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# **CCATCH – Southampton Itchen Community Group Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013 19:00am – 21:00pm**

## **Meeting report**

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### **Introduction**

The meeting, held at the Riverside Club, Priory Avenue, St Denys and was hosted by the Solent Forum ([www.solentforum.org](http://www.solentforum.org)) was attended by 15 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 (Resources for Change ) welcomed people to the meeting and set the scene in the following way

What is this meeting about?

- To share more information on community flood planning
- To identify short-term practical actions
- To create a sense of collective action

What we intended to cover?

#### **Part 1: Presentations**

- Update from the CCATCH project
- Community flood planning

#### **Part 2: Participation**

- Small group work to identify and prioritise short-term practical actions
- Development of 'Action Plans' to implementation of the practical actions.



## **Session 2: Update from the CCATCH project**

Karen McHugh (Solent Forum) provided an update covering the following points

- 1<sup>st</sup> contacted community August 2012 with leaflet and letter (to 271 properties)
- 45 responses received. 29 people came to 1<sup>st</sup> public meeting 8/11/12
- Report on Public meeting produced (key elements on desks)
- High interest in becoming part of a community group. Interest in producing an Emergency Plan, providing up to date flood risk information to the community, and a tidal gauge to help understanding of water levels
- Small meeting held with owners of properties at high risk of flooding. Interest in installing PLP in demo. house
- Technical Fact Guide produced
- Local residents have been working on website design, providing photos, reporting on their flood experience

## **Session 3: Community Flood Planning**

Jo Higgs, Environment Agency talked about the emergency flood warnings system that the Environment Agency uses and on what basis Flood Alerts (an alert that flooding may happen) and Flood Warnings (a warning that flooding will occur) are given. Any community members can make a request to the Environment Agency to be in or out of the system. Please contact Karen for more detail.

Kieren Birtell, Emergency Planning, Southampton City Council talked about how they prepare for floods. This complimented to information provided by the Environment Agency.

Copies of their presentations will be provided on the project website at:

[http://www.solentforum.org/current/CCATCH/Southampton\\_Itchen/](http://www.solentforum.org/current/CCATCH/Southampton_Itchen/)



### **Questions & Answers after the Community Flood Planning presentations**

Q: Have there been any flood warnings in this area in the last year?

A: Two flood alerts but no warnings

Q: I thought that I had signed up for alerts but have never been contacted.

A: There are 3 ways of signing up; Website, phone, tell Jo.

Jo agreed to help the individual concerned.

Q: Have flood warning packs gone out to Oliver Road for example?

A: Yes; a door knocking campaign and packs were sent out over a year ago

Q: Local flooding problems with surface water run off, what can be done about this?

A: No warnings given for surface water yet. Important to be weather aware, think about Personal Level Protection measures and flag up to local council

Q: Who is responsible for Surface water management?

A: Southampton City Council; surface water, groundwater and smaller water courses.

Q: To what extent are Southern Water responsible for Storm Water Drains.

A: Southern Water would probably say that they manage the Storm Water Drain situation but do not accept liability for flooding as there are many contributing factors such as the state of the tide. In these situations it is hard to pin liability on any one organisation.

Q: Big problem with aging infrastructure that cannot cope with new development EG: the drain system from the new flats goes into the Victorian sewer, which is collapsing. In Oct. 2012 Priory Rd did flood because water backed up through the drains. Surely there is a need for pumps and non-returnable valves to be fitted in these situations.

A: It was recognised that it was difficult to answer for Southern Water as they were not present. Agreed to invite them to the next meeting

Q: Concern raised about oil running into the water at Old Mill Hard

A: Should call the EA pollution incident line

Q: Has there been any progress on identifying the height of houses as this impacts considerably on the level of risk

A: The EA inundation maps should help in this respect – Jo Higgs to provide

Q: How relevant is criteria for flood warnings as opposed to flood alerts and do they take account of local knowledge

A: Flood warning looks at the community level, used when there is a degree of confidence that there will be properties flooded. Close working with the Met office and duty officer takes an 'evidence based judgement' when issuing a warning. Process for gathering local information on what happened after a flood and using that to influence future flood warnings.

Q: What would trigger that investigation

A: Sale of flooding. When there is no clear responsible organisation then the lead local flood authority will investigate and then inform the relevant organisation. In essence we want a much information as possible to test the model against what is actually happening on the ground.



