

FLOODING BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 2024

Following on from the widespread floods of autumn and winter 2023/24, work has been underway to shore up defences, and bolster flood-preparedness in advance of next autumn/ winter seasons. Many agencies have worked together to co-ordinate works within multi-agency groups. Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board, Highways, County, District and parish councils and Norfolk Resilience Forum have all contributed/ are contributing to making communities better prepared, should flooding threaten again. Residents and businesses are also being encouraged to take their own flood-prevention measures, to make sure they are well prepared against future flooding.

This briefing includes details on:

- **Multi Agency Group working**
- **Press coverage / planned press coverage to increase knowledge**
- **Events**

Multi- Agency Group progress:

Tunstead – NSFA met with AW, NCC, IDB and local flood rep to discuss potential solutions and joined up funding. Anglian Water have c. £200k worth of work going on later in the year so agreed that would be ideal time to complete all proposed works at once to minimise impact on community.

Dereham – land valuation and legal fee details agreed in principle between National Highways, NCC and AW, prior to the anticipated signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and the commencement of works. This project has been beset by delays and is at a critical stage, but hopefully the documents will be signed allowing work to commence before funding is lost.

Hickling is a great example of where many agencies have worked together to co-ordinate works. Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board, NCC, District and parish councils have all contributed to getting Hickling better prepared, should flooding threaten again. The engagement from the parish and local residents has really driven proactivity and what's really pleasing has been maintenance on culvert / ditch pipe work and the removal of surface water from the foul system. All of this will help the high ground water issues. There is still work to do on how best to deliver the remaining works, however this is exactly what we need to see and should be used as the exemplar.

Potter Heigham – work ongoing with the IDB's and Anglian Water to address some of the chronic flooding issues and the recent Multi Agency Group meeting with flood wardens and parish councillors was well received. There is high level work being undertaken by the NSFA and others, working with the Broadland Futures Initiative group and the Broads reform group to try and work through the issues on the River Bure.

Burn catchment – a Multi Agency Group meeting has taken place where Anglian Water the Environment Agency, IDB, Natural England, NCC and other vested interested parties have come together to work through what tactical improvements can be made on the ground now (whilst modelling continues), be that de-silting, lining work, over pumping etc. This is also linked into the local resilience forums in Norfolk so that, should the worst happen again, the residents of Norfolk are in a far better position to respond. We now have demonstrable evidence of things happening on the ground - ditch clearance, basic maintenance and all of these things will improve the water level position. We have held a groundwater workshop with AW and the EA. Education and communication with affected communities is almost as important as doing the work.

Gayton working group has also worked well collectively and we are now linking in the landowners who are interested in water storage!

Norfolk County Council will be carrying out over £375,000 of Highway drainage improvements along **Beighton Road, Acle** from August to December 2024. This work has been prioritised by the NSFA to address historic flooding events at this location and has been developed with the contribution of private landowners and Clarion Housing Group. The proposed works include new and upgraded surface water systems to capture surface water before it can reach the historic flooding areas. The work has been programmed to reduce the impact on seasonal harvesting and aims for construction to consider the winter flooding events experienced last year.

Work is also planned at **Saham Toney** to construct 2 flood storage basins and NFM measures to help protect 34 properties from surface water flooding. The total scheme cost is over £850,000 and phase 1 is planned for Autumn this year. This scheme is led by the LLFA team and will be delivered by the Norfolk Rivers IDB through our Public Sector Co-operation Agreement.

Media coverage/ planned media coverage:

July 2024 Groundwater

News coverage in TV, radio and electronic media regarding continuing high ground water level message and asking residents to 'Be prepared' for the autumn/winter ahead. Suggestions of measures that homeowners and businesses can take to make their properties more resilient. Henry Cator, Chairman of NSFA interviewed for TV & radio.

August 2024 Attleborough

Following significant flooding along Mill Lane, Ferguson Way, and Norwich Rd last winter, a multi-agency group has been clearing culverts after inspections took place in early 2024. The works this summer consist of general maintenance works to

remove consolidated silts and detritus from the base of the culverts and remove any impediments to flow. Press coverage is imminent.

A leaflet drop to some Attleborough residents will take place at the end of August to encourage clearance of further water drainage channels under riparian obligations.

August 2024 Dereham

A project to install property level flood protection has been underway as part of a scheme to protect 28 homes, flooded in 2016. The company Watertight has completed 25 of the homes so far, fitting non-return valves on household sewer outlets, flood doors and applying water proofing to brickwork.

September 2024 Attleborough

A new trash screen is on order and is due to be fitted across the Mill Lane culvert in Attleborough during September. Media coverage will be sought, and the opportunity to remind communities of the importance of individual resilience and also riparian responsibilities in ditch clearance and keeping waterways clear generally. NFM

Events

September 2024 – NALC Event

The Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance have a speaking slot at the Norfolk SLCC Branch and CALC event scheduled for the 12th of September at Carrow Road, Norwich. This will give the NSFA team the opportunity to connect with Local council representatives and keep the messages of preparedness, resilience and community emergency planning foremost in people's minds.

January 2025 Flood & Drought Summit, Council Chamber, County Hall

Following postponement earlier this year, due to the calling of the General Election, the NSFA and NCC are re-arranging the multi-agency summit to discuss flooding and the actions we can collectively take to mitigate it.

Now taking place on Friday the 31st of January 2025, we are bringing together a wide range of agencies and stakeholders which have various responsibilities relating to water management. The focus of the summit will be on action, and how we can achieve this through collaborating better with each other. There will be a variety of speakers, including Norfolk County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), as well as representatives from Anglian Water and the Environment Agency.

There will be opportunities for networking and to share best practice, with the aim of working to improve outcomes for the residents, businesses and other communities we collectively serve. We expect the summit to be well attended by Norfolk MPs.

Norfolk Resilience Forum/ Communities Prepared

The Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance is working with the team at the Norfolk Resilience Forum to ensure lines of communication are open across the alliance of partners and the County of Norfolk is as prepared as it can be for flooding events.

A key part of the resilience planning is ensuring that communities have emergency plans in place. The Norfolk Resilience Forum is working with Communities Prepared to help support district councils and communities to put in place appropriate and relevant emergency planning.

'Communities Prepared is a national community resilience programme that equips Community Emergency Volunteers (CEV) and Flood Warden groups with the knowledge and confidence to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a range of emergencies, from flooding and severe weather incidents to pandemics.'