

## COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019

### ITEM NO: 11 – Update Report of the Flooding Working Group

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#### 1. Summary:

- i) This report has been prepared to inform fellow councillors of the current progress in the Flooding Working Group's consideration of the December 2018 Hampshire County Council (HCC) draft Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Report for Copythorne.
- ii) The Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Report for Copythorne has been issued by HCC in its newly defined role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), taking over completely the role that was previously the responsibility, in our parish area, of the New Forest District Council (NFDC).
- iii) It should be noted that there is no change to the responsibility that the Environment Agency has in regards to watercourse defined as main rivers.

#### 2. Information previously circulated:

- i) At the end of January, the following details were circulated either directly by the working group or by the Clerk and therefore as all Parish Councillors should have access to them, they will not be reissued at the meeting:
  - a. Agenda for the Flooding Working Group meeting on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019;
  - b. Notes of the meeting of the Flooding Working Group on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019;
  - c. Full minutes of the 2014 and 2015 Annual Parish Meetings (APM);
  - d. Comments received on the current limited distribution of the draft HCC flood report;
  - e. Correspondence with HCC since July 2017 on the subject of historic flooding in the Parish of Copythorne;
  - f. A compendium of the full slide presentation given at the 2014 APM and finally,
  - g. A schedule of comments and matters that the working group considered required initial clarification from HCC.
- ii) No further meeting of the Flooding Working Group has been held.
- iii) The February Parish Council newsletter contained the following article:

#### *Flooding Update*

**Copythorne - Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Investigation Report** has been received from Hampshire County Council (HCC), as the lead local flood authority. The report principally addresses the flooding event that occurred in 2013-14, reviews actions taken and considers if any further actions are required. If you wish to receive a copy of this report, please contact the Parish Clerk (contact details below).

The Parish Council's Flooding Working Party will report to the Parish Council's March meeting.

#### 3. Details of Request to Hampshire County Council on draft report:

- i) On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018 the following was sent to the HCC team dealing with the draft report:

"A meeting of the Copythorne Parish Council's Flooding working group took place last Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January to consider an initial response to your report.

Please therefore find attached the following:-

1. A list of questions that the group would like you to respond to. It is hoped that the commentary before each question will assist in your understanding the reason for the question being submitted to you.
2. A copy of the Bartley Flood Relief Scheme should be attached. However, this is a very large document - 23MB - and I am having problems so it will be necessary to send it to you in sections.
3. Condensed details of the slide presentation given at the Council's APM on 14th March 2015."
- ii) To give complete understanding to the progress with HCC on this report the full list of questions that were finally submitted is given in the next section.

#### **4. Comments/Matters Arising on which clarification is required from Hampshire County Council:**

(The following is unabridged transcripts of the details accompany the email to Jemima Phipps of HCC on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019.)

1. This report concentrates on Copythorne Village rather than Copythorne Parish as a whole. As stated clearly on the Parish Council website, Copythorne civil parish covers the communities of Bartley, Cadnam, Copythorne, Newbridge, Ower and Winsor (since 1894).

#### **What were the terms of reference for this study and can this information be made available to the Parish Council?**

2. In section 2.1 Lead Local Flood Authority, Hampshire County Council, on page 6 the following opening statement is made:  
*"Hampshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) is responsible for managing the risk of flooding from groundwater, surface water (rainfall) run-off, and ordinary watercourses. The LLFA also has powers to enforce maintenance on ordinary watercourses to ensure that they remain functional. The County Council assumed the role of the LLFA under the terms of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. In May 2013, Hampshire County Council (HCC) produced the Hampshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (HLFRMS), Document 3 – Action Plan. This ranked various sites in the county according to flood risk based on, amongst other things, groundwater and the Environment Agency (EA) Flood Map for Surface Water. **Copythorne South (which includes Copythorne village)** received a High ranking with the sixth highest risk in the county for groundwater and 52<sup>nd</sup> for the EA Flood Map.*

*In accordance with this ranking, a specific action plan was detailed in the HLFRMS for Copythorne South. The action plan covered the ward of Ashurst, Copythorne South and Netley Marsh, and identified historic flood activity as well as measures already taken to reduce risk, and future plans. The action plan highlighted the role of the County Council, Southern Water, Environment Agency, District Council and residents. "*

#### **Can you please confirm that Copythorne Village, which is the clear focus of this report, DOES NOT reside within Copythorne South but is, as a matter of indisputable fact, within the Copythorne North ward?**

3. Again in section 2.1 Lead Local Flood Authority, Hampshire County Council, on page 6 the following statement is also made:

*"In November 2012<sup>2</sup>, Hampshire County Council (HCC) presented an update on the consultation on local flooding issues at Copythorne Parish Council's planning meeting. Minutes from this meeting indicate a discussion on HCC's planned Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and the responsibility of the County Council as the lead authority for managing local flood risk.*

*2 13 November 2012 – Planning Meeting"*

The following is an abstract from the minutes of this Copythorne Parish Council meeting (held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012):

**"96. HAVE YOUR SAY ON FLOODING IN HAMPSHIRE**

*Pete Errington, Strategic Planning Manager Hampshire County Council, gave a presentation on the consultation on local flooding issues. County Councils and Unitary Authorities were now the lead authorities for managing local flood risks in their respective areas. Their duties included investigating significant flooding events, compiling a register of publicly-owned flood risk assets and preparing a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. There were no additional resources for these responsibilities and HCC would be reliant on external grant funding. **The new strategy would therefore be the basis for future funding bids and the focus would be on preparing detailed action plans for the top 20 highest risk areas in the county. In this context, Copythorne South Ward was rated 8th and Copythorne North Ward 163rd.** The aim was to adopt the new strategy early in 2013 but much ongoing work was required to update flood plans etc. In this respect the co-operation of the Environment Agency was needed to compile the information. Councillor Mans offered to assist in this exercise."*

