



Surface Water and Drainage Partnership
 North Tyneside Council, Quadrant East – Room 4.01
 Wednesday 14 January 2015

Present:

Cllr John Harrison	North Tyneside Council
Cllr Carole Burdis	North Tyneside Council
Cllr Ed Hodson	North Tyneside Council
Phil Scott	North Tyneside Council
Stephen Merrett	Environment Agency
Kevin Ridpath	Capita
Mike Madine	Northumbrian Water
Paul Worth	North Tyneside Council
Mark Newlands	North Tyneside Council
Eleanor Binks	North Tyneside Council
Phil Clarke	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue
Andy MacDougall	Nexus

In Attendance

Julia Mather	North Tyneside Council
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Apologies

Paul Hanson	North Tyneside Council
Jacqui Old	North Tyneside Council
Jackie Laughton	North Tyneside Council

Item	Decision / Action	Who and when
1.	<u>Welcome and introductions</u> Members of the group were welcomed, introductions were made and apologies noted.	Cllr Harrison
2.	<u>Notes of last meeting and matters arising</u> Agreed. Cllr Hodson asked about the cost of balancing Killingworth Lake. Mark Newlands confirmed that a feasibility study was currently being carried out. The costs will probably be known by the summer. It was agreed to put this as a standing item to update on the Agenda. There is stakeholder involvement in the future of the lake.	Julia Mather



3.	<p>Cllr Hodson asked if future developments are considered as part of the work.</p> <p>It was confirmed that as a general principle, it is intended that surface water be removed to enable new development.</p> <p>Mike Madine confirmed that investigations are carried out before planning permission is sought. Agencies work closely with developers. Nobody wants a situation where planning permission is granted and then the development does not take place, with land lying idle.</p> <p><u>Flood Risk Implementation Plan</u></p> <p>Update from Kevin Ridpath on the schemes, including a detailed handout.</p> <p>KR reported that the schemes were on time and on target.</p> <p>Regarding finances, there was some struggle in the first year, but this is common, with feasibility studies being carried out. Allocation for this year is fully committed and this should continue for the next couple of years.</p> <p>KR reported that a lot of the schemes have come about through joint funding, and creative partnerships. The group agreed that the schemes total much more than the £4 million contribution made by North Tyneside Council.</p> <p>The schemes have been very well received, and while they are shown on the leaflet, the group considered whether it may be worth putting out more publicity.</p> <p>While the Friends of Briar Dene are aware of the scheme, there may be some work to do to let the wider public, as well as businesses, know.</p> <p>The schemes are highlighted through the Mayor's Listening Events, but KR agreed to consider providing information to the public through the John Willie Sams and Customer First Centres.</p> <p>Cllr Carole Burdis commented that any schemes implemented need to last longer than 10 years.</p> <p>There was a report that residents have blocked up the causement at Otterburn Avenue, causing issues for their neighbours. Kevin Ridpath and Mark Newlands agreed to look into this.</p>	Kevin Ridpath/ Mark Newlands
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Item	Decision / Action	Who and when
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5.	<p><u>Flood Season Plan/Preparedness</u></p> <p>It was confirmed that there had been no call outs since the last meeting.</p> <p>Phil Scott reported that they are in the process of updating the Emergency Plan. Some areas no longer need the same level of protection due to the work that has been carried out.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Community Preparedness & Resilience</u></p> <p>Jackie Laughton was unable to attend the meeting, but indicated that an update will be provided to the group electronically as soon as possible. Please see Appendix 1 (attached).</p> <p>Cllr Hodson asked how the Flood Warden Scheme was getting on, and Cllr Burdis reported that there has been a good response. The training package is good, but so far there have been no flood incidents in order to test this out!</p> <p>There is a wish for members of staff to get involved, as well as securing Councillor involvement.</p>	Jackie Laughton/ Julia Mather
7.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>The group discussed the frequency of the meetings, and agreed that continuing to hold them quarterly was acceptable to members.</p> <p>Stephen Mernett from Environment Agency reported to the group that it had been announced in the Autumn Statement that £2.3 billion over 6 years was to be allocated to tackle flood risk. This included a development programme for North Tyneside covering 8 schemes.</p> <p>SM agreed to pass this information on electronically to be forwarded to the group members.</p>	Stephen Mernett/ Julia Mather



8.	<p>Mark Newlands confirmed that project appraisal work is being carried out to draw up business cases to access this funding. It was agreed that North Tyneside Council should consider involving the Communication team in this to let the public know this is approved and will be accessed.</p> <p>Andy McDougall reported on a plan for the culvert at Shiremoor, suggesting that the Council/partner could install the culvert if Nexus take the track out using their own maintenance crew. This was agreed to be the best solution.</p> <p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>16:00 – 18:00 Room 4.01 Wednesday 15 April 2015</p>	Mark Newlands/ Phil Scott
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Appendix 1

Flooding – Community Preparedness

1. This report provides the Surface Water and Drainage Partnership with an update on the work being delivered through its sub-group on community preparedness.

Community Flood Wardens

2. Internal desktop exercises have been carried out to ensure the community flood warden role fits seamlessly into the emergency response process.
3. We have recruited 15 community flood wardens covering 8 of the borough's priority areas. The volunteers have completed the training programme which includes a desktop exercise, lone-working and health and safety training.
4. The community flood wardens are active in their roles and we are regularly communicating weather warnings and receiving feedback.
5. As part of keeping the community flood wardens safe in their roles, they have been issued with high visibility jackets and handbooks. The flood wardens are now protected by the council's employer's liability insurance. The flood wardens are also set-up on the council's automated lone-working system which is monitored around the clock.
6. The Association of Public Excellence (APSE) highlighted North Tyneside's community flood wardens scheme in a recent case study on Local Water Stewardship.
7. Gateshead Council adopted our community flood wardens scheme as a best practice example when developing their community warden scheme.
8. Two community flood wardens agreed to be included in an article in the most recent edition of the council magazine.
9. The community flood warden model is currently being extended to include ward members and we have one volunteer to date. The scheme will be promoted more widely to members in preparation for the start of the flooding season.
10. Targeted recruitment of community flood wardens from the community and voluntary sector is planned in preparation for the start of this year's flooding season.
11. A business flood warden model is being developed. To support this work we agreed to appoint a business link to the group.
12. We plan to raise the profile of the community flood wardens in their communities. We will do this using a measured approach as while the flood wardens are committed in their role, some are reluctant to be in the spotlight as it could identify their homes as being at risk of flooding.
13. The community flood wardens have agreed to work with us to produce new public information on flooding.



Communications

A communications strategy continues to be followed for borough's five most significant flood alleviation schemes and ensure effective two-way communication with key stakeholders.

A news release has been drafted in relation to the completion of works at Green Lane, Dudley. However, it remains to be issued because a photograph featuring members of the local community is required to accompany the news release. Programme director Kevin Ridpath is arranging attendance for the photograph.

'Reducing the Risk of Flooding in North Tyneside' is produced every quarter and is a progress update in relation to the delivery of all the borough's major flood alleviation schemes in the borough as well as details of gully cleansing work. It is printed for the borough's libraries and is also uploaded onto the council website. The last version was issued in November 2014. The next version will be produced in February 2015.