

**ROCHFORD DISTRICT FORUM FOR SURFACE WATER FLOODING ISSUES
NOTES OF MEETING HELD 18 OCTOBER 2016**

Rochford District Councillors: Cllrs T G Cutmore, B T Hazlewood, 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), D Chapman, (Delivery and Enforcement officer ECC), C Box (Anglian Water), B Crittenden (AW), R Webster (Environment Agency (EA)), D Perry (Essex County Fire and Rescue Service)

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

Agenda Item	Key observations
Minutes	The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2016 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment to the wording on page 8, which should read: 'Water runs off the Eastwood Road and onto The Croft' (rather than Grove Road as is stated in the Minutes).
Matters Arising from the Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwick Close/Warwick Road – work started this morning on the extra gully. Although not part of the current works, ECCH would arrange for the drain opposite Warwick Close, which appeared to be dropping, to be inspected. (ECCH) • The Croft – water running off the Eastwood Road. ECCH have inspected the road and visited the site again this morning: the resident would be asked to correspond directly with R Baranowski at ECH. There is a possibility of enlarging the gully at the mouth of the road to capture more water at the top of the road. At the front of one of the properties at the far end of the Croft block paving has been put in, which allows water to flow onto the property. • 92 Trinity Road – AW will upgrade the sewer in 2021. It was noted that property owners have a responsibility to take measures to protect their own property against flooding. There may be grants available for works such as these. ECCH to look at installing an extra gully or enlarging the existing gully.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11-17 Marina Avenue. ECCH advised that the gullies have been jetted and are now running clearly. It had been established that there was no evidence of misuse (by way of disposing of kitchen fats) by the Travellers Joy pub. Four of the properties have dropped kerbs, which results in a risk during periods of heavy rain of flooding to their frontages. • A site visit to Dalys Road has established that jetting of the drains needs to be undertaken. Works have been arranged but there are delays due to the extensive traffic management needed.
Completed Schemes	<p>RTB provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works to the rear of Rectory Avenue, Hawkwell - discussions with AW about flood park. • Apex Corner playing fields/nature reserve, Hockley – works to commence 24 October.
Flood Alleviation Scheme in Rayleigh West and Sweyne Park and Sweyne Park School Presentation	<p>The Forum received a presentation by Dave Chapman, Essex County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority.</p> <p>Mr Chapman outlined the schemes, which fall within the Rochford 1 Critical Drainage Area (CDA): Phase one: the Sweyne Park School and Phase two: Sweyne Park.</p> <p>Both phases require planning permission and are currently being validated now by ECC. The planning references on the ECC website are as follows:</p> <p>Phase 1 Sweyne Park School - PP05536820 Phase 2 Sweyne Park - PP05537096</p>

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Sweyne Park School – Phase one. The scheme is designed so that, at times of heavy rainfall, water is captured upstream and diverted from the school and attenuated onto the playing field. There will be a bund on the border of the school, which will allow the flow of water to drain through the ground and into the pipe system at a controlled rate. ECC is working with the school to make sure there is no loss of school facilities (sports pitches etc).

In response to questions, the following was noted:

- The system will be gravity fed.
- Surface water will be captured in London Road, Rayleigh and diverted into the attenuation area in the playing field of the school.
- The water will be stored for a maximum of 48 hours before the playing field reverts to its original state. D Chapman would confirm what the design standards are in respect of how long water should be stored once diverted for it to be effective in reducing flooding. (D Chapman)

Sweyne Park – Phase 2. The capacity of the existing pond will be increased to 10,000m³ of attenuated water when the scheme is complete. During heavy periods of rainfall, water attenuated will take a maximum of three hours to come back into the system.

In response to questions, the following was noted:

- There was concern that by diverting water away from Rawreth Brook the likelihood of flooding of Fairmead and the old EON site will be increased. D Chapman advised that water will be allowed into the Park and then into a stream, which should relieve the risk of flooding to the properties in the area. Fairmead has two large attenuation ponds that store water before it goes into the brook.

