

Flooding Update



INTRODUCTION

Last winter was the wettest experienced in the UK since the main series of weather records began in 1910. The flooding in the Purley and Kenley areas in February 2014 was caused by exceptional rainfall which started in December 2013. On 6 February 2014, the flooding was declared an emergency and a significant operation started to protect hundreds of homes and businesses and to avoid the shutdown of the Kenley water treatment works, which supplies drinking water to 47,000 properties.

Following this, Croydon Council has been working with its partners to investigate the issues and identify measures that need to be taken to alleviate or minimise the impact of any future flooding as a result of the Bourne rising. Details of that work are provided in this update.

Croydon Council, along with its partners, would like to thank the local communities for their co-operation and support during the flooding and for the further continued support while flood alleviation measures are being delivered.

WORKS COMMENCED / COMPLETED TO DATE

Investigations into the cause of the flooding

The council as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) has a duty under section 19 of the act to investigate certain flood events and publish its findings. Our consultant, URS has been commissioned to carry out this task on behalf of the council and investigate:

- the cause of the flooding;
- who and what was affected;
- who the flood risk management authorities were; and
- whether those authorities carried out, or have plans to carry out their flood management functions.

The report from this investigation should be available on the council's website by December 2014. The findings will be used to feed into the longer term requirements.

Investigations into long-term measures

During the flood relief works in February, Croydon Council and Surrey County Council (SCC) made a joint bid to the Environment Agency for funding to further investigate and implement long-term measures to alleviate or minimise the impact of flooding as a result of the Caterham Bourne rising.

Initial funding has been made available for the investigation works to commence in October 2014. The findings will be used to determine the longer term requirements.

During the investigation process, there will be two workshops, one in Tandridge and one in Croydon. This is an opportunity for residents and businesses to talk about the flooding and the impact it had on them, as well as any concerns they have or ideas for future prevention. All feedback from these workshops will feed into proposals for long-term measures. These proposals will be presented at a second set of workshops with an opportunity for residents and businesses to hear about them and add further comments.

Sutton & East Surrey Water

Sutton & East Surrey Water (SESW) has completed works to convert its raw water main pipe which runs from a borehole in the Purley Tesco car park to its site on Godstone Road. This will provide a relief pipe to divert water from the Caterham Bourne helping to reduce the risk of future flooding of the section between the water treatment works and Purley.

The converted pipe will reduce the likelihood of the need to lay temporary pipes along Godstone Road as was necessary during the flood relief works in February, which in turn led to the closure of Godstone Road.

The council is also developing an emergency procedure to ensure close monitoring of the Caterham Bourne. This will trigger the use of the raw water main pipes if we need to relieve the pressure of the Caterham Bourne culvert.

SESW has completed works to remove the temporary blue pipes that were installed along Godstone Road during the flood relief works. This work was completed in July 2014.



WORKS COMMENCED / COMPLETED TO DATE continued...

Dale Road

In May 2014, the council carried out a CCTV survey of the culvert along Dale Road to determine if there are any structural damages or blockages. The survey showed that the culvert had a high build-up of silt deposits, and maintenance works to clean the culvert commenced in August 2014. These works are still on going.



Joint working

The council is part of a five-borough groundwater flooding solution cell, which was set up during the flooding to investigate and develop medium to long-term measures for managing ground and surface water flooding. The other boroughs in the cell are Sutton, Bromley, Bexley and Greenwich, and the group is supported by the London Fire Brigade (LFB), Environment Agency (EA) and Thames Water.

It has been identified that the flooding experienced in Croydon in February is likely to be linked to the movement of groundwater from southern London boroughs as water moves towards the Thames. This joint working will ensure that a consistent approach will be applied to this widespread issue and will see tangible, effective outcomes for the participating boroughs and their communities.

Repair and Renew Grant

The government has made grants of up to £5,000 available under the Repair and Renew Grant scheme to homeowners and businesses that experienced internal flooding and/or flooding to septic tanks between 1 December 2013 and 31 March 2014.

The council is administering the scheme on behalf of the government and sent out application forms in May 2014 to all residents and businesses in Purley and Kenley that were affected by the flooding. A workshop was held on 7 July 2014 at St John the Baptist Church, Dale Road, to provide more information about the scheme.

To find out more about the scheme or to obtain an application form, please visit www.croydon.gov.uk/repair-renew or contact **020 8726 6000** or email floodandwater@croydon.gov.uk.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Programme of proposed works June to December 2014

Purley Oaks depot balancing pond – Renewing the existing pumps and electrical supply. Clearing of the pond to create more capacity and cleaning the trash screens, as well as cutting back vegetation and trees. **October/November 2014**

Godstone Road (by Tesco car park) – Reinforcement of wall to prevent structural damage due to excessive pumping of water from new raw water main pipes used to relieve pressure from the Bourne culvert. **October 2014**

Harris Academy primary school & Kenley cricket club – Clearing the trash screens and ditch of debris and cutting back vegetation and trees. Capacity of the ditch will be increased, either by widening/deepening it, or by building up the bank. **September 2014**

Bourne View – Clearing the trash screen, ditch and culvert of debris. Cutting back vegetation and trees and landscaping of the flood storage area to increase capacity. **September 2014**

Bourne Park – During the flooding in February, Croydon Council created a temporary flood storage area in Bourne Park. The council is working with the Environment Agency and Network Rail to establish a more permanent storage area. **November/December 2014**

Bourne Park Close – Clearing the trash screen, ditch and culvert of debris and cutting back vegetation and trees. To increase capacity of the ditch we will be looking to widen/deepen it or build up the bank. **September/October 2014**

We want to hear from you – Workshops are planned for November 2014 where we want to hear about your experiences, concerns and ideas to feed into the development of the long-term flood prevention measures. Dates and venues for these workshops will be available at www.croydon.gov.uk/flooding at the end of October 2014.

** Please note that all dates are subject to change.

Cabinet will be reviewing a flood prevention report in November looking at the flood alleviation measures in the Purley and Kenley areas. The report will include detail of other work being carried out as part of the council's duties under the Flood Water Management Act. The report and minutes from this meeting will be available on the council's website.

CONTACT US

Should you have any queries regarding the completed works and/or the programme of proposed works, please visit www.croydon.gov.uk/flooding or call **020 8726 6000** or email floodandwater@croydon.gov.uk.