**Can you please confirm that Copythorne Village, which is located within Copythorne North, should not be the focus of this report and the clear concentration of this report should be Bartley Village, which is located within the Copythorne South Ward?**

4. Within the Executive Summary on page ii, is the opening bullet point:

*"This investigation of the village of Copythorne was undertaken by Hampshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority to understand the flood event that occurred in 2013-14 and relevant historic occurrences, review actions taken since 2013-14; and consider what, if any, further actions may be required to address residual flood risk"*

The government introduced a flood award scheme that enabled any property owner or group of property owners to apply for a flood resilience grant for which they had to prove that they were flooded internally within a habitable area as a result of the 2013-14 flood event. Flooding in gardens and outbuildings only did not qualify for a grant. This scheme was administered, locally, by New Forest District Council. **The parish of Copythorne received 18 of the 59 grants awarded in the whole of the NFDC area, some 30.5%.** To the best of my knowledge **this distribution was 15 in the South Ward and 3 in the North Ward**, a 80% - 20% split. I have full details of most of the grants awarded but I request that you will independently check these details.

**Can you please confirm that the details related to flood grants awarded as a result of the 2013-14 flooding have been verified and will be included in any future update of the report?**

5. I have, in past correspondence, mentioned the Bartley flood relief scheme report, to inform you of the historic flooding details for Bartley. A copy of the abbreviated DEFRA report, as received following a Freedom of Information request to NFDC on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2005, is appended to this report. The Executive Summary/Recommendations states:

***"In recent years 28 properties within the Bartley Village watercourse catchment have been flooded internally and a further 40 have been affected by external/garden flooding during rainfall events with return periods of less than five years. More extreme events will cause more flooding.***

*The area affected by most flooding falls within land use band B. It is reasonable to try to provide protection for a storm with a return period of 75 years.*

*Options for alleviating the problem are as follows:*

- *The "Do Nothing" option has been considered but is unacceptable.*
- *The "Ongoing Maintenance" option would not make a material difference to the existing inadequacies of the present drainage system and has therefore been discounted.*
- *It is therefore considered that to provide the protection necessary to prevent flooding of property, a scheme be implemented in the form of either flood storage and/or attenuation.*

*The recommended option is the provision of flood storage areas on the branch network upstream of the Village, with partial offline attenuation of the flows arriving at the sensitive areas downstream."*

To date the unacceptable "Do Nothing" option has, by default, been accepted by the competent authorities. Of even more concern is the destruction of all the survey and other data that was collected, at considerable time and expense to the public purse, in connection with this proposal.

**Can you please confirm that the details contained with the Bartley flood relief scheme report are accepted and will be used to inform any further investigations that are undertaken?**

6. I had, even before the flood event that occurred during the winter period 2013-14, collected an extensive library of information which can be made available to you if you are considering revising the details within your report.

As an example - and there are many others - I have condensed the presentation I gave at the Annual Copythorne Parish Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and attach it for your general information. With your limited consideration of the village of Copythorne, without encompassing the wider catchment area, you fail to identify the true problem, being the diameter of the culvert under the M27 motorway. This has been exacerbated by the fill material deposited just upstream on the then named Copperfields (now Paddock View) site. The following two reports are extremely useful in understanding the overall situation:

- Pollards Moor, Copythorne - FRMDM preliminary observations on flood risk - report compiled by Julian Pillans, dated 04/08/2011; and
- Pollards Moor, Copythorne - Stage 2: FRMDM evaluation of flood risk at Pollards Moor - report compiled by Julian Pillans, dated 19/08/2011
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**Are you aware of the two reports produced by Julian Pillans from the Environment Agency noted above or do you want me to send you a copy of each?**

7. Within Section 2.5 of the report New Forest National Park Authority, on pages 9 and 10 reference is made to a presentation made to the NFNPA in April 2014. As a matter of record this presentation was made by Wesley Jones who met with me later in the year to update his records so that the later presentation to the NFNPA was able to present more accurate details.

**Do you want more clarification of the details given to the EA following their initial presentation to the NFNPA?**

8. Much of the information that is covered in Section 3 Site assessment has been covered in the past with colleagues in your organisation. It would, in my opinion, be best to meet to discuss how to proceed on these highway matters as I believe that they distract from the core issues of the flood risk in Copythorne Parish.

**Do you wish to involve the Parish Council in your continuing investigations into flooding in the Parish of Copythorne or are you intending to continue without seeking the benefit of the considerable local knowledge that has been assembled over a long period?**

Appended items:

- i) Bartley Flood Relief Scheme – Scheme Reference 04209 – dated August 2005 (consists of 24 pages)
- ii) Condensed details of slide presentation given at Copythorne Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2014 (consists of 8 pages)

## **5. Response received from Hampshire County Council:**

i) On the 22<sup>nd</sup> February the following response was received from HCC (Pippa Greenway-Cross):

“Thank you for the information you sent me with regards to the flood issues at Bartley and Copythorne, and for the offer to meet to discuss future investigations. There is clearly a considerable amount of local knowledge held by the Parish Council and, while we have some of that, I’m conscious that there may still be gaps in the information that we have seen. I would therefore very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you, and for us to work together to build on the draft report that we circulated previously.

I am currently awaiting confirmation of the availability of one of our drainage engineers, however, I wondered if we might look at some possible dates in say the weeks commencing 11 March and 18 March, I work Tuesday, Thursday and Friday? If you would be kind enough to let me know some days and times when you would be free during this period, I will consult diaries at this end.”

ii) In response on the 28<sup>th</sup> February the following email was sent (by John Goodwin):

“I have left a message but as today is one of your working days I would like to get the date for at least an initial meeting sorted so that I can, as soon as possible, put it into my diary. It will take more than one meeting to cover the subject matter and I therefore propose for your consideration the following two dates: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 10am; and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 10am.

