

Allesley - Flooding update

March 2016

This is a joint update provided by Environment Agency and Coventry City Council.

07 February 2016 flooding

Over the weekend of 06 February 2016 Warwickshire and the West Midlands experienced high levels of rainfall associated with Storm Imogen. Coventry received an average of 35mm of rainfall over this period which combined with already saturated ground conditions to result in localised flooding.

In Allesley, several properties were affected both internally and externally along with vehicles being damaged. We have been gathering information from residents and witness accounts of the flooding and this work continues with the flood drop in event on 17 March.

There are several factors which resulted in flooding of properties along Butt Lane and Browns Lane, following the intense rainfall. We believe that the flooding in Allesley was caused by a combination of both fluvial (river) and surface water. Issues for further investigation include.

- High flows in the River Sherbourne upstream of Browns Lane
- Constrictions along the route of the river and size of the channel
- Large quantities of surface water run-off flowing down Washbrook Lane from arable land
- Changes to highway drainage

Recent works to the highway/road junction

Coventry City Council's Flood Risk and Drainage Team completed an assessment at Brown's Lane, Windmill Hill, Washbrook Lane and Butt Lane before any improvements were made. This confirmed that any planned alterations would not increase the risk of flooding from the River Sherbourne.

6-year Programme

More than £2.3 billion will be invested in capital projects alone over the 6 year period from 2015/16 to 2020/21. This will reduce the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, groundwater and surface water for at least 300,000 households across England.

The published programme can be found on the GOV.UK website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/programme-of-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-schemes>

Property Level Protection (PLP) for Allesley sits within the 'Development Programme' for 2018-2021. The scheme is on the 'Development Programme' as it has a low partnership funding score and is currently not fully funded. In order for the scheme to attract Grant in Aid (GiA), external contributions are required to bring the partnership funding score to at least 100%.

Partnership Funding

We allocate funding to Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) schemes using Defra's Partnership Funding Policy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/calculate-grant-in-aid-funding-flood-risk-management-authorities>

The policy makes FCERM grant in aid (GiA) available to any scheme, to an amount dictated by the benefits delivered and the damages prevented to households, the environment and the wider economy. While the number of households benefiting from a proposed project is an important factor in how much grant is available, wider economic benefits, such as the benefits of protecting businesses, infrastructure and agriculture, are also taken into account.

Some of the proposed projects will qualify for full FCERM GiA funding, without the need for a partnership funding contribution. When this is not the case the balance of a project's cost must be secured locally through contributions, reduced through efficiency and cost-savings, or by opting for different risk management solutions. By not funding all projects fully and securing external contributions the money allocated to FCERM goes further and more projects can be delivered.

Flood Risk Management Options for Allesley

We currently have two schemes that may be suitable for Allesley. We are investigating the feasibility of the two options.

1. Upstream flood storage - holding water upstream of Allesley so that it has time to gradually flow into the River Sherbourne and not run off land or overflow from the channel.
2. Property level protection - equipment fitted to properties that will provide protection to the building, this may include flood doors, air bricks covers and other equipment. Each property will be surveyed and the suitable equipment fitted.

Unfortunately, both options are currently not fully funded and further work is required to either reduce the costs of the scheme and/or secure significant external funding.

We are looking at all options to reduce the risk of flooding in Allesley. As well as the two schemes above, options for land management improvements are being investigated by speaking to landowners about how they use and manage their land that may reduce the level of surface run off.

We will be investigating Natural Flood Management (NFM) such as tree planting and upland management of watercourses which can slow the flow and gradually release water into the River Sherbourne.