

**ROCHFORD DISTRICT FORUM FOR SURFACE WATER FLOODING ISSUES
NOTES OF MEETING HELD 2 OCTOBER 2017**

Rochford District Councillors: Cllrs T G Cutmore, G Ioannou, Mrs J R Lumley, Mrs C E Roe, Mrs L Shaw, D J Sperring, C M Stanley, M J Steptoe and I H Ward.

Other Agencies: R Baranowski (Essex County Council Highways (ECCH)), M Cottage (ECCH), C Box (Anglian Water), B Crittenden (AW), K Johnson (Sanctuary Housing Association), M Fordham (Sanctuary Housing Association)

Officers: S Scrutton (RDC Managing Director), R Tatton-Bennett (RDC Principal Engineer) and M Power (RDC Minutes)

Agenda Item	Key observations
Apologies	Apologies were received from Cllr C I Black.
Minutes	The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2017 were agreed as a correct record.
Completed Schemes	<p>The following schemes have been completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 92 Trinity Road – ECCH has installed an enlarged gully. • Sweyne Park/Sweyne School – Flood alleviation scheme works being carried out by ECC Flood Team. (RTB to provide Cllr Stanley with detailed information on the works after the meeting.) • 20 Marylands Avenue, Hockley – Flooding to property from public highway – a gully installed to connect with the existing gully. • Warwick Close/Warwick Road – drain off Warwick Close – an additional gully installed at the low point to resolve the problem. • Ashingdon Road, Holt Farm and St Teresa’s Primary Schools – vegetation clogging the drains – vegetation removed and new enlarged gullies installed.

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	Essex County Council Flood Team
	<i>Flood Park Magnolia Public Open Space</i> ECC Flood Team liaising with AW to increase capacity of existing flood park and to undertake maintenance works. The Flood Team intends to start work by the end of 2017/18 as there is budget available. C Box (AW) to confirm.
	Essex County Council Highways (ECCH)
Laburnum Way, Rayleigh	<i>ECC working on the redesign of the culvert.</i> This is a Local Highways Panel scheme for 2018/19, subject to a maintenance agreement with the private landowner. (The gulley is jointly owned by ECCH and the private landowner.) The issue could be alleviated in the short-term prior to onset of winter.
Eastwood Rise, Rayleigh	<i>ECCH clearance of gullies and channel servicing the surfaced carriageway.</i> ECCH does not have responsibility for maintenance of the road. R Baranowski (ECCH) to seek clarification from ECC Legal Department.
Church Road, Hockley	<i>Highway gullies under the railway bridge.</i> Gullies on the hill are blocked - the scheduled cleanse in February did not clear the blockage. The scheme will require road closure and it is hoped to be able to link in with the cyclical cleanse or other scheme to offset the cost of the road works. The scheme should be completed in the coming months. Flooding under the bridge was due to the gratings being covered with debris because of the gullies further up being blocked - the gullies under the bridge are now clear.
Stambridge Road (opposite Little Stambridge Hall Lane)	<i>ECCH to inspect drainage outside property, which is being flooded during heavy rainfall.</i> Resolved. The ditch has been jetted. R Baranowski (ECCH) to clarify the exact location of additional flooding reported by Cllr Ioannou and to advise who has responsibility for this.

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Downhall Road, Rayleigh	<p><i>Kerb stones level with driveways and water runs into properties – ECCH to inspect.</i> Resolved. Works have been undertaken by ECCH Maintenance to raise levels on the kerbs to stop water running into front gardens. Surface dressing works can make it more difficult to maintain the thresholds between the road and the kerb; in such cases, kerbs would need to be raised.</p>
Highway gullies across the District	<p>It was noted that flooding issues rely on a report being made to ECCH and are dealt with by an ad hoc crew. ECCH undertakes a preventative cleanse each February on the primary road network in Rochford. It was confirmed that Ashingdon Road is a primary route in the District, which can be flooded in heavy rain: any blockages should be dealt with as part of the scheduled cleanse. Cllr Mrs Roe advised that she had a list of blocked gullies that had been reported to her – these would be logged on the ECCH website and details would be available with the Minutes (<u>appended</u>).</p> <p>Moons Close, Ashingdon. RTB advised that he had attended the site a number of times in the rain. The gullies are clear but there is a depression in the carriageway, particularly along the kerb way, which creates ponding.</p> <p>Temple Gate Cottages, Sutton Road Farm Cottages, blocked gullies - R Baranowski (ECCH) to visit the site.</p>
	<p>Anglian Water Authority (AWA)</p>
24 High Road, Hockley	<p><i>Works scheduled to repair section to ensure tree roots won't grow back. Completed.</i></p>
	<p>Rochford District Council (RDC)</p>
Oak Road, Rochford	<p><i>RDC to discuss with ECC Legal request for permission by residents to access the ditch at the rear of their properties via Ironwell Lane. RTB to provide an update at the next meeting.</i></p>
Hockley County Primary School	<p><i>Blockage to surface water pipe causing ditch to back up and flood Footpath 11, Hockley. A price had been obtained for the jetting work. The delay had been due to the need for permission</i></p>

