

Copythorne Parish Council Meeting – November 14th 2023

Item 11 – To receive and approve an update on response to request sent to Environment Agency for confirmation of number/location of properties affected by flooding during the Winter 2013/14 to support a request to the HCC F&WM Team to include these details in their “Bartley Flood Investigation Report”.

Background

Since the receipt of the “Bartley Water Addendum to the Copythorne Village Flood Risk Investigation Report” (hereafter referred to as the “Bartley Flood Report”) in November 2021, the Flooding Advisory Committee has been seeking to get the author of the report (Hampshire County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority) to include more specific details of specific historic flooding that has occurred affecting properties near the course of Bartley Water.

At the May 16th 2023 Parish Council meeting a report was presented as Item 21 “To receive & approve a response to the HCC F&WM Team “Bartley Water-Flood Risk Investigation Report”.

Below is an extract (102/23) from the minutes of that meeting:-

To receive & approve a response to the HCC F&WM Team “Bartley Water-Flood Risk Investigation Report”

Cllr. Chillcott presented this report (a copy of which is included in the supporting documents for this meeting on our website).

RESOLVED: That the report be approved.

Proposed by Cllr. Wiggins, seconded by Cllr. Lady Kara, all in favour. APPROVED.

ACTION – That the Clerk writes to the Environment Agency as requested and reports back to Council.

The following was reported by the Clerk at the July 14th 2023 Flooding Advisory Committee meeting:-

“The Clerk provided members present with a copy of e-mail exchanges with Environment Agency staff seeking Environment Agency confirmation of information relating to the flooding of Winter 2013/14, a course of action approved by Council on May 16th 2023. Specific confirmation is still awaited

ACTION – Clerk to continue to seek the required confirmation and report progress to Advisory Committee members. “

Current Position

Attached as Appendix 1 is the thread of e-mail exchanges that the Clerk to the Parish Council had with the Environment Agency regarding the Parish Council’s request for HCC (as author of the report) to amend the “Bartley Flood Report” to include details of the historic flooding in Bartley.

The following is an extract from a response received from the Environment Agency on August 30th 2023:-

“I suspect that you may already be aware of the Hampshire Catchment Prioritisation plans published in 2023 which HCC see as superseding the 2021 report. This being the case, the HCC Flood Team are not intending to re-visit the 2021 report.”

It is clear from the above that the Parish Council’s request will not be agreed to.

At its October 20th 2023 the Flooding Advisory Committee discussed the response from HCC, received via the Environment Agency, and how the Parish Council should move forward with this matter.

Proposal of the Flooding Advisory Committee

The Flooding Advisory Committee agreed that the best solution now available to the Parish Council was to:-

1. Publish the "Bartley Flood Report" (on the Flooding page of the Parish Council website) together with a covering note explaining that the Parish Council is disappointed with the unwillingness of HCC to amend the report to include details of the historic flooding (details of the number of flooded properties, already in the public domain to be included).
2. Add to the website further details of the move by HCC (as the Lead Local Flood Authority) to a "Catchment Approach to Flood Risk Management". A copy of the "Test (Lower) Catchment Management Plan" which includes two areas of the Parish of Copythorne as part of the six Priority Groups within that river catchment will also be added to the website.

Recommendation

That the Council agrees with the above proposal from the Flooding Advisory and instructs the Clerk to undertake the actions detailed above.

Graham Chillcott
Chairman, Flooding Advisory Committee
October 23rd 2023

APPENDIX 1 – E-MAIL THREAD WITH ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

JUNE 29 2023 - CLERK TO WESLEY JONES (EA) (REPLY CHASED JULY 11 2023)

I am writing in the hope that you might be able to add some “*meat to the bones*” to help the Parish Council to persuade HCC (as lead Local Flood Authority) to include specific details of the flooding that affected a number of properties within the Parish of Copythorne in 2013/14 in a Flood Risk Investigation Report that the HCC Flood & Water Management Team produced a few years ago.

Our attention has been drawn to a report dated April 30th 2014 compiled by yourself that was presented to the NFNPA Consultative Panel on May 1st 2014 which gave details about the impact of the 2013/14 Winter Floods on the New Forest.

Subsequent to that report a further update was provided to the September 4th 2014 meeting of the Consultative Panel by David Horne which stated that the EA had been notified of 17 properties within the parish (including 9 in Bartley) that had been flooding over the winter of 2013/14.

Links to various documents relating to the two meetings referred to above have been added below along with a copy of the HCC report that we are hoping to persuade them to amend to include more about the impact of the 2013/14 flooding..

<https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/documents/consultative-panel/agendas-reports-and-minutes-01-05-2014/>

https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/app/uploads/2018/07/EA_New_Forest_Presentation.pdf

https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/app/uploads/2018/07/Panel_Minutes_1_May_2014.pdf

<https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/documents/consultative-panel/agendas-reports-and-minutes-04-09-2014/>

https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/app/uploads/2018/07/Environment_Agency_Responses_Sept_2014.pdf

https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/app/uploads/2018/07/Panel_Minutes_4_September_2014.pdf

In addition. I am aware from previous conversations with Rob Waite that a possible Flood Alleviation Scheme for Bartley Water remains a possibility. The following is an extract from the HCC Report page 6 (although page 11 within the pdf attached):-

“The Environment Agency has confirmed that Bartley is on the current 2021-27 programme for potential funding from DEFRA, however initial investigative works are not proposed until 2024, and are dependent on a cost-benefit analysis ranked against other projects. Risk management authorities can bid for Grant in Aid funding if the project can meet the cost-benefit criteria.”