#### Session 4: Short-term practical actions

Participants were invited to work in small groups, with a facilitator, to identify a small number of short-term (the next year) practical actions that would help the community better deal with flood risk. The identified actions were then amalgamated into a list of practical options and participants were asked to identify their individual top 3 priorities. Each person was given 3 dots and asked to place a dot next to each of their top three priorities.

Set out in the table below is the list of practical actions showing their prioritisation score.

Action	Prioritisation score
Build up a database of reports and images and fine tuning local maps	<b>8 people thought this was a priority</b>
Providing clear information on flood risk such as height and chart datum information for properties	<b>6 people</b>
Working together on a consistent height flood wall along the bottom of properties	<b>5 people</b>
Installation of local Tide Gauges	<b>6 people</b>
Routine drain clearance	<b>1 person</b>
- creating visible benchmarks on local buildings to show what level the flooding reached	<b>3 people</b>
Information for house buyers/ sellers	<b>0 people</b>

#### Session 5: Action Planning

The group decided to work on those practical actions shaded in grey above. Four facilitated groups were established and participants were invited to work on the practical action of their choice. However, when deciding upon groups no one wanted to work on the 'Build up a database of reports and images and fine tune local map. Consequently 3 Action Plans were developed as follows:



## Group 1

Action	Where	When	How	Who
<p><b><i>Find the chart datum height at the back door pointing to the water. I would then understand the flood risk to my property. I could also reassure insurance companies; and provide information to potential property sellers / buyers in the area.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map the height of the floor levels of properties against chart datum</li> <li>• Explore Google Earth and get the height of each property</li> <li>• Bring on board land surveying skills if all else fails and the data is not available through secondary research or any other means</li> <li>• Compare data that is held by the Highways Agency on the road height with known data on the property heights</li> </ul>	<p>At the threshold of each property; every household within affected postcode areas</p>	<p>Wk of 28 Jan</p> <p>Feb / March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask Jo at the EA if the chart datum is available and if the EA will release it to householders</li> <li>• Check on the Internet</li> <li>• The surveying skills could also be used to validate the data provided for one or two properties</li> <li>• Set up a group distribution list via Karen at the Solent Forum</li> <li>• Contact the Highways Authority</li> <li>• Ask Southern Water if they have the height of the drains and find out at what height they would be over-whelmed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Taylor and John Rimmer to ask Jo at the EA</li> <li>• Chris Lock will investigate if no success with the EA</li> <li>• To include Mr Salt, Chris Lock, Jill Lock, Steve Owen, John Rimmer and additionally Peter Taylor</li> <li>• They will take forward action on the further contacts as necessary</li> <li>• Peter Taylor to explore potential accelerometers</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore devices such as accelerometers to measure height and distance</li> <li>• When the EA issue a flood warning it should be referenced to the chart datum at property level. So the each property can tell whether or not they are at risk depending on their individual household chart datum reading. The data needs to be comprehensive and cross-referenced with information available from all agencies including Highways and Land Registry as relevant</li> </ul>	<p>As above</p> <p>Households in St Denys could be used as a pilot scheme for EA flood warnings being linked to chart datum</p>	<p>Spring, if not other data is available</p> <p>All data gathered, available and in use for EA flood warnings by the end of June</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact OS to see if they can help</li> <li>• Can Southampton City Council help with flood risk data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sam / Bernadine to ask the Council planning team</li> </ul>
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## Group 2

Action	Where	When	How	Who
<p><b>To install tide gauges in key locations to show water levels at different states of the tide as well as in a flood situation. To also show past/forecast SLR</b></p> <p>To also have some interpretation by the gauge to explain the datum and the significance of different levels. Include CCATCH brading</p> <p>Prior to meeting - send group some examples of tide gauges elsewhere</p>	<p>tbc, but would like to put in 2-3 locations - ideas: Cobden Bridge, Woodmill (uni), Pettinger Gdns, The Hard.</p> <p>By each gauge</p>	<p>Within 12 months</p> <p>Sub-group to meet by end of February to walk frontage and plan - on a Friday</p>		<p>Whole Group</p> <p>Karen</p>