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	from the school to access the pipe, which is located under the school playing field.
Old London Road, Fairglen Interchange, Rawreth	<i>Flooding of the balancing pond. RTC to check who has responsibility.</i> This has not been progressed – will remain on the Agenda.
	Environment Agency (EA)/Private Landowners
Barling Creek/Kimberley Road Ditch	(Cllr Steptoe declared an interest in this item as the ditch runs into his garden.) The footpath running between Kimberley Road and Little Waking Road is maintained by ECCH. ECC does not have legal responsibility for the ditch – there is a need to establish who has responsibility for ongoing maintenance. <u>Post meeting note:</u> EA Operations Team have confirmed that the screen over the existing tide flap has been removed due to debris build up some while ago. There is a duckbill flap valve awaiting fitting. Any upstream screen/grill fitted by Rochford District Council would be beneficial.
	Private Landowners
Nelson Road, Rayleigh	<i>RDC has been in contact with the farmer, who has arranged for the works to be carried out very shortly.</i> The farmer has confirmed that the works will be completed before winter sets in. A notice can be served if necessary (RTB)
Fairmead, Rayleigh	<i>Recent obstruction to 'U' channel cleared by RDC. Vegetation clearance required by land owner, Sanctuary Housing.</i> AW cleared this two weeks ago. Sanctuary has an SLA agreement with EA that includes regular inspection and a twice-yearly maintenance programme in April and October by Sanctuary Housing. This was not done in April 2017 but will be carried out imminently. A consultant has been engaged to install replacement screens. Sanctuary has responsibility for maintenance of the ditch where the earth banks. AW owns and maintains the footpath next to the

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	concrete U channel. It has not been possible to identify legal ownership of the U Channel via land registry; it was likely to have been installed by the developers of the estate in the 1970s. The Sweyne Park holding tank feeds into it. The section between 6-8 Fairmead is constantly overgrown with vegetation because of the speed of the flow of water.
Glebe Drive, Rayleigh	<i>Flooding to residential property rear gardens and school playing field.</i> AW advised that a large surface water sewer that discharges into the ditch is part blocked, which floods the properties and the Glebe County playing field. The school has given consent to do the work at a cost of £2,235. The Flood Forum agreed to fund the works from its budget (it was noted that it is hoped to reclaim the cost from ECC). The school will be responsible for on-going maintenance of the scheme.
Milton Close/Bramfield Road East (Nobles Green)	<i>'V' shape channel, vegetation growth.</i> The culvert was cleared 2-3 years previously, but excessive vegetation has grown back. A quote of £2,850 to clear the vegetation had been received. The Flood Forum agreed to fund the works from its budget but would make representation to ECC via the Flood Team to reclaim this cost.
Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>4 and 6 Stambridge Road, jt with Rocheway and Weir Pond Road.</i> Due to the camber of the road, water misses the gully and flows into the forecourt. ECCH to inspect. • <i>73 Broadwalk, Hockley – gullies blocked, flooding gardens.</i> This is a long standing issue. Two Highway gullies drain out to a ditch, which effectively has disappeared. The possibility of re-routing the gullies would be examined. RTB to liaise with ECCH. <u>To be added to the Agenda.</u> • <i>School Way, Plough and Sail Paglesham.</i> Anglian Water investigated and passed information to ECCH, who will pursue. The problem lies with the soakaway, which, although pumped out and may have previously drained to a pond nearby, which may have been filled in. It has been difficult to find a solution to the problem but ECC are looking to clear out but possible to put new soakaway in. The owner of the Plough and Sail pub will be advised.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AW advised that there was no firm agreement as to when the budget would be available for the proposed capital expenditure works to the pumping station in Grove Road. Grove Road is in a dip, so often has a problem with flooding in times of heavy rain. 175 houses have been affected previously. RTB to liaise with AW.• Laburnum Way put forward for funding in 2017/18. The ditch outside the shops in London Road has not been cleared. Ditch runs full length. Water doesn't come from school but into London Road. Runs parallel with London Road. It is with the LHP. ECCH has re-inspected the ditch recently and will arrange clearance – approximately 6 weeks.• Faimead, Rayleigh. Sanctuary consultants have been investigating to clean out the channel. The flood park holding area behind Fairmead has had a build up of silt, so there is a need to speed up the flow. The flood park itself very rarely takes water. RTB to check construction of the holding area and liaise with Sanctuary to arrange vegetation clearance.• <i>Fairglen Interchange</i>. RTB and ECCH to continue efforts to arrange a site visit with the resident.• <i>Car parks on football pitches</i>. The development does not comply with greenfield run off. Rayleigh Boys Football Club has breached planning rules; this has been referred to the Council's Planning department for enforcement.• <i>Bellway Estate, water course from Fairmead to Rawreth Brook</i>. In terms of responsibility for maintenance, the original developers would have passed on ownership. RTB to try to establish to whom it was passed.
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The meeting started at 10 am and ended at 11.10 am.

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APPENDIX

Blocked gullies reported

Corner of Warwick Road/Trinity Road
Outside 68 Trinity Road
Both corners of Church Road/Trinity Road
Church Road 3,31a,43,67,60
Corner of Church Road/The Chase
87 Grove Road, both sides
10 Grove Road
Corner Queens Road and Parklands
Corner Kings Road and Parklands
19 Trinity Road
Corner of Leslie Road and Trinity Road
Corner of The Chase and Leslie Road
Leslie Road 2a, 23a, 32, 55
4 and 36 Broad Oak Way
69 Queens Road
30 Kings Road, both sides.

Prevention of water flow due to weeds at the side of the road

The Chase
Trinity Road
Grove Road
Broad Oak Way.