tree (Trawden Forest Parish Council);
- Gisburn Road area (Barrowford Parish Council);
- Lomeshaye Village (Nelson Town Council).

There is great merit in having satellite stores of sandbags throughout the borough. In extreme events, the roads can become virtually impassable and so even if there are sandbags available at Fleet Street we may struggle to deliver them.

11. Pendle's existing Sandbags Policy (Appendix 2) is being retained, at least for the present.

12. Pendle's sandbag store at Fleet Street in Nelson has been fully replenished.

13. Representatives of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services are meeting Pendle's Directors on 15 September 2016 to discuss our state of readiness for the forthcoming winter.

WORKS

14. The Storm Eva event on Boxing Day 2015 gave us a real insight into the issues in Pendle. It was a real life possible worst-case (?) scenario. Better than any theoretical forecasting and computer modelling.

15. The areas where more than a few individual properties might be affected in a severe flooding event are:

- (a) Cotton Tree, Trawden (the confluence of Colne Water and Trawden Brook);
- (b) Gisburn Road, Barrowford (Pendle Water);
- (c) Lomeshaye Old Village, Nelson (Pendle Water);
- (d) Wycoller (flash flooding from upland moors);
- (e) Barnoldswick (see Appendix 3):
 - (i) Ghyll Meadows (Valley Drive culvert);
 - (ii) Gillians Lane/Lane Bottoms;
- (f) Earby (Earby Beck and New Cut) (see Appendix 4).

16. Regarding Cotton Tree, there is no obvious solution. The main rivers are maintained by the Environment Agency (Lancashire and Cumbria). The waterways are clear. There are flood level gauges.

As mentioned above, the solution here may be a small-scale Flood Defence Group.

17. Regarding Barrowford, again there is no obvious solution. Again, a main river generally well maintained by EA (Lancashire and Cumbria). The problem is rising water getting into the basements of properties.

The solution is tanking. A matter for individuals and their insurance companies.

As mentioned above, another solution here may be a small-scale Flood Defence Group.

18. Regarding Lomeshaye, again no real solution. Much less of a problem than in the past following substantial flood alleviation carried out by EA and United Utilities and storage works in the Newbridge area of Brierfield.

As mentioned above, the solution here may be a small-scale Flood Defence Group.

19. Regarding Wycoller, this was an Action in the 2015/16 Neighbourhood Service Plan. Following joint working with the EA (Lancashire and Cumbria), they are now owning this problem.

The solution that they are looking at is flood retention (reservoirs) upstream of Wycoller Beck.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Extract from the Borough of Pendle Local Civil Emergency Plan.

Appendix 2: Sandbags Policy.

Appendix 3: Barnoldswick Flooding Areas.

Appendix 4: Earby Flooding Areas.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Briefing Note to Scrutiny Management Team of 22 March 2016.

Scrutiny Review of Procedures to Deal with Local Flooding (March and October 2004).

11.5 Neighbourhood Services - Flooding

Brief description of incidents covered by this plan

Any flood warning received through the Environment Agency, or incidences of serious river flooding throughout the Pendle Borough.

| Primary Contact | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name | Peter Atkinson |
| Designation | Neighbourhood Services Manager |
| Daytime contact numbers | 01282 661063 (office) [REDACTED] (mobile) |
| Out of hours contact numbers | [REDACTED] (home) [REDACTED] (mobile) |
| Secondary Contact | |
| Name | Luke Edwards |
| Designation | Senior Engineer, Drainage |
| Daytime contact numbers | 01282 661066 |
| Out of hours contact numbers | [REDACTED] |

Pendle Multi-Agency Flood Plan Part 2: 'The Pendle Flood Plan February 2016'

This is a related but separate document.

