

Recommended action and response for Braunton flood incident 29/07/2011

| Responsible authority | Recommended action | Timescale for response required | Response | Date |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Devon County Council as a Highway Authority</p> | <p>Devon Highways should investigate the drainage in this area for any significant issues or blockages and re-assess the cleaning regime of the drains and gullies in Braunton town centre, considering more regular cleaning for this specific problem area. A storm flap at the outfall should also be considered to prevent backing up of main river water entering the piped highway system, although this will not allow discharge when the main river level is above the outfall level.</p> | <p>18th Oct 2011</p> | <p>From Highway Neighbourhood Manager, Devon Highways</p> <p>The gullies and drainage system were inspected, cleaned and jetted on Friday 30 September 2011.</p> <p>The drainage cleaning regime has been changed to a frequency of three times per annum which is an enhancement compared to normal County standard of once annually.</p> <p>Damaged channel drains at the low point of Caen Street have been replaced to improve catchment of surface water.</p> <p>The system outfall has been considered. A storm flap is not felt to be appropriate at this location due to the outfall being partially submerged at all times and the invert level of the outfall pipe being marginally lower than the existing natural river bed. These two factors contribute to the flap being likely to jam with debris which could have a negative effect on the drainage system during storm events</p> | <p>18th Oct 2011</p> |
| <p>Environment Agency</p> | <p>The EA will be implementing a scheme on the main river.</p> <p>This is unlikely to help reduce the current risk from surface water flooding and problems with the highway drainage system. The extent of the effects of this scheme on highway drainage will not be known until the project is completed.</p> <p>The EA should provide further details of their proposals and how they have considered the impact on other sources of flooding.</p> | <p>18th Oct 2011</p> | <p>From Asset System Management, Environment Agency</p> <p>The Environment Agency has now gained planning consent to undertake a Flood Defence Improvement Scheme in Braunton, and work is planned to start mid-October 2011 and last for around 6 months. Our Scheme is intended to reduce the risk of significant fluvial flooding from overtopping of the Caen (eg the major 2004 event) - by increasing the river channel capacity at key locations where flow is currently restricted - firstly around the Memorial Gardens / Bowling Green area and secondly around Hordens Bridge. We have undertaken public consultation on the Scheme, and liaised closely with the Town Council throughout its development. The design details should be publicly accessible via North</p> | <p>28th Sep 2011</p> |

| | | <p>Devon District Council's planning portal.</p> <p>Our Scheme will not have any impact on the general highways drainage system or the type of flooding that occurred on 29 July 2011 which - as your Report highlights - is essentially an issue related to the capacity and performance of the highways drainage system. The drainage discharge point near Caen Bridge will not be affected by our Scheme.</p> <p>We would support any proposal by Devon CC Highways to install a flap valve on the drainage outlet pipe. This would certainly prevent river water backing up the drainage system and maximise whatever storage capacity is available within the pipes. Whether this would significantly improve the performance of the drainage system is not clear.</p> | |
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| Follow up action from LLFA: | | | Date |
| Response from the Environment Agency passed on to Devon Highways. | | | 29 th Sep 2011 |
| Following discussions with Highways and Councillors, information requested from South West Water on any hydraulic overloads at the time of the event. Three incidents of flooding on the road or gardens reported. No hydraulic overload incidents recorded in the main area of reported flooding. | | | 11 th Oct 2011 |
| Results of investigation published under F&WMA S.19 on DCC Flood Risk Management website | | | Jan 2012 |