

EARDISLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of 28 March 2015 at 10.30 pm at Eardisland Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Maryan Hanson (Chairman) and Richard Kirby, 21 members of public

In Attendance: Claire Storer from Parsons Brinckerhoff, Matt Kerry and Emma Turner from the Environment Agency and Parish Clerk Alison Sutton.

Apologies from: Cllrs Albert Sheffield and Phil Milchard; Steve Hodges from Herefordshire Council; Phil Pankhurst and Joel Hockenhull from Balfour Beatty

Introduction: Cllr Kirby explained that the meeting was to hear the presentation on the final report of the survey.

Presentation by Claire Storer: Claire presented the results of the study and recommendations. Her presentation is attached as a separate document, however the main points were:

- Assessment of flood impacts – disregarded 2 and 5 year results of flooding from River Arrow to take account of the model limitations; return periods for flooding from surface water also adjusted
- Valuation of flood damages – consider economic loss, damage to residential/non-residential properties, evacuation costs, indirect costs, emergency response costs and vehicle damage, result in calculation of costs for each event
- Annual average damages from properties at risk worked out at £173k/year
- From shortlisted measures taken forward 3 options based on criteria of being eligible for grant aid, feasible and economically viable
- Overland flow routing – to take flow from School Road onto farm land – might achieve surface water and drainage improvements, not deal with big events; as doesn't make a difference to number of properties being flooded, recommend that investigate isolated improvements
- Southall Brook improvements – to get more flow to stay in channel rather than go on road and into village
- Property level protection (PLP) – internal resilience measures and external door and window guards, may not achieve as good result in older properties
- Recommendations from report – Parish Council to investigate grant funding sources and review response plans; PC arrange detailed drainage survey with Environment Agency, River Lugg Internal Drainage Board, Herefordshire Council, Balfour Beatty to identify specific issues and remedial works; PC investigate property protection; EA/HC provide guidance for consistent recording and monitoring of flood events
- EA can provide letter that can be passed to insurance company – but if at risk it will say so. Contact details for this are email SHWGenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk or ring 03708 506506 and ask for Herefordshire customer enquiries team – request as much information as is available including any threshold levels for individual properties and available modelled flood levels.

Various issues were noted during the question and answer session including:

1. Insurance – resident has found insurer that would provide general insurance but not flood cover but has saved money as not flooded
2. Flood Re scheme – should come into effect in July, EA not in position to say what impact scheme will have but can provide accurate information to give to insurers
3. EA can provide list to PC of properties that have threshold levels, so PC can consider whether to fund levels on other at risk properties; physical measurement of where water first enters but not the whole story as might come round back of property
4. Property level protection – doors/gates depends on property, some need to be put in place, others stay all time; consider neighbourhood support if away
5. Anticipated drainage survey will be done in next few months – some issues highlighted eg. blockages on River Arrow, danger of shifting problem downstream, need solutions not long discussions with landowners
6. Issue of difficulty in getting permission from EA highlighted by landowner – EA say can remove detritus/debris without permission, trying to take pragmatic approach

7. Problems of pooling by Stephens Cottage, south side of School Lane acts as sponge – recent work on recreation ground ditch noted
8. Risk of septic tanks overflowing, why no mains drainage as increasing health risk?
9. Water in Southall's Brook cannot get away quick enough – need to increase flow by reducing level of brook, need to reroute so not under Broad Bridge, but so flat that won't be able to sort out everything and major work more difficult to fund
10. Concern that nothing done following meeting 6 years ago to look at flooding issues – but agreement that way forward is now to work together
11. Noted that living on flood plain one cannot fight nature
12. Problems of access/egress including for emergency services still an issue today
13. Depth of flooding at west end can be metre deep and running at 4 miles/hour
14. People still ignore warning signs and continue when shouldn't
15. Thanks given to residents for supplying information for the report
16. EA feels PLP has most potential, more people who are interested, the lower the cost. EA/HC can help guide through process and funding.

Noted that the Clerk will advertise dates for drainage survey so residents can give her details of particular points that should be looked at.

Summary: Cllr Hanson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.