

KENT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 8th July, 2021

2.00 pm

Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall,
Maidstone





AGENDA

KENT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 8th July, 2021, at 2.00 pm

Ask for: **Andrew Tait**

Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone Telephone **03000 416749**

Membership (7)

Conservative (5): Mr N J Collor, Mr A R Hills, Ms M McArthur, Mrs L Parfitt-Reid and Ms L Wright

Labour (1) Mr B H Lewis

Liberal Democrat (1) Mr M J Sole

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Substitutes
2. Election of Chairman
3. Terms of Reference of the Committee
 - 1.1 Membership: 7 Members. *Conservative: 5, Labour:1, Liberal Democrat:1*
 - 1.2 In accordance with the Localism Act 2011 (Schedule 2), this Committee is responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the exercise by risk management authorities of flood risk management functions or coastal erosion risk management functions which may affect the local authority's area.
 - 1.3 This Committee is responsible for:
 - (a) the preparation, monitoring and review (in conjunction with the Flood Risk Management Officer) of a strategic action plan for flood risk management in Kent, taking into account any Select Committee

recommendations, the Pitt Review and relevant requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010,

- (b) reporting annually (and more often if necessary) to the Scrutiny Committee and to the Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste,
- (c) reviewing and responding to any consultation on the implementation of the Pitt Review and the future development of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010,
- (d) receiving reports from the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and responding as appropriate,
- (e) the investigation of water resource management issues in Kent.

1.4 A risk management authority must comply with a request from this Committee for information and a response to a report.

1.5 The Committee may include (non-voting) persons who are not members of the authority, including representatives of District Councils, the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards.

4. Declarations of Members' Interest relating to items on today's agenda
5. Minutes of the meeting on 15 March 2021 (Pages 1 - 8)
6. Introduction to the work of the Committee
7. Short Term Adaptation for Long Term Resilience to Climate Change - Presentation by Tom Hammond, KCC Environmental Projects
8. Little Venice Country Park and Marina (Pages 9 - 46)
9. Environment Agency and Met Office Alerts and Warnings and KCC severe weather response activity (Pages 47 - 50)
10. Other items which the Chairman decides are Urgent

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel
03000 416814

Wednesday, 30 June 2021

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

KENT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee held in the Online on Monday, 15 March 2021.

PRESENT: Mr A R Hills (Chairman), Mr A H T Bowles, Mr I S Chittenden, Mr K Pugh, Mr H Rayner, Mrs C Mackonochie (Tunbridge Wells (BC), Mrs G Brown (KALC), Mr D Brown (Kent Fire and Rescue), Mr G Brooker (Kent Fire and Rescue) and Mr C Mackonochie (KALC)

ALSO PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr M Tant (Flood and Water Manager), Mr T Harwood (Resilience and Emergency Planning Manager) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. **Minutes of the meeting on 23 November 2020**
(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2020 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. **Kent Flood Action Group Forum**
(Item)

(1) The Chairman welcomed Mr David Goff to the meeting. He explained that the purpose was for him to give a brief introduction to the newly formed Kent Flood Action Group Forum. A more detailed presentation would be given to the Committee at its meeting in July.

(2) Mr Goff said that the Kent Flood Action Group Forum (KFAGF) had been set up in November 2020, based on a model created in West Sussex some 3 to 4 years earlier. The KFAGF met fortnightly and aimed to promote effective communication and collaboration between Kent's local flood groups in order to ensure that all ideas, information and experiences could be shared. It was supported in this aims by all the relevant agencies and organisations. The intention was to be proactive so that small, isolated action groups could be supported.

(3) Mr Goff said that the KFAGF's current membership consisted of action groups from Collier Street, Ightham, East Peckham, Hildenborough, Tunbridge Wells and Headcorn. Support was provided by the National Flood Forum. Issues discussed by the KFAGF included riparian ownership, planning and development and surface water drainage.

(4) Mr Goff then said that communities had a great deal of experience to share and that doing so would protect or alleviate the misery of flooding. It was vital that everyone worked together, and he looked forward to working closely with the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee.

(5) The Chairman thanked Mr Goff for his contribution. He said that the creation of the KFAGF addressed one of his greatest concerns which was how information could be widely disseminated.

(6) RESOLVED to thank Mr David Goff for his introduction to the KFAGF and to invite him to give a more detailed presentation to the next meeting of the Committee.

3. Dates of future meetings *(Item 4)*

The Committee noted the following future meeting dates:-

Monday, 5 July 2021;
Monday, 22 November 2021;
Monday, 14 March 2022.