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- EA investigations have shown that if Rawreth Brook were to be dug out, there is potential for extra capacity initially; however, it is likely that this would be lost over time.
- The EA is responsible for monitoring the water course through the park as it is a main river and RDC, as the landowner, has the responsibility for maintaining the water course.
- The area will be landscaped once it is completed.
- ECC will not adopt the system and will not have responsibility for maintenance. However, as there will be no mechanical structures, there should be no additional maintenance required. RDC will retain its current level of responsibility for maintenance.
- Measures will be taken to protect the ducks currently living in the pond. ECC has undertaken a survey and ascertained that there would be only a minimal increase in capacity for water storage if the existing pond were to be dug out and weeds removed. There would also be ecology constraints. The proposed scheme has been acknowledged as the most effective available option. There is additional information on the planning application on the ECC website.
- The works will increase the capacity for water to be stored for an increased time in periods of heavy rainfall. The volume of water coming from the ponds will not be increased, so an increase in the amount of silt running into the system from the ponds is unlikely to be seen. RDC have removed weed growth periodically but the pond has not been completely dug out since its construction. The pond could be added to the maintenance regime. It would be difficult to estimate whether clearing the pond will reduce the amount of siltation, which currently is minimal. The area will not be in constant operation: only in times of high levels of rainfall.

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	Essex County Council Highways (ECCH)
Laburnum Way, Rayleigh	<p><i>ECC working on the redesign of the culvert.</i></p> <p>This is being dealt with by the ECC design team in liaison with the ECC Flood Team and RDC. A number of schemes have been modelled and being looked at to establish preferred options. The Rochford Local Highways Panel is involved in discussions.</p>
24 High Road, Hockley	<p><i>Capacity of existing surface water systems.</i></p> <p>This is on the AW maintenance schedule for 6-monthly clearance of roots. A recent CCTV survey showed that the roots have come back. AW has decided to repair the section to ensure that the roots won't come through again: there will be a need for traffic management and the works will take place in the next few weeks.</p>
Eastwood Rise, Rayleigh	<p><i>Clearance of gullies and channel serving the surfaced carriageway</i></p> <p>ECC is making progress towards adoption of this road and is looking at the legal issues around this.</p>
High Street, Rayleigh	<p><i>Flooding on pedestrian area adjacent water trough.</i></p> <p>The area has been jetted and cleared and will continue to be monitored; if the problem persists the situation will be re-examined. The difficulty lies in the proximity of utilities and the existence of sub standard piping. At a future date the drainage within the larger system will be looked at as part of Rayleigh Area Action Plan.</p> <p>ECCH have looked at the area just past Bellingham Lane that cuts across the Feathering the Nest shop; downpipes that are not connected may be causing a pooling of water in this location. This is a private area and not the responsibility of ECCH.</p>

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<p>20 Marylands Avenue, Hockley</p>	<p><i>Flooding to property from public highway – ECCH have been contacted</i></p> <p>Works will be undertaken to put in a gully at a low point and connect this with the existing gully – this will be done within 8-12 weeks. (ECCH)</p>
	<p>Anglian Water Authority (AWA)</p>
<p>Flood Park Magnolia Public Open Space</p>	<p><i>AW investigating the situation of clearance works to flood park to restore original capacity.</i></p> <p>A site visit has been scheduled to take place on 16 November to establish the extent of the work that can be undertaken, bearing in mind biodiversity considerations, including the existence of great crested newts in the area.</p>
	<p>Rochford District Council (RDC)</p>
<p>Nobles Green ditch</p>	<p><i>RDC discussed with ECC Flood Team the possibility of a grant for carrying out repair and maintenance works; not eligible as Nobles Green is a classified main river and it is understood the EA are due to do some works. (Note: this is a main river and, as such, maintenance of vegetation is the responsibility of the EA.)</i></p> <p>There is considered to be a danger further up the river of a collapse of the bank, with the result that houses could be flooded. Residents have requested that EA commence a programme of maintenance, though it was also pointed out that the EA limit their works to a height of 1 metre above the level of the river. The responsibility for repair of the bank to prevent a collapse and a major flood needs to be established.</p> <p>Cllr Sperring advised that at a meeting of the Essex Partnership for Flood Management, which took place the previous week, the matter was raised with EA, as well as the need for a programme of</p>

