

APPENDIX A

FLOODING INVESTIGATION – CASE STUDIES

1. Leicester Forest East

In Leicester Forest East, we investigated the flooding of the A47, Hinckley Road. Despite improvements to the highway drainage, water was not getting away. We tracked this down to a watercourse running along back gardens that has been partially piped, blocked in some places and filled in in others. We are now working with landowners to reinstate the ditch, explaining to them their responsibilities and the effects of what they have done.

2. Mythe Lane, Witherley

Flooding here is an old chestnut, but an excellent example of the County Council's role as LLFA. Where appropriate, we undertake investigations of flooding incidents - a responsibility that no authority had before the Flood and Water Management Act. In this case, we got together Severn Trent, the Environment Agency, the parish and borough councils and County Council highway staff together to discuss the problem and each party is undertaking work on a joint approach to improving the situation.

The County Council will:

- Clear out weed growth
- Undertake wildlife survey
- Establish existing highway drainage route
- Clean out existing culverts under the road
- Maintain flap valves.
- Clean out ditches.
- Check for suspected obstructions

The County Council will consider:

- installing permanent flood signs,
- Installing new kerb offlet + catchpit + high level connection to river + non-return flap valve.

Severn Trent Water will:

- Carry out survey of existing combined sewer
- Establish location of combined sewer overflow from pumping station

The Environment Agency will:

- Undertake flood modelling

3. Sheepy Magna

Following the heavy rainfall that passed across Leicestershire on the night of Thursday 6th July 2012, the village of Sheepy Magna suffered flooding to properties from both fluvial and pluvial sources. The flood resulted in a number of residents having to be evacuated from their homes and the main road running through the village had to be closed. The village lies on land adjacent the River Sence; which places the small Leicestershire village on the edge of the functional flood plain.

After the floods had retreated and the subsequent clear-up had been completed, councillors and residents were asking the question “why did Sheepy Magna flood and what can be done to stop this occurring again”. Leicestershire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), utilised new powers granted under the Flood and Water Management Act and set about bringing partners together to try and answer this question.

It was clear from initial enquiries that the flooding came from a number of sources including the main river, public sewer, highway, ordinary watercourses and surface run-off. As LLFA Leicestershire County Council co-ordinated a meeting that brought together representatives from the following organisations:

- The Environment Agency
- Severn Trent Water
- Leicestershire County Council (LLFA, Highways and Local Member)
- Sheepy Magna Parish Council (Chairman)
- Hinckley and Bosworth (Drainage Engineer and Councillor)
- Local Resilience Forum

The meeting resulted in a number of agreed tasks and a plan of action has now been formalised with all partners to tackle and mitigate flooding in the future. The meeting has also seen a ‘cultural’ change, particularly with public bodies who are now working together towards the goal of reducing flood risk. Leicestershire County Council has already committed £9,500 of funding towards highway drainage improvements, other actions that have been agreed include:

- Severn Trent Water has agreed to upgrade and repair their foul sewer system at critical locations to prevent water from the flood plain entering the sewer and subsequently flooding properties.
- The Environment Agency has agreed to carry out modelling of the River Sence through Sheepy Magna; this modelling may be used to support a

FDGiA funding bid in the future.

- The Parish Council is acting as the point of contact for residents, thus creating a central contact point and enabling all partners to be kept informed and up to date.
- Landowners with Sheepy Magna have been contacted and have been informed of their duties to maintain the ordinary watercourses that pass through their land and a number of critical ditches have now been cleared out.

The next meeting is scheduled in the New Year where hopefully we will be able to report back on other areas where we have reduced the risk of flooding.

