



CCATCH – Langstone Community Meeting 2nd October 2013 19:00am – 21:00pm

Meeting report

Introduction

The meeting, held at the Ship Inn and was hosted by the CCATCH the Solent Project (www.solentforum.org/current/CCATCH/) was attended by 30 members of the local community and stakeholders from organisations who have a role in flood prevention.

This report aims to capture the essence of the discussion and is not meant to be a formal minute of the meeting.

Session 1: Welcome & Introductions

Mike King (CCATCH Project) welcomed people to the meeting and set the scene in the following way

What is this meeting about?

- Introduce the CCATCH project to the community
- Providing information on property level protection and flood insurance
- Progressing the ideas for a community flood plan for Langstone

What we intended to cover?

1. Protecting your property – Presentation
2. Opportunity for questions
3. Information about Community Flood Plans
4. What should a Langstone Flood Plan contain?
5. How to go about developing the plan





Session 1: Introduction to the CCATCH project

Mike introduced the CCATCH project covering the following points

- Explained that the project is part of a wider European project called CC2150 (Coastal Change in the year 2150 and beyond)
- That the UK (Hampshire, Kent and Sussex), Netherlands & Belgium are involved
- 6 locations in Hampshire have been chosen of which Southampton Itchen is one
- The aim of CCATCH is to help the community prepare and adapt to changes in flood risk
- An outline of how the CCATCH project would like to work with the community

Session 2: Property level protection and flood insurance

Presentation by Heather Sheppard of the National Flood Forum (<http://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>) covering the following points

- The purpose of the forum is, as a charity, to help people prepare for flooding.
- The experience they have in working with different communities all over the country.
- The difference that can be made when communities' set-up community groups to lessen the affect of flooding on their properties.
- An outline of what resistance and resilience means.
- Provided a helpline number for people who were having trouble getting property insurance because of flood risk - Phone 01299 403055
- Showed examples of resistance products used on properties, which effectively stops flood water entering. Also examples of how properties can be made more resistant to flooding so that if they do flood, less damage occurs.
- Explained that flooding over the past decade has definitely got worse in some locations despite people's perceptions, and that it was a complex mix often of higher tide, storm surge and heavy rainfall patterns.

Questions & Answers after Flood Forum presentation

Q: Is there any support from Southern Water for communities who are experience flooding?

A: Southern Water are involved in many areas that at are at risk of severe flooding and have been involved in other aspects of the CCATCH project. They could be invited to a subsequent meeting at Langstone if the community feel that would be useful. The advice is that problems are reported to Southern Water by all the people affected as it is numbers that ensure the issues are given priority.

Q: How is the government policy on insurance in flood risk areas changing?

A: An initiative called Flood Re is being discussed where a fund will be established by the insurance industry which can be drawn on when major flooding events occur. The idea is that this will help to spread the risk and ensure that properties at risk from flooding can get insured. It was noted that one property in the High Street has a waiver on their insurance to make take flooding out of the policy.





Session 3: Discussion on developing a Flood Plan for Langstone

This discussion was informed by case studies presented by Stuart Pinkney, Emergency Planner for Havant Borough Council and Jo Higgs of the Environment Agency.

Points raised in the discussion:

“Water level's rise very fast and flood up through the drains, this could happen more often in the future. I feel that it would be valuable to have a flood plan”

“The situation here is unique in that we are affected by the tidal flow in two harbours. We know when flooding is likely to occur; Spring tides, low pressure and a south easterly wind. Consequently some of the case studies are not really relevant to us”.

“Not sure that we really need a plan. I am not always around but neighbours swing into action . People have already acted. It is already in place”

“I live on the west side of the main road. We have the potential to be flooded and I would like more information on the likely trigger points and levels. I think a flood plan that provided this would be useful”.

“The main road has flooded to the top of the camber. It would not take much to flood over the top, residents on that side would be less prepared and if it did flood it would take a lot longer to drain away”

“A flood plan would not be done in isolation, it would involve other agencies and the emergency services. For example the Environment Agency can provide information on tide heights and emergency warning procedures”

“For new people moving in it would be useful to have a written plan”

“It would be better to have a flood plan than be flooded”

“Would be useful to have a store of sandbags”

“Must stress that this is tidal & not the same a pluvial flooding. We need to know when a tidal surge might be coming”

“Need to think about the future – we could be faced with Sea level rise and an increase in the number of storms. We need to be prepared”

Facilitators summary: On the frontline (the High Street) the residents are already well prepared. However, the wider community, where there is potential of future flooding, would appreciate a flood plan and would like to learn from those who currently deal with flooding on a regular basis. There is a recognition that the community needs to organise to address future flood risk.





Session 4: What should a Langstone Flood Plan contain?

