

Charlton Flood Alleviation Scheme

Update: December 2011

This newsletter is to update you on progress managing the risk of flooding in Charlton. Including installing individual flood protection measures, managing the land, maintaining the Merry Brook and developing an emergency community flood plan.

Property level flood protection progress

We have appointed Whitehouse Construction to carry out installation of measures to houses that were internally flooded by the Merry Brook in 2007. Some residents will have had initial meetings with Whitehouse Construction and are waiting for second meetings, while others are waiting for their initial meeting. Whitehouse will contact you to schedule these meetings in the very near future where you will be able to confirm your choice of measures.

There has been a delay while we ensure the flood proof doors are suitable for use in Charlton. We asked Whitehouse to check potential leakage rates if flood water is above 900mm. Whitehouse have introduced a new failsafe mechanism into the doors for use in very extreme floods.

Recently two members of the Charlton Flood Committee were invited to visit Whitehouse and see the doors being made and tested. Roger Davies (Secretary Charlton Flood Committee) said "It was really good to see the quality of the manufactured product and the test. I was very impressed with the way everyone is working together to develop the flood proof doors and their determination to provide a personal service"



Photo below left of Derek Arnold (Charlton Flood Committee) being shown a flood resistant door being made.



Photo above shows a flood resistant door under test. To see a door being tested go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?gl=GB&v=iYAO7KaEO5k>

We are currently drafting an agreement between the Environment Agency and home owners. This is to show public money is being spent on flood protection works, and confirm that property owners are responsible for any future maintenance of the property level flood protection measures.

After the flood protection measures have been installed the surveyor will sign these off and give a letter to each property owner. This will confirm what has been installed and the level of flood protection homes now have. You will be able to send these letters to your insurance company which may help with your insurance premium.

Residents may find it useful to discuss flood insurance with a specialist broker. Advice on a broker can be found via the British Insurers Brokers Association <http://www.biba.org.uk/> or 0870 950 1790.

Further information can also be found by watching an interview with the ABI at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMi9EQSYHNU>

Land management update

We are working with land owners to look for opportunities to reduce runoff and flood risk.

We hope that works on the ground will be commencing soon. When it is complete we will hold an event to show how we can work together to reduce flood risk by managing local land.



Photo above shows an example of a field pond storing overland flow during heavy rainfall from the Belford project. For more information on this land management project to reduce flood risk go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqHLm4V_c58.

Merry Brook maintenance works

Our workforce carry out maintenance works on watercourses. They are planning to do some maintenance on the Merry Brook in the New Year. We are pleased to be able to carry out this maintenance work. Unfortunately we cannot do this regularly, as we have a limited budget and have to prioritise locations with the highest flood

risk. We will continue to remove large blockages that could cause flooding to properties.

When we carry out the work we will demonstrate the type of maintenance work riparian owners need to carry out to keep their brook clear and free flowing. We are working with the Charlton Flood Committee to let you know in advance of when we will be on site.

We are planning to film our maintenance work and produce a riparian landowners responsibility guide to help demonstrate to riparian owners how to maintain their brook and reduce the risk of flooding.

We are also working with the Flood Committee to set up a regular maintenance group.

Community flood plan

We are working with the Flood Committee to help create a community flood plan as part of a wider Parish emergency plan for Charlton. This will help co-ordinate work during a flood to reduce the impact of flooding and risk to property.

If you would like to be involved in either drawing up the Community Flood Plan, the regular maintenance group or have any questions on the projects to reduce flood risk in Charlton please contact:

Roger Davies - Secretary of Charlton Flood Committee on 01386 861041 or via e-mail at rogerldavies@btopenworld.com

Dan Trewin - Environment Agency on 01684 864314 or via e-mail at daniel.trewin@environment-agency.gov.uk or in writing at: Environment Agency, Riversmeet House, Newtown Industrial Estate, Tewkesbury, GL20 8JG

Next Update

The next newsletter update will be in February 2012. Let us know what you think of the newsletter and what you would like us to include next time.

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www.environment-agency.gov.uk