Can you please let me have details of where the meeting will be held and where is the nearest available parking.

I would anticipate the meeting lasting a maximum of two hours and would request that you send me a list of the topics that you expect to cover at the meeting and who may be in attendance, at the latest the Friday before the meeting. This will allow me some time to collect together any information that may be useful to bring with me.

Can you also confirm that you will, following the meeting, issue notes of the meeting that can be distributed.”

## **6. Latest Situation:**

At the time of completing this report no confirmation on the proposed meeting dates has been received and any necessary update will be provided at the meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. If the meeting scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> March takes place a verbal update will be given at the 12<sup>th</sup> March evening Parish Council meeting.

## **7. Bartley Flood Relief Scheme:**

This report prepared in 2005 by New Forest District Council (NFDC) is an important now “historic” document. To bring it, once again, into the public domain the first eight pages are attached to this report.

**APPENDIX A**

## **9. Copythorne Parish Council – Village Flood Plan:**

The Copythorne Parish Council: Village Flood Plan was produced in 2004 and updated in 2011. This document was available for viewing on the Copythorne Parish Council website but it seems to have currently “disappeared”.

This document is urgently in need of being updated and reinstating onto the Parish Council's website.

The 2011 updated document, is attached to this report for information.

**APPENDIX B**

## 10. Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Parish Council resolve:

1. To publish the draft 2018 HCC flood report on the Parish website to enable this report to be understood in context.
2. To request the Flooding Working Group prepare an update the current Village Flood Plan for adoption by the Parish Council. This was one of the “next steps” identified in Section 5 (page 19) of the HCC draft flood report
3. To continue dialogue with HCC to ensure that their historic records and understanding of the flooding risks in the Parish of Copythorne are more comprehensively understood and documented
4. To discuss with HCC the removal of highway related issues from being considered flood related issues so that they can be dealt with more expeditiously and efficiently.

John Goodwin 28/2/2019

## Project Appraisal Report

Authority Scheme Reference 104209

DEFRA CPW/LDW  
Number

Promoting  
Authority NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Project Name BARTLEY FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME



View of Flooding From 2 Riverside Close

## **CONTENTS**

### **1. Executive Summary/Recommendations**

### **2. Business Case**

#### **2.1 Introduction and Background**

#### **2.2 Problem**

#### **2.3 Options Selection**

#### **2.4 Environmental Impact Assessment**

#### **2.5 Cost of Options**

#### **2.6 Benefits of Options**

#### **2.7 Choice of Preferred Option**

### **3. Project Plan**

### **4. Recommendations/Sign Off**

#### **4.1 Operating Authority**

#### **4.2 DEFRA**

### **5. Appendices**

| <b>APPROVAL HISTORY SHEET</b>                      |                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>To be completed by Promoting Authority</b>      |                                        |
| <b>Project Title :</b> Bartley Flood Relief Scheme | <b>Authority Project Code :</b> 104209 |
| <b>Authority Project Manager :</b> Graham Toms     | <b>Date of PAR :</b> August 2005       |
| <b>Consultant Project Manager :</b>                | <b>Consultant :</b>                    |
| <b>To be completed by DEFRA</b>                    |                                        |
| <b>Approved in Principle (where applicable) :</b>  | <b>Date :</b>                          |
| <b>Application Form Submitted to DEFRA :</b>       | <b>Date :</b>                          |
| <b>PAR Amendment No. (if different):</b>           |                                        |
| <b>Approval :</b>                                  | <b>Date :</b>                          |
| <b>Comments:</b>                                   |                                        |

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS

In recent years 28 properties within the Bartley Village watercourse catchment have been flooded internally and a further 40 have been affected by external/garden flooding during rainfall events with return periods of less than five years. More extreme events will cause more flooding.

The area affected by most flooding falls within land use band B. It is reasonable to try to provide protection for a storm with a return period of 75 years.

Options for alleviating the problem are as follows:-

- The 'Do Nothing' option has been considered but is unacceptable.
- The 'Ongoing Maintenance' option would not make a material difference to the existing inadequacies of the present drainage system and has therefore been discounted.
- It is therefore considered that to provide the protection necessary to prevent flooding of property that a scheme be implemented in the form of either flood storage and/or attenuation.

The recommended option is the provision of flood storage areas on the branch network upstream of the Village, with partial offline attenuation of the flows arriving at the sensitive areas downstream.

The Net Present Value of the benefits of preventing flooding is estimated at £805,000. The estimated Net Present Cost of the work is £113,000 including £14,000 fees. This gives a benefit cost ratio of 5.7.

The Priority score for the scheme has been assessed at 20 (Economic 13, People 7, Environment 0).

These figures are all based on estimates and are subject to confirmation.

## **2. BUSINESS CASE**

### **2.1 Introduction and Background**

Bartley lies on the north eastern fringe of the New Forest some 7km west of Southampton. It is a small semi-rural community, with mixed woodland and grazing land. The development constitutes mainly housing, with limited light industry to the north of the catchment.

Several watercourses rise west of the A337 in Forestry Commission land, and drain east as open ditches through a mixture of forestry land and farmland before converging as one watercourse south of Beechwood Road. The watercourse then continues flowing east passing through Brockishill Road culvert and the Shepherds Road culvert before continuing as an open watercourse through the residential area of Bartley where the watercourse flows within gardens along the boundary of properties south of Chinham Road. The watercourse then crosses more farmland, passing under Bourne Road via a culvert before becoming main river at the Paradise Lane ford crossing.

Some of the sub-catchments drain significant areas of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)s.