- 1 The Flood Plan may be activated by the following triggers:
 - Flood warnings issued by the Environment Agency (Lancashire & Cumbria or Yorkshire)
 - Severe (wet) weather warnings issued by the Meteorological office
 - Weather conditions sufficient to cause severe localised problems
 - Reported flooding incidents

- 2 The Flood Plan includes separate Sub-Plans for two areas in the Borough:
 - a) Ghyll Meadows / Skipton Road in Barnoldswick
 - b) Earby generally

SANDBAG POLICY



1. This document details Pendle Borough Council's policy with regard to the deployment of sandbags for use to mitigate the damage from flooding.
2. It should be noted that the Council has no legal liability for providing sandbags to homes or commercial premises; however, it has been the practice of Pendle BC to assist residents and businesses of the area during flooding from any external source.
3. The Council will continue to provide sandbags during flooding emergencies, within available resources.
4. The deployment of sandbags will be decided with regard to the following priorities:
 - (a) To prevent loss of life or serious injury
 - (b) To maintain access for emergency services
 - (c) To protect homes within the borough
 - (d) To protect commercial property within the borough
 - (e) To protect transportation routes
5. The deployment of sandbags will depend on the severity of flooding, the number of properties affected in each location and the number of locations.
6. The number of sandbags sent to each location will depend on availability and an assessment of needs in the area.
7. Localised flooding in a small number of areas:

Sandbags to be deployed to the individual properties affected by flooding or threatened by flooding as requested by property owners or the emergency services.
8. Major flooding in one location:

Sandbags will be deployed to the area. Every effort will be made to assist in placing sandbags especially for the elderly or disabled; however, this may not always be possible.
9. Major flooding in more than one location:

The Emergency Planning Team will be convened to assess the requirements and sandbags will be deployed to the affected areas in order of priority. It is unlikely that assistance will be available to help in placing sandbags.

10. After the incident, sandbags will be collected at the request of the resident/ owner or if the sandbags are considered to be a hazard for the general public.
11. Any property owner within the flood risk areas as indicated upon the current Environment Agency forecast will be expected to consider their own provision for flood defence and not rely on assistance from the authorities to defend their properties.
12. It should be noted that sandbags will not totally prevent flood water encroaching into property and property owners should remove articles to a safe location above the anticipated flood level. People building flood defences with sandbags should also be aware of the building methods to employ in order to make an effective seal and the health and safety implications of manual handling sandbags as they are exceptionally heavy especially when wet.

PGS/PGS 28/03/07

BARNOLDSWICK

A. Ghyll Meadows

- (a) Rolls-Royce has descaled the (non-main river) section of culvert under their playing field. This increases capacity and reduces the risk of flooding on the playing field overtopping the existing bund onto Skipton Road and the Ghyll Meadows estate.
- (b) The bund is being reconstructed (partial walling) and raised at present. The cost is approximately £25,000 – funded by West Craven Committee (capital programme) and Barnoldswick Town Council.
- (c) The main river section of culvert through the estate is to be diverted and upsized. This scheme was planned to be undertaken by the EA (Lancashire and Cumbria) but has now been passed to Pendle to deliver. Budget cost £500,000. The funding is Grant in Aid. Funding is available now. We have submitted a bid to the Environment Agency for approval of the Stage 1 design.

B. Gillians Lane/Lane Bottoms

This is a long-standing problem area.

Following a recent meeting with the EA (Lancashire and Cumbria), they have asked us to work up a scheme and submit to them for appraisal (Grant in Aid funding).

EARBY

- C. In the recent past, the following three schemes have been implemented at a cost of approximately £80,000 (the first two by Pendle and the third by Lancashire County Council):
- construction of a drainage “sump” in the bus station;
 - improvements to the beck training walls “waterway” on Water Street; and
 - improvements to the waterway adjacent to the Conservative Club.
- D. A fourth scheme (works in Stoney Bank Road) is being considered by Pendle. (There is £35,000 in the 2016/17 corporate capital programme for this).
- E. The Environment Agency (Yorkshire) is about to undertake repairs (£500,000) to Victoria Clough Culvert – a main river.
- F. The Environment Agency is also about to commission a (£50,000) study to update its existing flood model for Earby.
- (This may be the precursor to a future multi-million pound flood alleviation/retention scheme.)
- G. A multi-agency officer meeting is scheduled for early September to discuss progress on investigations and schemes progress in Earby.