

Wokingham Constituency

Environment Agency update

April 2016

Loddon Bridge Road

My Planning and Strategic Overview team regularly meets with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), including its highways department and its Flood Risk Manager, to discuss flood risk in the borough. During a recent meeting they discussed the highway flooding issues at the Loddon Bridge roundabout, Winnersh and other locations. We are keen to support WBC on its road resilience proposals and will share our knowledge and expertise with them to ensure a joined up approach in managing all forms of flood risk in the borough.

Bythorne Close, Lower Earley

My Planning and Strategic Overview team attended a partnership meeting with the Lower Earley residents group (including the residents of Bythorn Close and Thistleton Way), Thames Water and WBC in February 2014. Sewer flooding is the main source of flood risk in the area. We are working with Thames Water to dovetail our forward look programmes and to highlight any schemes where we could work together to achieve better outcomes.

Debris under Loddon Bridge

Where there is clear flood risk with supporting evidence we pursue enforcement actions against riparian landowners. However, as the modelling we carried out showed that the debris was not causing an immediate flood risk, we cannot enforce the riparian owner to remove the debris. If the riparian owner is minded to carry out this work, they should contact us at westthamesconsents@environment-agency.gov.uk to apply for permission. Although WBC is the riparian owner of Loddon Bridge, we do not know who the riparian owner of the bed and banks of the river under the bridge is. We will carry out a land registry search to clarify the ownership and encourage the riparian owner to remove the debris.

Emm Brook School

Emm Brook School has not flooded internally from rivers since 2007. The School has installed flood-proofed walling around its buildings and floodgates across every doorway since 2007, therefore we do not have plans to look into the school flood risk from rivers.

However, we are currently looking at flood risk management options for the whole of the Emm Brook catchment which may bring some additional benefits to the school against other sources of flooding or impacts from flooding, such as access issues, that may have caused the school to close,

Tesco car park, Finchampstead Road

We supported WBCs planning department on the planning conditions for the Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) for the Tesco development in 2011. However as the SUDs installed in Tesco's car park was a pilot, WBC didn't impose any planning conditions on the decision notice for maintenance of the SUDs. Since the site was developed, the car park was resurfaced which impacted the drainage. As WBC is the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) it will have to decide if they will take any action to address the current drainage issues at the site. The contact dealing with this at WBC is Flood Risk Manager, Francesca Hobson who can be contacted at francesca.hobson@wokingham.gov.uk.

Flood storage area options

As part of the River Loddon Soft Engineering Initial Assessment (IA) we are reviewing options to reduce flood risk in the River Loddon catchment, including the use of flood storage areas within the catchment. We will ensure that the Dinton Pastures Country Park location is highlighted as an area to review as part of the IA proposal.

Funding for flood groups

We advise that flood groups contact and work with the relevant Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) to apply for Government funding (FDGiA) and Local Levy for flood schemes. The Flood Risk Management Authorities for the Wokingham constituency are:

- **Wokingham Borough Council**, Lead Local Flood Authority (risk of flooding from surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater), main switchboard 01189 746000
- **West Berkshire Council**, Lead Local Flood Authority (risk of flooding from surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater), main switchboard 01635 42400
- **Thames Water** (risk of flooding from surface water and foul or combined sewer systems), contact form <https://customerhelp.thameswater.co.uk/app/ask>
- **Environment Agency** (strategic overview, forecasting and mapping and managing risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea), contact details wtenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Watercourse maintenance

We do not spray Japanese Knotweed or Himalayan Balsam on the River Loddon within the country park. We treat invasive species where it poses a risk to a flood defence structure such as a weir, sluice or flood wall or if growing on land we own to prevent it from spreading. In all other cases we encourage riparian owners to eradicate and control the spread of invasive species from their land as they can be prosecuted or given a community protection notice for causing a nuisance if they allow Japanese knotweed to grow on anyone else's property. We offer advice to riparian owners about what consents they need from us and how to remove and dispose of invasive species so that they do not allow contaminated soil or plant material from any waste they transfer to spread into the wild. Information on the control of non native species can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-spread-of-harmful-invasive-and-non-native-plants>

We make every effort to ensure that we carry out watercourse maintenance in the timescale we state in our published programme. Sometimes we may not be able to carry at the planned time due to adverse weather, floods, or environmental incidents. Our planned work in the Wokingham constituency attached. The locations of the planned works are on an interactive map available at: <http://arcg.is/1PNnoro>



Name of Watercourse	Start of work Location	End of work Location	Kilometres of Sub Reach to be Maintained in	Planned Maintenance	Planned Commencement
Loddon	Loddon Bridge	Black Bridge	2.2	Obstruction removal	Sept-2016 - Feb-2017
Old Loddon	Old Loddon Off-take	Railway	2	Woody debris management, Obstruction removal	Sept-2016 - Feb-2017
Old Loddon	Railway	Old Bath Road	0.794	Woody debris management, Obstruction removal	Sept-2016 - Feb-2017
Old Loddon	Old Bath Road	Charvil Meadows	0.28	Woody debris management, Obstruction removal	Sept-2016 - Feb-2017
Loddon	Railway	New Bath Road A4	1.4	Woody debris management, Obstruction removal	Sept-2016 - Feb-2017
Emm Brook	Ashville Way	Barkham Road	0.255	In channel weed control, Obstruction removal	Jul-2016
Emm Brook	Barkham Road	A329	1.4	In channel weed control, Obstruction removal	Jul-2016
Emm Brook	A329	Forest Road	1.3	In channel weed control, Obstruction removal	Jul-2016
Emm Brook	Forest Road	Robin Hood Lane	2.1	In channel weed control, Obstruction removal	Aug-2016
Emm Brook	Robin Hood Lane	A329M	0.115	In channel weed control, Obstruction removal	Aug-2016
Emm Brook	Sandford Lane	Confluence with Loddon	0.726	Woody debris management, Obstruction removal	Feb-2017
Emm Brook	Emm Brook School	Matthews Green Road	0.319	Tree & bush management (pollarding), Obstruction removal	Dec-2016