The main watercourse draining the catchment is generally free of obstructions and has adequate freeboard in normal flow conditions. A build up of debris is likely to occur where the watercourse enters culverts but generally the watercourse is well maintained.

The nearest rainfall station is at Woodlands, 2 km to the south east, and the recorded average annual rainfall is 927mm for this catchment.

The Geological Survey of Great Britain Drift map shows the geology of the area to be Barton Clay overlaying Bracklesham Beds to a depth in excess of 100m.

In addition to the main watercourse serving this catchment there are a number of contributing highway ditches and drains.

The nature of the surrounding land, dictates that there will be limited future housing or commercial development in Bartley. It is only in the recent past that attenuation measures have been introduced to new sites.

The appraisal has been carried out in accordance with the PAG Series of documents.

The recommended option has an estimated net present cost of £113,000 to prevent a net present value of £805,000 of benefits, giving a benefit-cost ratio of 5.7.

## **2.2 Problem**

Increased constriction of the main watercourse downstream of the triple Shepherds Road culverts has contributed significantly to the mechanism of flooding. The watercourse at this point flows through the rear gardens of a number of properties in Chinham Road. Over the passage of time, possibly during prolonged dry periods, a certain encroachment of the watercourse banks has taken place. Although in some cases this may have been an attempt by landowners to stabilise the banks and formalise the watercourse as a feature of their gardens, it has also inadvertently had the effect of constricting the flow. The watercourse is also in part, bordered by a mature line of trees, which has also provided a restriction.

Following periods of very heavy rainfall, when the Chinham Road section of the watercourse exceeds its capacity, backing up takes place upstream of the Shepherds Road culverts. Flood water then overtops the banks, flows down Shepherds Road and into Riverside Close, in its attempt to re-enter the watercourse. Flooding in the back gardens of the Chinham Road properties is exacerbated by a contributing culvert from the north.

During the period from 1988 to 2003 28 properties within the Bartley Village watercourse catchment were reported as having internal flooding and a further 40 have been affected by external flooding, the vast majority of which can be directly attributable to short term overloading of the watercourse.

## **2.3 Options Selection**

If no works are carried out a significant number of properties will continue to flood internally on an increasingly frequent basis, coupled with an even greater number of external and highway flooding incidents.

The watercourse is generally in good condition, and suffers little from the effects of silting. An ongoing maintenance programme would make minimal impact on the effects of flooding and the number of resulting incidents. It has therefore been discounted.

Generally the works options for flood alleviation can be classified as :-

- Attenuation Storage
- Increased Capacity
- Offline Attenuation
- Diversion

### **2.3.1 Attenuation Storage**

There are three possible areas where flows may be attenuated upstream of the critical section of watercourse at the rear of gardens in Chinham Road and Riverside Close. These are, in order of importance:-

- A wide swathe of open pasture land (Forestry Commission land) and an SSSI. to the north of Beechwood Road.

- Pasture to the west of Brockishill Road.
- Pasture to the north of Chinham Road.

Although application has been made to the Forestry Commission for their permission to use land off Beechwood Road for attenuation, their agreement is by no means certain considering the status of the land.

### **2.3.2 Increased Capacity**

There is a restriction to increasing the capacity of the main watercourse in the form of a line of mature hardwoods, but an alternative solution to attenuation is to increase the capacity by constructing a culvert in Shepherds Road, discharging into the main watercourse downstream of Riverside Close.

Consideration has been given to the removal of some of the mature trees along the bank of the watercourse in gardens to the rear of Chinham Road and Riverside Close, but this would be environmentally unacceptable.

### **2.3.3 Offline Attenuation**

A suitable location to attenuate excess flows would be in a newly constructed culvert in Shepherds Road, commencing at the triple road culverts, where flows become constricted through Chinham Road back gardens, discharging with controls back into the watercourse downstream. During events exceeding the design storm, excess flows would overflow into the new culvert where a large volume could be stored, allowing the existing watercourse to perform to capacity, but without flooding.

The installation of such an attenuation system at this location would reflect the route of the present flooding into Shepherds Road.

The required capacity of such a system is dependant on whether approval is given for Attenuation Storage in Beechwood Road by the Forestry Commission.

### **2.3.4 Diversion**

The adjacent catchments already suffer flooding and over capacity problems so there is little scope to divert flows to a catchment within a reasonable distance.

### **2.3.5 Summary**

The most effective option to alleviate the flooding is to provide a series of attenuation storage areas upstream of the flooded area. Permission to construct one of these areas depends on the agreement of the Forestry Commission. If this permission is not forthcoming then a suitable alternative option is to provide offline attenuation in the form of a storm overflow culvert in Shepherds Road. As previously stated the 'Do Nothing' and 'Maintenance Only' options will not address the problem, and serious flooding in Bartley will persist.

## **2.4 Environmental Impact Assessment**

### **2.4.1 Introduction**

#### **Background**

The preliminary environmental appraisal considered the preferred engineering option put forward to relieve flooding in the vicinity of Chinham Road, Riverside Close and Shepherds Road, Bartley. The Environmental Appraisal has been prepared to satisfy DEFRA guidelines for informal environmental assessment and should not be interpreted as a formal environmental statement.

The Environmental Appraisal aimed to:

- Identify and examine key environmental interests and issues in the Beechwood, Brockishill and Chinham Road areas.
- Highlight key impacts associated with the preferred option.
- Suggest any potential mitigation enhancement measures which could be implemented to alleviate the degree of impact.

The contents of the appraisal are based upon existing information available.

#### **The Problem**

At frequent intervals, following heavy rain, the capacity of the watercourse is exceeded causing flooding of properties in the vicinity of Chinham Road and Riverside Close.