Discussions took place in small groups to brainstorm what needs to happen before, during and after a flood event. The results are summarised below:

	What do we need to know	What do we need to do
Before a flood event starts	<p>Appoint Liaison officers – several who are around most of the time – Neighbourhood watch style.</p> <p>Phone numbers of residents & those who are away or empty houses.</p> <p>Understand how different parts of Langstone are or will be affected. How and when the water will go in to properties.</p> <p>Understand the possibilities of extreme surges.</p> <p>Efficient telephone warning to all affected.</p> <p>Tide tables to be in each household</p> <p>Information provided on when to take action and the essential equipment required</p> <p>Likelihood of event occurring</p> <p>Likely severity (depth, spread etc)</p> <p>Differences between tidal & drainage</p> <p>Timescales: Warning → Event</p> <p>What are our triggers: Which defences to operate at community/ property level?</p>	<p>Identify a garage that is empty and possible to use for storage. Have we funds for rent?</p> <p>Pull together information about tides , weather conditions, tides, full moon.</p> <p>Make people aware of flood plan (every household)</p> <p>List of vulnerable, empty houses, and those absent</p> <p>Have relevant flood boards, sandbags in place.</p> <p>Get links for ‘being in the loop’.</p> <p>Survey risks locally – not only for High Street)</p> <p>Widen awareness of the EA & LA maps & technical information</p>
During a flood event	<p>Have access to equipment – waders, torches, sandbags etc</p> <p>Who to contact</p> <p>Who can provide support</p> <p>Who cannot set up their own property level defence & who will provide</p> <p>What to have in the house, turn off, close.</p> <p>What to do with cars</p>	<p>Contact the vulnerable</p> <p>Put plan in place</p> <p>Have contact information</p> <p>Know the local defences and who will operate</p>
After the waters have subsided	<p>Who coordinates?</p> <p>Scale of personal and household loss</p> <p>Any recording of the event</p> <p>Priorities for responding to incident i.e what order should household do things.</p>	<p>Clean up</p> <p>Review and revise Flood Action Plan</p> <p>Have a helping plan</p> <p>Maximise inter household/personal – agency/ authority communication to speed progress</p>



Session 5: Next Steps

There was support for the idea of setting up a working group to develop the Langstone Flood Plan. The group would initially be convened by the CCATCH project.

It was noted that John Henley, who was not able to be at the meeting, had offered to help. The following people offered to join the group:

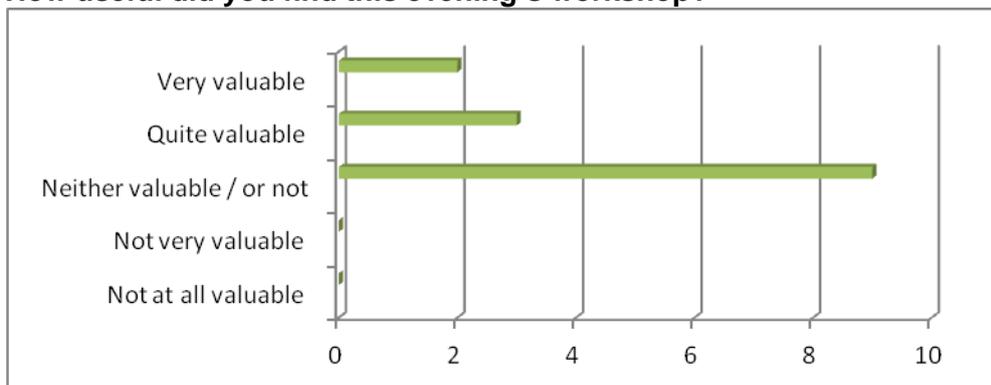
Jane Taussik
 Delphine Clarke
 Geraldine Horner
 Stuart Pinkney

Mike King undertook to set up the first meeting of the group who would develop a draft plan for consideration by the community at another community meeting to be held before the end of 2013.

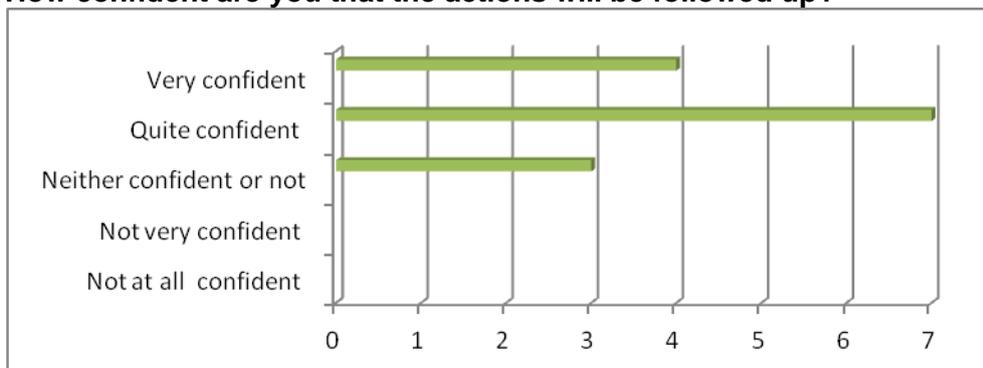
Session 6: Evaluation

The CCATCH project is keen to learn from each project it undertakes, to help inform this learning people who attended were asked to fill out a brief evaluation for before they left. The results are given below.

How useful did you find this evening's workshop?



How confident are you that the actions will be followed up?





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