

# CHARLTON PARISH COUNCIL FLOODING WORKING GROUP

Notes of a meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008 in The Old Schoolroom, Charlton.

**Present:**

Cllr Brian Browne (acting chair)  
Cllr Mrs Freddie Jack  
Cllr Mike Wood  
Roger Davies  
Roy Stevens  
Bob Holloway  
Derek Arnold

**Apologies:**

Cllr Ted Grazier

**1. Terms of reference and constitution.**

The Flooding Working Group was a Parish Council led partnership with the local Flooding action Group and Charlton residents to share information concerning progress in reducing risk of flooding in Charlton and other related matters.

It would comprise Parish Councillors (initially 4), Flooding Action Group members (initially 3) and other residents (initially 1). Constitution can be altered in conjunction with the Parish Council.

**2. Footbridge.**

WCC Alan Kingston's e-mail to Brian Browne and attachments of 30 July were discussed (see appendix (a)). Alan Kingston had agreed with Roger Gurney that WCC owned the footbridge and were responsible for its maintenance and any modification or replacement. The detail design of hand rails and appearance of a new bridge was expected to be discussed with the Flooding Working Group.

**3. EA's Autumn programme and Report On Charlton Flooding.**

- David Norman's e-mail to Brian Browne of 28 July (see appendix (b)) was considered. His initial report should be with us by the end of August or in September. The Flooding action Group will meet to consider his report when received.
- The Autumn programme was described by EA as "tree work" in the section upstream of Canada bank bridge. The Group felt that more than just trees should be covered as there a number of known possible restrictions to flow in this section. The EA engineer, Bill Garrad, has "spoken with many of the residents" concerning the work to be done (and post our meeting has said that EA will do "heavier maintenance" downstream of the Gardener's Arms).

**4. WDC Flood Data Sheets.**

- i. Tony Jones' (WDC's Engineering Consultancy Manager) letter and attachments to the Parish Council of 24<sup>th</sup> July was considered (see appendix (c)). The following points were made: (to be advised to WDC by the Parish Council - BBB)
- ii. The number of properties flooded on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2007 were as advised by Charlton PC, not the lower figure of Wychmaps. The drawing W/842/19/1 omitted a number of flooded properties WDC to be advised
- iii. The WDC sheets state that there were no sewer problems, but at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the STW representative stated that their pumping station was flooded, and residents had

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- sewerage back up in their homes.
- iv. It was noted that actions 1-6 and 8 were all concerned with road drainage, and not the main water course.
  - v. Road drainage in Ryden Lane and Top Street causes flooding due to the road level in Brook lane being below the bridge deck on both north and south sides of the bridge. EA have suggested relief channels to drain the low level areas.
  - vi. All 3 road bridges and the footbridge were overtopped on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007. On 9<sup>th</sup> April 1998 only Brook Lane bridge ( and possibly the footbridge) was overtopped.
  - vii. We understand that EA are the drainage authority for the Merry Brook from the River Avon to somewhere east of The Bight, but exactly where WDC take over is not precisely known to Charlton PC.
  - viii. EA have yet to do maintenance on the section upstream of Canada Bank bridge. We understand that this is to commence during August 2008. (also see main section 3 above)
  - ix. On 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007 the STW sewerage pumping station was flooded. (see notes of meeting at Charlton 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008).
  - x. Many residents affected by the July 2007 flooding have installed flood barriers. What is now required is a flood warning system to alert them to erect their barriers, and to assist with property owners who are absent from Charlton and those who cannot erect barriers without assistance.
  - xi. The rainfall over 24 hours of 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007 was above 5 inches, on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1998 it was around 4 inches. This indicates that 24 hour rainfall in excess of 3 inches puts properties at risk. The probability of this is not 1 in 400, or 1 in 100 years, but twice in 9 years. This should be the basis of flood risk reduction measures.
  - xii. It was agreed that we should obtain the flood hight reached in all affected properties in July 2007, and in April 1998 (if possible). This data was then to be put onto a map of Charlton (BBB).

## 5. Home Flooding Insurance renewal

Of those present who were flooded, 4 had been able to renew flooding cover, but with higher excess values. One member however had had a 100% increase in premium. The Parish Council had responded to requests from residents for letters supporting a request to review a decision by insurers not to cover flooding. The PC would like to know if residents had then been successful, and what the Environment Agency letter had said. (all other details are residents private information). This problem would continue to be monitored by the PC.

## 6. Next Meeting

To be arranged as and when required, e.g. when the EA report is received.

## Appendices.

- a) E-mail from Alan Kingston (WCC) to Brian Browne dated 30 July 2008.
- b) E-mail from David Norman (EA) to Brian Browne dated 28 July 2008.
- c) Letter and attachments from Tony Jones (WDC) to Charlton Parish Council dated 24 July 2008.

B B Browne  
20 August 2008