#### **The Preferred Solution**

The preferred solution is to provide a series of Attenuation Storage areas, enabling controlled short term storage. Owing to the status of the land permission for this option may not be granted. A suitable alternative option is to provide offline attenuation in the form of a storm overflow culvert in Shepherds Road.

# **COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **VILLAGE FLOOD PLAN**

2011

## CONTENTS

|                                              | Page  |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1.0 Introduction                             | 3     |
| 2.0 Flood Warnings                           | 3-4   |
| 3.0 Flooding Events - definitions            | 7     |
| 4.0 Flood Prevention                         | 7-8   |
| 5.0 Flood Action                             |       |
| 5.1 Cleaning up and Prevention of Infection  | 8-10  |
| 5.2 Re-occupying your home                   | 10-13 |
| 6.0 Levels of Response from Authorities      | 14    |
| 7.0 Authorities involved                     | 15    |
| 8.0 Authorities - Action and Contact Details | 16-19 |
| Quick Reference - Action to be taken         | 20    |
| Quick Reference - Contact Details            | 21    |

## COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL VILLAGE FLOOD PLAN

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is to assist Copythorne Parish Council and people living in the catchment area of Copythorne Parish Council in preparing and responding to a flooding event in their area.
- 1.2 Details in the Plan concentrate on the operational aspects of flooding, eg protecting life and property and managing the flood.
- 1.3 The actions of each organisation are listed but they may not necessarily be carried out as the result of a duty or responsibility.

### 2.0 FLOOD WARNINGS

- 2.1 The Environment Agency's Local Flood Warning Plan provides details of the flood warning arrangements for specific Flood Warning areas where there is a risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. The Agency also provides information on ground water levels.
- 2.2 There are four warning codes, represented by graphical icons. These are:
  - **Flood Watch** - flooding is **possible**.
  - **Flood Warning** - flooding is **expected**.
  - **Severe Flood Warning** - Severe flooding is **expected**. Act now!
  - **All Clear** - there are no flood watches or flood warnings currently in force.
- 2.3 Flood Watch is a general alert concerning flooding from rivers, streams, ditches, watercourses, estuaries and the

sea. Flood Warnings and Severe Flood Warnings relate to specific Flood Warning Areas at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea.

- 2.4 Flooding is a natural process. The risk of flooding can be reduced but never eliminated, so there is a need to warn people when flooding is likely to occur. If a local resident or householder would like to receive Flood Warnings from the Environment Agency, they can be included in this free service by signing up at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) or by telephoning Floodline on 0845 9881188. This means that the Environment Agency can call or fax them to try and forewarn of possible flooding from the rivers in the area.



## **Flood Watch**

Flooding is possible, and the situation could worsen, so:

- Watch water levels
- Stay tuned to local radio or TV
- Ring Floodline on 0845 988 1188
- Make sure you have what you need to put your flood plan into action
- Alert your neighbours, particularly the elderly
- Check pets and livestock
- Reconsider travel plans



## **Flood Warning**

Flooding is now expected, so put your flood plan into action:

As with Flood Watch plus

- Move pets, vehicles, food, valuables and other items to safety
- Put sandbags or flood boards in place
- Prepare to turn off gas and electricity
- Be prepared to evacuate your home
- Protect yourself, your family and others that need your help



Severe Flood Warning

## Severe Flood Warning

Severe flooding is now expected:

As with Flood Warning plus

- Be prepared to lose power supplies - gas, electricity, water, telephone
- Try to keep calm, and to reassure others, especially children
- Co-operate with emergency services and local authorities
- You may be evacuated



All Clear

## All Clear

An all clear will be issued when flood watches or warnings are no longer in force.

- Flood water levels receding.
- Check all is safe to return.
- Seek advice.

### 3.0 FLOODING EVENT

3.1 The main types of flooding event referred to in this plan are:

- TIDAL (Sea)
- FLUVIAL (River)
- FLASH (Roads, ditches, fields)
- GROUNDWATER (High watertable)
- SEWAGE (Sewers, rising mains and pumping stations)
- POTABLE WATER (Mains failure)

3.2 The main causes of flooding in the area of Copythorne Parish Council arise from the Bartley Water/Cadnam River or from surface water that is unable to run away or disperse through natural drainage or drainage systems that have been constructed.

### 4.0 FLOOD PREVENTION

4.1 Copythorne Parish Council does not have the resources to store emergency equipment (sandbags, for example), and must rely on giving local residents the information they will need to enable them to quickly and effectively obtain help and support in the event of flood. In cases where property owners and occupiers are aware of their situation with regard to flood risk, they should give consideration to ways in which they can protect their property.

The following agencies may be able to provide sandbags and other emergency equipment:

New Forest District Council, Lyndhurst

Tel: 023 8028 5000

Hampshire County Council - Area West

Tel: 023 8066 3388

4.2 Where to place sandbags:

- You can prevent or reduce flooding by taking steps to stop flood water entering your home or work place. This can be done

by blocking doorways and airbricks from the outside with sandbags.

#### 4.3 How to place sandbags:

- Lift the sandbag by the neck and place it across the doorway. Ensure it is bedded in against the door and frame. Make sure the neck is pulled back across the top of the bag. Layer the sandbags in brick formation ensuring that joints are staggered.

#### 4.4 Where to store sandbags:

- Keep your sandbags out of the rain and sunshine to ensure they last longer.
- Please note that sandbags will deteriorate naturally, and should be inspected before flooding may occur in order to ensure that they are still suitable for use.
- A number of Flood Protection Products have also been produced in recent years. A new BS Kitemark standard has been established for flood protection products, and residents in the Parish may find it appropriate to purchase such products.

