

**ROCHFORD DISTRICT FORUM FOR SURFACE WATER FLOODING ISSUES
NOTES OF MEETING HELD 8 MARCH 2018**

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), R Webster (EA)

Officers: R Tatton-Bennett (RDC Principal Engineer), J Stacey (Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Officer) and M Power (RDC Minutes)

Agenda Item	Key observations
Apologies	Apologies were received from Cllr R Milne and M Harwood-White (Assistant Director, Commercial Services).
Minutes	The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2017 were agreed as a correct record, subject to noting the amendment to the completed item Fairmead, Rayleigh that RDC, not AW, had cleared the obstruction.
Completed Schemes	<p>The following schemes had been completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sweyne Park/Sweyne School – Flood alleviation scheme – works completed by the ECC Flood Team using grant money. The design in respect of Sweyne School, when finalised, will address the issue of the boundary with the school allowing excess water running down the London Road to access the site. RTB advised that ECC would be contacted if the recently seeded area, which had been damaged in the recent bad weather, needed to be reinstated. The situation would be monitored. ○ 24 High Road, Hockley – works to repair section to ensure tree roots won't grow back – completed. Preventative jetting of the gully outside the property had been carried out and the situation would continue to be monitored.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nelson Road, Rayleigh – works completed. ○ Fairmead, Rayleigh – Obstruction to ‘U’ channel cleared by RDC and vegetation cleared by land owner, Sanctuary Housing – completed. ○ Glebe Drive, Rayleigh – flooding to residential property rear gardens and school playing field – works completed. ECC would be approached to try to reclaim the cost of works. ○ Downhall Road, Rayleigh – kerb stones level with driveways and water runs into properties – kerb levels have been raised - resolved. <p>ECCH advised that an additional amount of funding had been allocated for ad hoc cleansing of local roads (in addition to the cyclical cleansing programme.)</p>
	<p>Essex County Council Flood Team</p>
	<p><i>Flood Park Magnolia Public Open Space (ROC7)</i></p> <p>Phase 1 - ECC to carry out works; however, on hold currently because of great crested newts habitat. Need to demonstrate the newts can be adequately protected, to enable works to be undertaken. Interim signage would be erected. RTB to establish date for commencement of works.</p> <p>Phase 2 in design stage.</p>
	<p>Essex County Council Highways (ECCH)</p>
<p>Laburnum Way, Rayleigh</p>	<p><i>ECC working on the redesign of the culvert.</i></p> <p>This is a Local Highways Panel scheme, with Rochford District Council involvement. Funding has been allocated for scheme design in 2018/19 and will be on the LHP agenda for its 22 March</p>

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	<p>meeting. Liaison meeting held with Rawreth Flood Action Group to discuss design.</p> <p>Cllr Stanley advised that no action had been taken to clear the ditch. Cllr Steptoe would liaise with the Chairman of the LHP about the scheme. The original remit of the design of the culvert had been broadened and other aspects of the design were being considered. In the interim, the ditch needed to be cleared. ECC was currently in negotiation with landowner 'Greenbelt' to clear the culvert once every year; Greenbelt could be advised of issues raised by residents. There was a suggestion that the problem might lie with a broken pipe, which could only be identified by digging out the ditch. There was concern that if the banks were to be raised, there could be further flooding for the housing estate. The concerns relating to the scheme expressed by the Rawreth Flood Action Group would be reported back to the Flood Team who would be asked to contact the Action Group.</p>
Eastwood Rise, Rayleigh	<p><i>ECCH clearance of gullies and channel servicing the surfaced carriageway.</i></p> <p>Private road – ECCH does not have responsibility for maintenance of the road. With ECC Legal team.</p>
Church Road, Hockley	<p><i>Highway gullies under the railway bridge.</i></p> <p>ECCH would arrange for the gullies on the hill to be cleared. The road would need to be closed so that the entire system in this area could be cleared; it was anticipated that the works would take two to three days. The area would be pre-signed. In respect of Fountain Lane, which runs into Church Road, the pipe from the railway bridge that discharges from that point exacerbates the issue of flooding during periods of heavy rain.</p>
Church Road, Rawreth	<p><i>Since road resurfacing there had been reports of deterioration of water flow, causing increased flooding into properties on one side of the road.</i></p> <p>ECCH had inspected the site but there had been no issues visible. The area would be jetted again. The change in the camber of the road resulted in water running into front gardens from the bridge onwards. ECCH would clear the gullies and investigate the camber of the road.</p>