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	<p>maintenance. The next meeting of the Partnership will be in January 2017 when a further report will be made by EA. R Webster to contact EA Asset Performance Team to investigate this and report back to Cllr Ward.</p>
	<p>Environment Agency (EA)/Private Landowners</p>
Fairmead, Rayleigh	<p><i>Rawreth Brook maintenance</i></p> <p>EA does an annual cut in August and Sanctuary Housing does a further cut up the banks. The strimmer used mulches the vegetation to prevent blockages; any large blockages will be removed by the EA. Both culverts have been cleared and are now freely flowing.</p>
Barling Creek/Kimberley Road Ditch	<p>EA removed the grille on the gully following a request from RDC. There is now an issue with the valve being blocked by debris and a request that the grille be reinstated. It would need to be established who would pay for the capital works for this and the ongoing maintenance in respect of clearing the grille. It would be confirmed whether this is the responsibility of the riparian land owner.</p> <p>There is also the issue of the bank of the ditch being in disrepair, with a potential of flooding residential properties. RDC can write to riparian landowners to bring to their attention the condition of the bank, which is their responsibility. EA to meet RTB on site.</p>
	<p>Private Landowners</p>
Nelson Road, Rayleigh	<p><i>Farmer agreed to carry out maintenance works to the ditch.</i></p> <p>RTB/resident met on site with the farmer who leases land and who has responsibility for maintenance of the ditch. RTB wrote to all residents to advise of the vegetation clearance. Work has not yet been completed and the farmer has been contacted again to advise that the work needs to be done as soon as possible. RTB to continue dialogue with the farmer.</p>

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<p>Briar Close, Hawkwell</p>	<p><i>Condition of the ditch, maintenance required – riparian ownership</i></p> <p>RTB to liaise with ECC Flood Team regarding submitting a grant bid for excavation works to clear out the ditch.</p>
<p>Any other business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of Oak Road Rochford want to put a ditch at the rear of their properties and would like permission to go across to the Ironwell Lane pipe. Ironwell Lane is an unadopted highway: RTB to discuss with ECC Legal. • Paglesham, near the Plough & Sail pub. The soakaway installed is not doing its job and properties to the right of the pub have been in danger of being flooded. ECCH advised that although it has been regularly jetted, the soakaway cannot cope with heavy rain. A surface water alleviation grant could be applied for from ECC where highway flooding is damaging property, although there were very few properties that would be affected. ECCH/RDC to discuss. • It was noted that the EA did not use weed killer to clear vegetation from main rivers: the EA Water Quality team would provide recommendations for non chemical weed removal products. • Hockley County Primary School. The public footpath is flooded due to blocked surface water pipe under school playing field. RTB to liaise with school. • Church Road, Hockley. The highway gullies under the railway bridge are filled up with stones. ECCH to inspect. • Murrells Lane, Hockley – there are parts of the drainage ditch that are blocked. RTB to

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	<p>investigate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stambridge Road, opposite Little Stambridge Hall Lane. Drainage outside property is not working so that during heavy rainfall, water can run down the driveway into the house. ECCH to inspect.• Ashingdon Road, Holt Farm and St Teresa's Primary Schools – vegetation clogging the drains. ECCH to inspect.• Warwick Green – ECCH have checked the gullies and the pipework is clear: nothing further can be done.• Downhall Road, Rayleigh (in the dip before the road rises to Sheriton Court) - kerb stones are level with driveways and water runs into the properties before road. The road has been resurfaced and this would be part of the maintenance works. ECCH would inspect.• Old London Road, Fairglen interchange, Rawreth - flooding of the balancing ponding. RTB to check who has responsibility.
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The meeting started at 11 am and ended at 12.35 pm.