## 5.0 FLOOD ACTION

### 5.1 Cleaning up and Protecting against infection

*(Based on guidance notes produced by the Public Health Laboratory Service)*

The floodwater affecting your home or other property may have been contaminated with sewage, animal waste and other contaminants. However infection problems arising from floods in the UK are actually rare.

Although harmful micro-organisms in floodwater are very diluted and present a low risk there are a few precautions to be aware of when dealing with flooding which should prevent unnecessary health problems.

If you follow the basic advice below you should not experience any additional health problems:

- Flood water and sewage often leaves a muddy deposit. However, experience from previous flooding and sewage contamination has shown that any risk to health is small. You do not need any booster immunisations or antibiotics.

- Health risks can be minimised by taking general hygiene precautions and by the use of protective clothing (waterproof boots and gloves) whilst cleaning up.
- Always wash your hands with soap and water after going to the toilet, before eating or preparing food, after being in contact with flood water, sewage or items that have been contaminated by these, or participating in flood clean-up activities.
- Do not allow children to play in flood water areas and wash children's hands frequently (always before meals). Wash flood water-contaminated toys with hot water or disinfectant before allowing them to be used.
- Keep any open cuts or sores clean and prevent them being exposed to flood water. Wear protective waterproof plasters.
- Harmful gut bacterial such as Ecoli 0157 may be present in sewage and animal slurry, and this can pass into flood water, although there is likely to be substantial dilution. If anyone does develop a tummy upset following direct flooding or contact with sewage they should seek medical advice.
- While in the property floorboards, walls etc will continue to dry out. Any loose material and dust results from this should be vacuumed up on a regular basis.
- Very young children should avoid playing directly on timber floorboards or any damaged tiled floors if possible - be aware of the risk of injury from sharp edges on tiles or raised nails in the floorboards until these have been repaired.
- Help for vulnerable and elderly people returning to their houses is available from the Social Services Department.
- Contact your doctor if you become ill after accidentally swallowing mud or contaminated water and tell him your house was flooded.

### **Gardens and Play Areas**

- Do not let young children play on affected grassed or paved areas until they have been cleaned down and restored to their normal condition.
- Sunlight and soil help destroy harmful bacterial and any excess risk to health should disappear completely within a week or so. The best way of protecting health is always to wash your hands before eating or preparing food.

### **If the Inside of your Home is Affected**

- Remove all soft furnishings and fittings that are damaged beyond repair.
- Remove dirty water and silt from the property, including the space under the ground floor if you have wooden floors. This space may need pumping out.
- Wash down all hard surfaces with hot soapy water until they look clean. Use domestic disinfectant, following manufacturers directions as to concentrations, to wash over all hard surfaces after cleaning.
- Food preparation surfaces and storage cupboards, refrigerators etc should be washed down with food safe disinfectants such as Milton, Dettol or similar.
- Allow to thoroughly dry - this will also help to destroy germs left behind
- Heating and good ventilation will assist the drying out process.

### **Clothing and Bedding**

- Clothing, bedding and other soft/fabric articles including children's toys etc should be laundered on a hot wash (60° or the highest temperature indicated on manufacturer's instructions), which will destroy most germs that may be present. Other soft furnishings that have been contaminated and cannot be put in a washing machine will have to be professionally cleaned or, if this is not possible, may have to be disposed of.

### **Other contaminants**

- If the floodwater contained oil, diesel etc this should in the main be removed with the floodwater and silt. Any remaining oil, diesel etc contamination in accessible areas can be removed by using a detergent solution and washing the surface down after initial cleaning has been carried out. In inaccessible areas such as under floorboards it may present an odour problem but is not necessarily a health hazard. Further advice should be sought from Environmental Health if the odour persists or if you are particularly concerned about it for other reasons.

## **5.2 RETURNING TO YOUR HOME**

It is recommended that you only fully re-occupy your home once the above cleaning has been carried out. There may be additional works to be carried out eventually as advised by your insurance company, housing officer, landlord, builder etc. If you decided to return to your home before this work is completed you should:

- Try to have some heating on at all times. Consider the use of a dehumidifier.
- Ensure the property is well ventilated. Leave windows open as much as possible, but remember security!
- Ensure that if you have airbricks to any under floor space that they are unblocked to give cross ventilation to these areas.

### **Food Preparation and Storage**

- Do not eat any food that has been covered by or come into contact with sewage or flood water.
- Wash your hands before and after preparing food. Take particular care in preparing food, always wash your hands before starting.
- Ensure that all surfaces that food will come into contact with are sound and disinfected. If worktops and other areas show signs of damage, avoid food contact with these areas. Particularly, make sure that the shelves, including those in your refrigerator where food is stored, are cleaned and disinfected.
- Use boiled water, which has then been allowed to cool, to wash food that is eaten raw. It is safe to use unboiled tap water in the preparation of food that is to be cooked. It is safe to use unboiled tap water for cooking if it will be boiled during the cooking process.
- Food preparation surfaces should be wiped down using hot unboiled tap water containing washing-up liquid, and dishes and other utensils should also be washed in hot unboiled tap water containing washing-up liquid.
- Fitted units made of chipboard, particularly in the kitchen, may not dry out well and will become damaged by absorbed water. Sanitisation of these is difficult and therefore may have to be eventually replaced.
- Try to keep any opened food in an enclosed box or tin.
- All crockery, pots and pans should be thoroughly washed with hot soapy water before use. If any of these are badly chipped or damaged do not use. You could use a food-safe disinfectant to sanitise them after cleaning.
- Frozen food that has been at room temperature for a few hours should be discarded. Put contaminated flood-damaged food in black plastic refuse sacks, seal and put out when your refuse collection is due. Check with insurers before disposal. Do not be tempted to try and keep damaged food -

including tins - as they may be contaminated with sewage and chemicals left from the flood water.