<p>Prior to meeting - Get broad costings of a tide guage. Talk to SCC - Cliff Brown in Open Spaces</p> <p>Set-up group distribution list</p> <p>Scope out Planning Permission issue</p> <p>Bring some surveying expertise to the group</p> <p>Once the products are installed, advertise that they are there.</p> <p>Set up Task and Finish Group:</p>	<p>Karen McHugh, Maureen Turner, Clare Diaper, Jennifer Bourdillon, Sam Foulds (led by Sam Foulds)</p>	<p>Jan/Feb</p> <p>Jan/Feb</p> <p>March</p> <p>Feb/ March</p> <p>Winter 2013</p>	<p>Jennifer to receive attachments by post</p> <p>Consider getting someone involved from the National Oceanography centre</p> <p>Use local press, Bitterne Park Info website, Friends of Riverside Park,</p>	<p>Sam</p> <p>Karen</p> <p>Sam &amp; Maureen</p> <p>Karen</p> <p>Karen</p>
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### Group 3

Action	Where	When	How	Who
<p><b>Working together on a consistent height floodwall.</b></p>	<p>New flats up to social club</p>	<p>March/ April</p>	<p>Establish existing wall height/ condition/ ownership/ Photographs</p> <p>Establish standard level</p> <p>Talk to each owner about establishing a consistent height (residents first)</p> <p>Have a meeting with all residents to start talking</p> <p>Funding</p>	<p>Andy/ John/ James/ John</p> <p>Residents/ Bernadine</p>





## Section 6: Next Steps

Report to be sent out in early February

The three groups have been allocated a CCATCH team member(s) to support them as follows;

Group 1: The Levels Group – Bernadine

Group 2: Tide Gauge Group – Karen & Sam

Group 3: The 'Wall' Group – Bernadine

The CCATCH team member(s) will discuss with their group the type of help and support they might need.

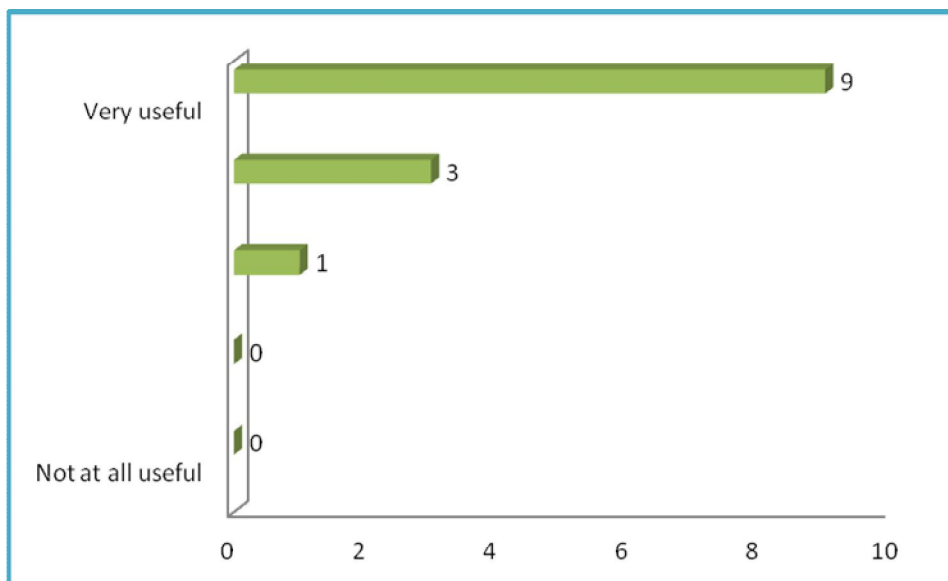
Members of the community who sent their apologies for the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January will be informed of the groups and invited to join one if they are interested to do so.

The next meeting on the Community Flood Group will be held on the **23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013** where we would like to review the progress that each group has undertaken and to identify any common threads or actions.

## Section 7: Evaluation

The CCATCH project is keen to know how people participating in the workshop viewed the experience. Evaluation sheets were handed out at the end of the workshop and people asked to fill them in before they left. The results are summarised below.

### Question 1: How useful have you found this evening





**Question 2: We would be interested to know why you found it useful or not?**

- Initial talks were not focused on our problem
- Input from various people attending the meeting resulting in concise collective ideas and how to approach problems to find a practical solution
- Projects appear to be taken forward with a view to gaining more info. On the prediction of future floods and how they would affect the individuals
- Too much hype on flooding other than what is useful
- Good group interaction and actions taken forward
- Meeting followed my own point of view
- Clear visible steps to map threshold levels& provide flood warnings with chart datum heights for both
- Great sense of planning for activity and not just talking
- Chance to converse with the neighbours about the seawall
- New to area and need to be involved
- Enthusiastic about being involved in project
- Good discussion with committed and involved residents. Useful plan of action

**Question 3: Any other comments**

- Well facilitated and kept to time