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<p>Stambridge Road (opposite Little Stambridge Hall Lane)</p>	<p><i>ECCH to inspect drainage outside property, which is being flooded during heavy rainfall.</i></p> <p>ECCH to speak to Cllr Ioannou to establish the exact location. (Cllr Ioannou declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of living in Little Stambridge Hall Lane.)</p>
<p>Highway gullies across the District</p>	<p>Debris in gullies should be dealt with by the clearance team. Specific issues could be passed on to be dealt with. Gullies along A127 are dealt with separately – Cllr Ward to be advised of the last time it was done and when next it would be cleared. Principal roads dealt with yearly. Other roads were not part of the cyclical gulley clearance but cleared by an ad hoc gulley team unit that operates all year.</p>
<p>Paglesham Soakaway</p>	<p><i>Maintenance upgrade.</i></p> <p>Residents wanted to know when an upgrade to the soakaway would be undertaken. The soakaway was cleared in January, which improved the situation to an extent. The situation will be looked at again and monitored. Cllr Ioannou to report any further issues on the ECCH website.</p>
<p>Warwick Close/Warwick Road</p>	<p>Drain off Warwick Close – an additional gully installed at the low point.</p> <p>ECCH to investigate the report that Warwick Road (from Trinity Road to the Chase) is sinking and has a crack, which may indicate that there is an issue underneath the road.</p> <p>Cllr Ward would provide a list after the meeting of other roads in the area that appeared to have issues following resurfacing works by ECCH.</p>
<p>Temple Gate Cottages, Sutton Road Ford Cottages</p>	<p>Blocked gullies.</p> <p>ECCH had visited the site but found no issues. The gulley could be jetted if the blockage persisted. RTB to investigate the depression on the carriage way.</p>

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4 and 6 Stambridge Road, jt with Rocheway and Weir Pond Road.	ECCH to look at putting another gully in or raising the kerb. There may be a capacity issue.
73 Broadwalk, Hockley	Gullies blocked, gardens flooded. Gullies appeared to be working but it seemed that the discharge point had disappeared. RTB to liaise with Dave Chapman to reinstate the ditch.
Old London Road/Fairglen Interchange, Rawreth	Balancing pond flooding. RTB to contact residents, then arrange a site visit with ECCH and Rawreth Flood Group. (The consultation on the new routes next to the Fairglen Interchange finishes on 20 March.)
	Rochford District Council (RDC)
Oak Road, Rochford	<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.</i> RTB had reviewed the situation but had no response from ECC Legal. The situation will continue to be monitored.
Hockley County Primary School	<i>Blockage to surface water pipe causing ditch to back up and flood Footpath 11, Hockley.</i> Works likely to take place during the summer school holiday period following confirmation of permission of the school to access the pipe, which is located under the school playing field.

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	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.) EA have fitted the duckbill flap valve on the outlet side. A contractor would be fitting an upstream grill on the inlet side during the coming week. RTB to contact landowner regarding the ongoing maintenance of the ditch and bank.
Monitoring of water levels in waterways, culverts, drains by electronic sensors	A Councillor had requested information on options for electronic monitoring of water levels; a link to the appropriate part of the EA website could be sent to him. There is an EA electronic gauge in the Eastwood Brook by Rayleigh Weir to monitor flows. Culverts are monitored electronically, which is useful in identifying potential areas where flooding may occur.
	Private Landowners
Milton Close/Bramfield Road East (Nobles Green)	<i>'V' shape channel, vegetation growth.</i> RDC has cleared the channel and it seems to be flowing well. The situation will continue to be monitored.
Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drainage ditch from Maryland Nature Reserve, Plumberow Play Space to Plumberow Mount has been cleared by the landowner. • Webster's Way, Rayleigh – the rain drain at the pelican crossing was not collecting water properly, resulting in puddles forming on the public highway. ECCH to investigate. • Residents were pleased with the clearance work to the ditch in London Road, Rayleigh (in front of the shops). (Cllr Mrs Lumley declared an interest in this item by virtue of living nearby.) • Highcliff Crescent to Moons Close at the pedestrian crossing - there is flooding onto the carriageway and then onto the pavement. Pedestrians are getting soaked when cars travel along the road in times of heavy rain. This situation has been ongoing for years. An ad hoc crew

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	<p>would be sent to jet the gully, which is under water, to try to establish the cause. (Cllr Cutmore declared an interest in this item by virtue of living in Highcliff Crescent.) Cllr Cutmore had reported the issue of standing water to ECCH the previous week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bridge at Church Road, Rawreth – water spilling over the top of the bridge. The issue has been passed to the Structures Team as part of a larger modelling suitability of the bridge. EA to meet with the Structures Team later this month where the issue would be brought to their attention.• The Ridings, Southend Road, Rochford – the bellmouth has constant water running through it. RTB to contact Essex and Suffolk Water to establish cause.• Greensward Lane, Hockley. Slippery Road signs - ECCH to visit. An AW water surface line runs along the road but there is no foul sewer in this stretch. AW had received permission from the resident to undertake works to alleviate the situation and had contacted ECCH. AW to jet this section of road. The situation is ongoing and an update will be provided at the next meeting. AW to liaise with RTB.• There is water running towards Hullbridge at the bottom of Hambro Hill near the bus stop. RTB to liaise with Essex & Suffolk Water.• A resident reported that In 2012 and 2015 ditches had been dug out but had not been done since. Land belongs to the Parish Council and Mr Philpot. The land is not draining away and the whole of the garden to the property on the east side of Church Road is under water. This could be passed to the Parish Council, who could apply for a grant from ECC for protection to the property. <p>The Forum offered its thanks to Richard Tatton-Bennett and other representatives for all the work they had done.</p>
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The meeting started at 10 am and ended at 11.40 am.