



CCATCH – Southampton Itchen Community Group Meeting 23rd May 2013 19:00am – 21:00pm

Meeting report

Introduction

The meeting, held at the Riverside Club, Priory Avenue, St Denys and was hosted by the Solent Forum (www.solentforum.org) was attended by 16 members of the local community and stakeholders from organisations who have a role in flood prevention.

This report aims to capture the essence of the discussion and is not meant to be a formal minute of the meeting.

Session 1: Welcome & Introductions

Mike King (Resources for Change) welcomed people to the meeting and set the scene in the following way

What is this meeting about?

- To hear from Southern Water
- To update progress on the short-term actions agreed at the last meeting
- To start to think about long- term flood prevention actions

What we intended to cover?

Part 1: Presentations

- Update from the CCATCH project
- Southern Water

Part 2: Participation

- Feedback from the Task & Finish Groups
- Development of a vision and longer term actions.



Session 2: Update from the CCATCH project

Karen McHugh provided an update of the CCATCH Project to date and what in particular has happened at the Southampton Itchen site.

A copy of the presentation can be found on the Solent Forum website at http://www.solentforum.org/current/CCATCH/Southampton_Itchen/

A summary of progress includes:

- Public Meeting 8th November and report
- Small community meeting in Priory Road on Emergency Planning
- Newsletter issued
- 1st Community Group meeting and report
- Three task and finish groups: Levels, Tidal marker, Walls
- PLP Survey of no.82 and 84. Priory Road
- Develop Southampton Technical Factguide
- SCC won a pathfinder bid for further money

Karen also provided a reminder of what the community had wanted at the last Community Group meeting, as follows:

Action	Prioritisation score
Build up a database of reports and images and fine tuning local maps	8 people thought this was a priority
Providing clear information on flood risk such as height and chart datum information for properties	6 people
Working together on a consistent height flood wall along the bottom of properties	5 people
Installation of local Tide Gauges	6 people
Routine drain clearance	1 person
- creating visible benchmarks on local buildings to show what level the flooding reached	3 people
Information for house buyers/ sellers	0 people



It was suggested that the building of a website would be an important way of presenting all of this information to the community.

Session 3: Southern Water Roles & Responsibilities – presentation by Dave Bone, Southern Waters representative on the Solent Forum.

Copies of their presentations can be found on the Solent Forum website at http://www.solentforum.org/current/CCATCH/Southampton_Itchen/

Questions & Answers after the Southern Water presentation

Q: Can you report incidents retrospectively?

A: No, we need you to report current live situations. There would be an interest in historic investigations, but it has to be linked to a live event. We have to focus on live, ongoing issue. You must report incidents on the website or through the formal phone logging system or they will not move up the priority list. We are scrutinised by Ofwat to make sure we are spending money on the right priorities. We can only respond to logged problems.

Statement from participant: There is a distinction between something we know will happen again and again when a specific set of conditions arise and a one-off incident such as a nappy blocking a drain. An extreme event would only happen every 7/8 years so we won't ever come up the priority list.

A: We have some areas where extreme events happen every year.

Statement from participant: This is the issue - the tie comes in and backs up through Southern Water's system.

A: This is not unusual. We have mechanisms, you have to log the incident on the system. At the moment our databases show there are no incidents being logged in this area. So do log every incident and then we can work out whose responsibility it is to sort out the problem.

Q: Should we also be contacting Southampton City Council.

A: You can of course do that, but Southampton City Council would have to report the incident in the same way as a resident, through the website or by calling the incident reporting phone line.

Q: When do reporting records start?

A: They go back a long time.

Statement from participant: I've been in touch with Andrew Salsby at South Water who has printed out a sewerage / water pipe map of the area.

Q: How does this dovetail with communications where we were told that Southern Water has to take responsibility right up to household boundaries?



A: This was decided by the Government in legislation in the last year. All elements of a sewerage system up to the boundaries of a property, the boundary fence or wall are the responsibility of Southern Water. Otherwise it's your land and your problem unless it is a shared drain.

Q: Do you get a unique identifying number for the report you make?

A: Yes, there will be an identifier against the reported incident.

Q: Where is the reporting page on the website? I am looking at it now and I can't find it. It isn't at all clear.

A: DS will find out and report back to the group

Q: Can we not report an incident to you at Southern Water or to Bernadine at Southampton City Council and then you report it on behalf of the group?

A: The incident is far more likely to be noticed if lots of individuals report the incident rather than one person reporting it on behalf of the group. 30 logs of an incident are much better than one, it pushes it up the priority lists.

Session 4: Report back from the Task & Finish Groups

Wall group

Andy Varley described the process by which he has measured the height of existing walls. Now the data exists, he urged the group and individuals to take action on ensuring each wall was at the appropriate height to protect all those involved in the event of an incident.

Recorded action:

- Andy's slides to be circulated electronically to the group and,
- As an example of a good practice within the CCATCH project.
- Andy will speak to anyone individually about their own particular situation and how his findings affect it.

The group thanked Andy for his hard work in measuring all the wall heights and producing data for residents.

A copy of the presentation can be found on the Solent Forum website at http://www.solentforum.org/current/CCATCH/Southampton_Itchen/

Flood marker group

The group agreed to change the name of the sub-group to reflect that fact that the markers are historical, they are not measuring data. Sam Foulds reported that the group had identified 5 possible locations for the markers but it was likely that the most appropriate of these would be



Woodmill, Cobden Bridge and Priory Hard. The cost of each marker as conceived by the group is likely to be between £600 and £1,000 and so the budget would allow for £2,000 for markers with interpretation boards to be designed and produced.

