

Chesham Flood Resilience Update

January 2016

The Environment Agency, Buckinghamshire County Council and Chiltern District Council have all carried out various works in response to the flooding experienced in Chesham in September 2014. This newsletter provides an update on what we have been doing and a number of ways you can start preparing now before another flood happens.

What has the Environment Agency been doing?

- We have checked the river Chess at Church Street (Missenden Road) and at Germain Street to ensure that any weed growth does not restrict high flows.
- We have created the Chesham Water Group in collaboration with various community groups, agencies and water companies that work on water-related issues in Chesham. Through this group, we work in better partnership with each other and we want to deliver real benefits for the residents of Chesham and the environment.
- We have been continuously supporting the Chesham Flood Action Group.
- We are developing options for a Chesham flood alleviation scheme, with contributions sought from partners including Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. We are working with the Chesham Water Group to ensure we achieve multiple benefits.
- We have been supporting the 'Pednormead End' project that is lead by Bucks County Council which is looking into the possible options to alleviate flood risk in the Pednormead area.
- We informed Thames Water there has been an ongoing issue of wet weather causing sewers to overflow within Chesham in recent years. As a result, they created the Chesham Drainage Strategy which is currently at stage 1 (initialise/prepare).

What has Buckinghamshire County Council been doing?

- We have 100 metres of temporary flood defences for Broad Street which will be deployed when required. These will help protect residential properties and commercial properties from internal flooding.
- We have been carrying out the 'Pednormead End' fluvial, groundwater and surface water flood risk reduction project. This project will reduce flood risk to 12 residential properties. This project is likely to include re-profiling of the river, surface water swales and retention ponds along the Missenden Road which help to manage surface water runoff, and wetland creation within the farmland. This is anticipated to be completed during 2016 to 2017.

What has Chiltern District Council been doing?

- We have been supporting the investigations into the vale brook culvert in Chesham.
- We have carried out regular checks on the river Chess at Church Street (Missenden Road) and at Germain Street to ensure that any weed growth does not restrict high flows.
- Our environmental protection team has been working with our waste team to highlight the risk that illegal waste dumping in streams and ditches has on flooding.
- We have been supporting both the Chesham Water Group and the Chesham Flood Action Group.

What can you do?

1. Find out if you are at risk and where in your community is at risk:

- Visit www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding
- E-mail enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
- Call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**

2. If you are at risk sign up to Floodline Warnings Direct

- Floodline Warnings Direct is a completely free 24-hour service which gives you an advance flood warning in your area by telephone, mobile, fax, pager, text or email.
- Register for this service by calling **0345 988 1188** or by visiting www.gov.uk/floodline.

3. Know your flood warning codes



FLOOD ALERT

Flooding is possible.
Be prepared.



FLOOD WARNING

Flooding is expected.
Immediate action required.



SEVERE FLOOD WARNING

Severe flooding.
Danger to life.

4. Be prepared for a flood:

- Create a personal flood plan
- Prepare your home in case there is a flood
- Check your insurance cover
- Find out how you can help your local community to be prepared
- For further information on how to carry out preparatory actions please visit www.gov.uk/prepare-for-a-flood

Useful Contacts

Contact **Floodline** on **0345 9881188** for up to date flood warning information or advice.

Contact the Environment Agency **incident hotline** on **0800 80 70 60** to report flooding, blockages in rivers or any other environmental incident.

To find out more about the **Chesham Flood Action Group** and how you can get involved, email chair.cheshamfloodactiongroup@outlook.com