It would be very helpful if I could more information on the current status of this scheme to share with members of the Parish Council and the HCC Flood & Water Management Team.

I look forward to receiving your response.

JULY 11 2023 – DAVID MARTIN (EA) TO CLERK

Thanks for your email. Wesley has passed it on to me to respond as the team leader for the area that covers Copythorne Parish Council.

In terms of the 2013/14 Flood Risk Investigation Report by HCC Flood & Water Management Team, we do work very closely with Hampshire County Council and I am happy to raise it with at our next regular meeting. However, given that the report is almost 10 years old and that they have done some extensive work since then to assess and prioritise catchments, I am not sure we would be very successful in securing any amendments.

We are working in partnership with the HCC floods team to deliver the Hampshire Property Flood Resilience programme. I know that you have been of great assistance to Naomi Groome in progressing this work in Bartley and Cadnam.

This work has come about as a direct result of the 'Flood Alleviation Scheme for Bartley Water' that you mentioned in your email, and provides a reduction in flood risk to the residential properties identified in the quickest and most efficient way. In total we should be able to reduce the flood risk to 24 homes, and have already completed the initial surveys of these properties. We have also identified the potential to expand our work in this location to include additional properties in Netley Marsh.

JULY 12 2023 – CLERK TO DAVID MARTIN (EA)

The HCC report that we are hoping to persuade them to amend is a more recent one which I sent Wesley Jones a copy of. I have attached another in case it wasn't forwarded on to you.

We certainly wouldn't expect any changes to be made to the report that was prepared shortly after the last major flooding incident in the area in 2013/14.

Thank you for your kind comments regarding the assistance provided to Naomi. I am sure this project will be of great benefit to those whose properties have been surveyed. It would be great at some point soon to have a short "press release" from the EA on this so that we can show local residents in general that things are happening.

With regards to the 'Flood Alleviation Scheme for Bartley Water' mentioned in the attached report (page 6 although page 11 within the pdf) is this still in the list for potential future works:-

"The Environment Agency has confirmed that Bartley is on the current 2021-27 programme for potential funding from DEFRA, however initial investigative works are not proposed until 2024, and are dependent on a cost-benefit analysis ranked against other projects. Risk management authorities can bid for Grant in Aid funding if the project can meet the cost-benefit criteria."

JULY 14 2023 – DAVID MARTIN (EA) TO CLERK

Thanks for the copy of the report. I will discuss with HCC at our next catch up.

The PFR programme that Naomi is working on is the mechanism for us delivering the reduced flood risk in Bartley that we identified was needed when the Flood Alleviation Scheme for Bartley Water was created. There are therefore no plans for any other flood defence schemes other than the PFR work. If you think there are other residential properties that would benefit that are not yet part of the project then do let us know as there will still be opportunities to include them if appropriate.

I know at other locations Naomi has taken photographs and videos for promotion on social media channels, and I know she will be keen to do the same at Bartley when the time comes. We will be sure to let you know when this happens.

AUGUST 30 2023 – DAVID MARTIN (EA) TO CLERK

Following my previous email, I have been in contact with Vicki Westall from the HCC Floods Team about the inclusion of some additional details in their 2021 report.

I suspect that you may already be aware of the Hampshire Catchment Prioritisation plans published in 2023 which HCC see as superseding the 2021 report. This being the case, the HCC Floods Team are not intending to re-visit the 2021 report.

The relevant catchment prioritisation plan for Copythorne can be found here: [Hampshire Catchment Prioritisation \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk/catchment-prioritisation)

In relation to the Cadnam and Bartley Property Flood Resilience scheme, you may be interested to know that the individual property reports which will detail the recommended measures for each property will be issued to residents in about 1 month, and procurement of the supplier is programmed for January.

SEPTEMBER 4 2023 – CLERK TO DAVID MARTIN (EA)

We are aware of Hampshire County Council's Catchment Prioritisations Plans which sadly do not include Bartley Water as a priority despite the previous severe flooding and grants made.

Below is an extract from the River Test (Lower) Plan which references the Cadnam River detailing the "Principal Flood Risk Source":-

"Principal sources of flood risk are surface water, groundwater and fluvial flooding associated with Cadnam River and its tributaries.

Susceptibility to groundwater flooding ranges from low to high risk throughout the priority group; with the north of the priority group at highest risk. There is a high risk of surface water flooding across large areas of Cadnam, predominately in the north and east of the priority group, with depths ranging from below 300mm to over 900mm. This poses a risk to residential areas throughout Cadnam as well as road infrastructure such as the A31. The River Cadnam, which flows southwest through the priority group, is the principal source of fluvial flood risk.

The river and adjacent areas are in Flood Zones 2 and 3. Receptors at risk include farmland, residential areas, and large sections of the M3"

Whilst I fully appreciate it is not your plan I am puzzled by the comment in the final paragraph about the Cadnam River as it actually flows North East (not South West) to join the Blackwater just east of Ower. I will raise this point with Vicki Westall at HCC.

It is good to learn that the Cadnam/Bartley Property Flood Resilience Scheme (which the Parish Council strongly supports) is progressing well.

- END -