Discussion on the markers:

Q: Wouldn't a pole with 10cm markers be cheaper to produce and so more sites could be covered?

A: We asked people what they wanted on a marker and the historical information and interpretation was requested. The group identified five potential locations but it is not necessary to have them in every location.

Response from participant: A decent sized post with a graduated scale and then an arrow would be understood without having to have a load of information beside the marker.

A: We could explore having basic poles in all locations and interpretation boards in some.

Recorded action:

If anyone new to the meeting would like to be involved in this sub-group they should speak to Karen

Levels group / website

Recorded action:

- The web address will be emailed to the group
- Please note the user id: ccatch and password: itchenleg
- Note: the group were not sure a password protected site was necessary for this data
- Further work is needed to try and define the levels at Woodmills
- Anchor points are needed to fill the data gaps
- The group agreed that a website was a good idea
- A permanent address is now required plus a community administrator
- A request was made for support for Peter to develop the website further. As a result John agreed to act as a tester for the site and input information where he can; Ian has some computer experience and is happy to work on a section of the site where residents be galvanised to log incidents with Southern Water; Andy will contribute on the wall project by encouraging people to raise the levels of their own walls and report back via the website on the work done.

Peter was thanked by the group for all his hard work.

A copy of the presentation can be found on the Solent Forum website at http://www.solentforum.org/current/CCATCH/Southampton_Itchen/



Session 5: Longer term Planning

a. Launch

Mike reported that there was budget for one more meeting of the group. It was proposed that this should be a wider community launch of the work done and priorities for the future.

Recorded action:

- The launch would be likely to be held in October
- Peter, Andy, John and Clare will work with Karen on the launch event - a celebration of waterside living

Andy proposed incorporating a block laying element to the party.

b. Creating a community vision

Mike explained that a good starting point for long-term planning was the development of a vision of how we would like things to be. This vision was not just about flooding but about 'living by the waterside' of which dealing with future flooding was part. He invited all the participants to think ahead 20yrs, imaging that they were still living on the Waterside at St Deny's and to write a 'postcard from the future' to tell us what it is like. The Catch team will then distil what has been written into a draft vision for further discussion.



Post cards from the Future

Pleasant day on the river enjoying the privacy. Glad no public access along the Priory Road side of the river. Happy to look after own flood defences.

You will be needing more sandbags!

Its good to see that the character of the Waterside is still the same. The old Victorian houses are still there with a few changes like double glazing etc

Here we are and they are saying that the risk is getting worse but nothing has happened yet. However, they cannot play cricket of the Bramble Bank anymore. They say its because Greenland is melting!

Dear All, Just got back from a trip up the river, so many people out in boats enjoying the sunshine. It was great to come back to the barbeque area in the park and enjoy the river in view. A glass of beer from the local micro brewery at the triangle. Perfect.

Wish you were here is sunny St Deny's! We are sunbathing on our floodwall. We are so glad we improved our defences back in 2013

Lovely views, enjoying a G&T, thank goodness we built the wall because the submarine has a hole in it!

Key components of this community's vision for the future of waterside living (developed from the postcards and being part of the conversation)

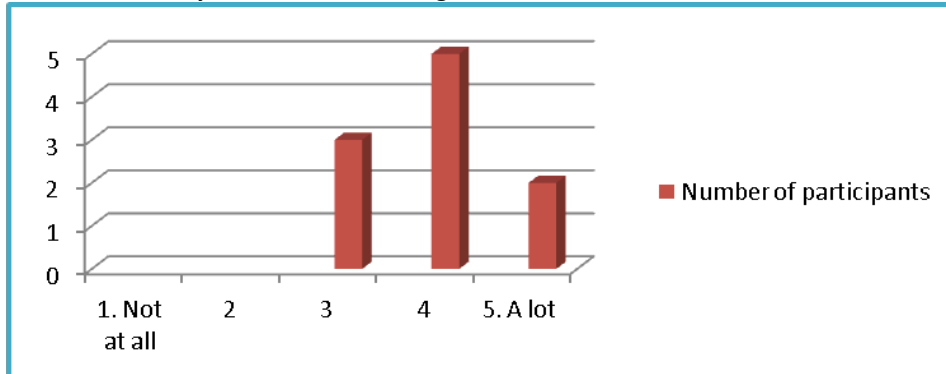
- Maintaining a place to live and way of life by learning to live with the river.
- Taking personal responsibility for own flood defences
- Being proactive and collaborative in managing the potential increase in the risk of flooding



Evaluation

The CCATCH project is keen to know how people participating in the workshop viewed the experience. Evaluation sheets were handed out at the end of the workshop and people asked to fill them in before they left. The results are summarised below.

How useful have you found this evening?



Comments

- Top quality data on levels & walls
- Factual info from working groups
- I came here on behalf of the Solent Protection Society. I was most impressed by the spirit of the meeting and the work that has been done to date.
- First meeting attended - interesting
- Found it interesting to get people thinking and cooperating/ exchanging ideas
- Not very clear on the overall objectives
- Lots of work done predicting/ understanding flood water levels
- Great to hear from others in community.
- Good to feel some community cohesion

How confident are you that your actions will be followed up?