### **If Your Drinking Water Becomes Contaminated**

- People whose water comes through a mains supply should follow the advice of the local water company regarding the safety of their water supply. Water companies have a duty to take all necessary steps to protect public health. If a water treatment works becomes flooded alternative supplies are normally available but consumers may be advised to boil water before drinking or temporarily stop using water for domestic purposes.
- If you notice a change in water quality, such as the water becoming discoloured, or there is a change in taste or smell, or if you are unsure, ring your local water company. If in doubt boil all water intended for drinking or use bottled water.
- If your water is a private supply such as a well or spring, then check that it has not been affected by the floodwater. If a private well or spring has been covered by flood water, if the water changes colour or taste, or you believe the supply has been affected by the flood then boil or otherwise treat the water. Continue to boil water until the supply has been tested and shown to be safe. Boiling water kills harmful bacteria, viruses and parasites that may be present in water.
  - Bring the water to the boil and then allow it to cool before drinking.
  - It can be stored in a clean jug covered by a saucer in a cool place, preferably the fridge.
  - Ice should only be made from water prepared for drinking.
  - If you have been advised to boil your water, then boil all water for drinking, brushing teeth, washing food and making ice.
- Water from the hot tap is not suitable for drinking.
- Ensure the water taps are cleaned and disinfected before using them for the first time.
- If there is a bottle-fed baby in the house make sure their water is boiled and do not use bottled water unless it is recommended by a doctor or health visitor. Some bottled water is unsuitable for babies as it has too many salts for their immature kidneys.

### REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING

- Contact your insurance company (if relevant) and make an inventory list of all damaged goods, including food. If you can, take photographic or video picture. Check with insurers before disposal of contaminated flood-damaged food.
- Replace manhole covers dislodged by the flood.
- Ensure that the house is properly aired to encourage drying
- Make sure that any mould growth is properly treated. Fungicidal products are available from DIY stores.
- After about six months it would be advisable to check timber floors for any evidence of rot or shrinkage. Any necessary repair work can then be made.
- Check for structural damage to your property and if you think there is damage or danger seek advice from your insurer, builder or building control officer.

### DO NOT

- DO NOT be tempted to try and salvage damaged food as it may be contaminated with sewage or chemicals left from the floodwater
- DO NOT switch on electrical appliances that have been in contact with the floodwater unless a competent electrician has checked them. Your local electricity supply company will be checking mains supplies.
- DO NOT eat home grown garden or allotment fruit and vegetables that have been covered by floodwater. Leave undamaged vegetables in the ground for at least another two weeks and then only use them after thorough washing and cooking.

Finally, both physical stress associated with over-exertion in cleaning up premises, and mental stress caused by temporary relocation may make you feel unwell. Indeed, the major health hazard of floods comes from all the stress and strain of the event, not infection. If you feel unwell this does not necessarily mean that you are suffering from any infection, but if you are concerned - visit your own doctor.

## 6.0 LEVEL OF RESPONSE FROM AUTHORITIES

- 6.1 The level of response from the authorities to a flooding incident will depend on what is flooded or is at risk of being flooded. There are five priority categories:

### PRIORITY FLOODING AFFECTING RESPONSE

- 1 **People** - Action to protect life
- 2 **Houses** - Action to protect life and property
- 3 **Roads** - Action to protect life and property
- 4 **Commercial Property** - Possible action to protect property
- 5 **Gardens/Agricultural Land** - No action

- 6.2 There are other factors that may influence the level of a response. Priority is likely to be given to the old or infirm when assisting people, and to occupied property when protecting property. The classification of roads may be used in prioritising responses to road flooding and the protection of commercial property may depend on the risk of environmental pollution from stored chemicals etc.

- 6.3 Copythorne Parish Council has supported local residents in bringing pressure to bear on local Highway and Water services to take steps to alleviate the risk of flooding.

## 7.0 AUTHORITIES INVOLVED

- 7.1 The following organisations may be involved in direct specific action during a flooding event. Property owners are listed as it is their responsibility to protect their own property from flooding.

|                                            | Page |
|--------------------------------------------|------|
| • ENVIRONMENT AGENCY                       | 16   |
| • COUNTY COUNCIL                           | 16   |
| • DISTRICT COUNCIL                         | 17   |
| • PARISH COUNCIL                           | 17   |
| • FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE                  | 18   |
| • WATER COMPANY                            | 18   |
| • ELECTRICITY, GAS AND TELEPHONE COMPANIES | 18   |
| • PROPERTY OWNERS                          | 19   |
| • CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU                  | 19   |
| • SOCIAL SERVICES                          | 19   |

## 8.0 ACTION LISTS

### 8.1 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- Issue flood warnings
- Receive and record details of all flooding incidents
- Monitor the situation and advise other organisations
- Deal with emergency repairs and blockages on main rivers and own structures
- Respond to pollution incidents
- Advise on waste disposal issues

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
SOLENT & SOUTH DOWNS OFFICE  
Tel: 08708 506506

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY EMERGENCY  
HOTLINE  
Tel: 0800 80 70 60

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
FLOODLINE  
Tel: 0845 988 1188

### 8.2 COUNTY COUNCIL

- Co-ordinate emergency arrangements
- Maintain safe conditions on the roads
- Put *flood warning* signs on the highway
- Organise road closures and traffic diversions
- Clear blockages on highway drainage system
- May take action to protect property from flooding by water from the highway where there is a failure of the highway drainage system.

