

Staverton Flooding

Partnership meeting at Bradford on Avon Fire Station on 21st February 2018

Attendees:

Vicky Farwig/Guy Parker (EA)

Mark Stansby (WC Highways)

Danny Everett (WC Drainage)

Chris Clark (WC Streetscene)

Jim Lynch/Trevor Carbin/Peter Dunford (Bradford on Avon Area Board)

Andy Green (DWFRS)

This was an initial meeting to ensure a common understanding of the risk that had been identified and to decide upon any action that could be investigated.

Overview of the risk

Regular flooding of two roads, the B3106 (Staverton to Holt cut through) and the B3105 (causeway from Staverton to junction of B3107). The B3106 floods more regularly than the B3105. The flooding can make both routes impassable, warning signs are in place and supplemented by additional signs and cones when required. These signs are often ignored by motorists who may become stuck in flood water. This can result in attendance of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, called to perform rescues of people from stranded vehicles. Since 2008 a total of 23 people have been rescued from the floodwater in this area. The lives of those in need of rescue and the responding emergency service personnel are at risk during each incident attended.

Brief points from meeting

Each partner agency had the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns, funding of the scheme was understandably the biggest discussion point. Intervention from the EA is normally in line with property and businesses that are at risk, which the Staverton situation does not include, however risk to life is a consideration.

The group considered that if a partial solution was achievable then the best option was two gates to secure the B3106, Holt Cut, as this was the road that was subjected to flooding more often and had been the location of a majority of the rescues.

A question was raised about the actual possibility of getting any installation in place as work to research possible solutions and costs would be time consuming. It was agreed that funding would be actively sought and therefore it was worth starting to research.

There is a possibility that partial funding, up to 50% could come from Bradford and Trowbridge Area Boards.

It was agreed that the group would meet again for an update on progress in April, date and venue to be confirmed.

Actions

Bradford and Trowbridge Area Boards to prepare a paper detailing possible shared funding agreement, to be forwarded to Wiltshire Council attendees.

FRS to lead on media and communications, a jointly agreed statement/message to be prepared for use when required. FRS media manager will attend the next meeting in order to gauge progress and discuss an agreed message.

Note prepared by Andy Green, DWFRS