Hampshire County Council  
Winchester  
Main Switchboard: 01962 841841  
Highways, Winchester: 0845 6035633  
Highways, Totton: 023 8066 3388

### 8.3 DISTRICT COUNCIL

- Co-ordinating role for own area
- Flood warning dissemination (By local agreement with Environment Agency)
- Emergency Assistance (S138 LGA 1972) - Provide sandbags
- Clear blocked watercourses etc. (Land Drainage Act powers)
- Carry out actions as County Council for highways (Highways Agency areas only)
- Environmental Health issues - pollution
- Blocked road channels and gully gratings - Street cleaning
- Emergency Planning Support Groups

New Forest District Council  
Lyndhurst  
Tel: 023 8028 5000

### 8.4 TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

- Flood warning dissemination (by local agreement with Environment Agency)

Copythorne Parish Council  
Mike Derrick (Clerk)

Tel 01794 322080

Fax 01794 322080

## 8.5 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

- Rescue
- Respond to all emergency incidents as required
- Assist local residents where necessary and may pump out floodwater, but there may be a charge for this service to householders.

**IN EMERGENCY DIAL 999**

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service  
County Fire HQ, Eastleigh  
Tel: 023 8062 0000  
Or 023 8064 4000

## 8.6 WATER COMPANY

- Emergency overpumping or tankering at Pumping Stations
- Clearing blockages in public sewers and outfall grills
- Repairing burst sewage and water pumping mains
- May take action to protect property from flooding by water from the public water mains or discharges from the public sewerage systems.

Southern Water  
Technical Enquiries including 24-hour Emergency Service  
Tel: 0845 278 0845

## 8.7 ELECTRICITY, GAS AND TELEPHONE COMPANIES

- Attend to emergencies relating to the service they provide at properties putting life at risk as a result of flooding
- Attend to flooding emergencies at their own service installations

Residents are advised to make a note of their local service supplier and keep emergency contact numbers handy

## 8.8 PROPERTY OWNERS

- Move temporarily to a safe area if life is at risk
- Prevent water from entering property if possible
- Switch off electricity and gas supplies at mains
- Move valuable possessions upstairs where possible

Advice given at Sections 4.0-5.0 (pages 7-13) may be of help in a flooding event

In addition, the following leaflets give advice to local residents on how to prepare for flooding and protect their home:

*Damage Limitation: How to make your home flood resistant*  
*Flood Products: Using Flood Protection Products - a Guide for Homeowners*

*After a Flood: How to restore your home*

These leaflets are obtainable free of charge from  
 The Environment Agency  
 General Enquiry Line: 08708 506506  
 or  
 Environment Agency Floodline: 0845 988 1188

## 8.9 CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU

- May be able to offer advice on how to obtain money in an emergency and assist in dealing with insurance queries

Citizen's Advice Bureau  
 Tel: 08444 111 444

## 8.10 SOCIAL SERVICES

- May provide meals-on-wheels and care for elderly or frail people confined in their homes

Hampshire Social Services, Hythe Area Office  
 Tel: 0845 603 5630

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR A FLOOD

- Check your insurance cover. Keep details and emergency contact number with your flood kit.
- Make up a flood kit including
  - key personal documents and contact information
  - torch or gas lamp
  - battery or wind-up radio
  - mobile phone
  - rubber gloves
  - wellington boots
  - waterproof clothing
  - first aid kit and blankets
- Find out where you can get sandbags or flood boards to block doorways and airbricks. In an emergency, make sandbags using old pillow-cases, carrier bags or even tights filled with sand or earth.
- Make sure you know where to turn off your gas, electricity and water, even in the dark. If you're not sure ask the person who checks your meter when they next visit. Keep details handy in case of emergency
- Make a Family Food Plan including
  - Children's essentials, milk, baby food, sterilizing equipment, nappies etc
  - Tinned foodstuffs that will keep for long periods without deterioration
  - Medication that is required regularly
  - Provision for family pets
  - Think about how you would prepare food without power or services. Do you have a camping stove that can be kept handy for emergency use?
- Consider where you would move your furniture and effects out of reach of floodwater.
- Consider where you would move the car to for its protection, and also to allow access for emergency vehicles if required

## STAY SAFE IN A FLOOD

- Don't try to walk or drive through floodwater. Six inches of fast flowing water can knock you over and two feet of water will float your car. Manhole covers may have come off and there may be other unseen hazards
- Never try to swim through fast flowing water. You may get swept away or be struck by an object in the water
- Don't walk on sea defences, riverbanks or cross river bridges if possible. They may collapse in extreme situations or you may be swept off by large waves. Beware of stones and pebbles being thrown up by waves
- Avoid contact with floodwater, it may be contaminated with sewage

*Information taken from leaflets available from the Environment Agency  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk). Tel: 08708 506 506*

## CONTACT DETAILS

For advice on how to prepare a flood action plan for your household  
**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

**FLOODLINE: TEL: 0845 988 1188**

**SOLENT & SOUTH DOWNS OFFICE: TEL: 08708 506 506**

**EMERGENCY HOTLINE: TEL: 0800 80 70 60**

### In Emergency Dial 999 for Police, Fire, Ambulance

#### Police

All enquiries Police HQ, Winchester Tel: 0845 045 45 45

#### Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

County Fire HQ, Eastleigh Tel: 023 8062 0000

#### Hampshire County Council

Freephone: 0800 028 0888; Main Switchboard 01962 841841

Emergency Planning Unit: 01962 846846

Highways Office, Winchester: 0845 603 5633

#### Southern Water

Technical Enquiries including 24-hour Emergency Service

Tel: 0845 278 0845

#### Electricity, Gas and Telephone Companies

The supply of these services is now in the hands of a number of different companies. Residents are advised to make a note of their particular supplier and keep emergency contact numbers handy

#### New Forest District Council

Appletree Court, Lyndhurst Tel: 023 8028 5000

Copythorne Parish Council Tel: 01794 322080

Citizen's Advice Bureau, Totton Tel: 08701 264089

Social Services, Hythe Area Office Tel: 0845 603 5630