4. Update from the Environment Agency - Presentation by Sally Harvey *(Item 5)*

(1) Ms Sally Harvey (Environment Agency Kent and South London Area Director) gave a presentation. The accompanying slides can be found within the electronic papers for this meeting on the KCC website.

(2) Ms Harvey began her presentation on a positive note by saying that 50,000 properties in the Kent and South London area were now better protected from flooding as a result of the six-year capital programme. In fact, this figure had only very recently been achieved. The target figure for the programme was now 54,584 homes which was some 5,000 more than had originally been planned in 2015/16.

(3) Ms Harvey then turned to the Grant in Aid (GiA) performance during the programme period. She said that £314m of capital GiA work was due to have been undertaken by the end of the programme and that efficiency savings of £44.7m had been achieved. A further £35m had been secured from other sources.

(4) Ms Harvey moved on to describe some of the schemes that had been a part of the programme. The first of these was the Medway Property Flood Resilience Programme. She said that 285 properties had been individually protected across several parishes including Yalding and Collier Street. There had been some significant challenges and Members of the Environment Agency's Regional Committee would shortly be considering a report providing assurance that the flood resilience of these properties was robust.

(5) The Broomhill Sands Coastal Defences Scheme was a £30m scheme to reduce the risk of flooding to 1,388 homes and over 100 local businesses. This had

included the delivery of 265k tonnes of rock and the removal of over 36.1k tonnes of clay.

(6) Ms Harvey said that the Hythe Ranges Scheme would be celebrating its official opening at the end of the month. The MoD had contributed 27% of the funding for the £25m investment which would protect 787 properties. The work had involved the refurbishment and raising of 43 timber groynes, construction of a 200m rock revetment and recharging the shingle beach with over 300,000m³ of material.

(7) The Sandwich Town Tidal Defence Scheme had won a Gold in the National Considerate Constructors Awards. The Scheme protected 488 homes and 94 businesses and was delivered in partnership with Pfizer and Kent County Council at a cost of £24.6m, £1.1m of which consisted of recovery works following the 2013 tidal surge.

(8) The Fairlight Coast Protection Scheme for Rother DC reduced the risk of coastal erosion to 150 properties. The works involved the construction of rock revetment at the toe of cliffs. £1.5m Capital Funding had been allocated to the Scheme and a further £154k contribution had been secured.

(9) The Scheme at Coronation Road in Folkestone Council reduced the coastal erosion risk to 10 properties and the National infrastructure. Works involved: major concrete repairs to Coronation Parade, impressed cathodic protection to steel reinforcement, and 60m of rock revetment to prevent outflanking. This had been funded to the tune of £3m with a further £1.9m contributed from other sources.

(10) Ms Harvey continued by describing the works at Salt Fleet Flats which highlighted some of the wider ways in which flood defence schemes were delivered. In this case, the EA had been able to deliver 67 acres of intertidal habitats. This had been the first managed realignment ever carried out in the county of Kent.

(11) Ms Harvey then showed a slide titled “Managing Flood Risk on Romney Marsh.” This consisted of a map demonstrating the breadth and complexity of the hard and soft defences that had either been completed or were ongoing to reduce flood risk to homes and businesses for the next 100 years in an area which was at or below high tide level. Any breaches of flood defences could have a very significant impact on over 1400 homes and businesses as well as important natural habitats.

(12) Ms Harvey turned to the programme for 2021/22. She explained that although the EA was moving from one 6-year programme to another on 31 March 2021, the intention was to ensure that the programme transition was seamless. Flood defence work had evolved over the past 6 years. Climate change was now recognised as a very significant factor, resulting in a growing emphasis on carbon reduction. Building resilience and adapting to climate change would play an increasing role in defending the country. A total of £5.2bn was available through GiA to protect homes across England. Flood defence work would offer wider benefits to the community by benefiting and enhancing the environment. It was vital that everyone worked in collaboration in order that the necessary outcomes could be delivered. The programme would seek to meet need sustainably.

(13) Ms Harvey went on to consider the financial breakdown of the next 6- year programme. It was intended to protect 16,000 homes in Kent through GiA funding of

£125m. There was, however, a funding gap of £15m despite external contributions of some £12m.

(14) The planned schemes were spread across Kent. The greatest of these was the Leigh expansion and Hildenborough Embankments Scheme. Other important projects were the Medway Estuary and Swale Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy, including the Sheerness frontage improvements, the South Sheppey frontage improvements and the Stour Pumping Station modernisation. These projects between them would cost £10m.

(15) Ms Harvey said that the 2021/22 programme would include work on the Leigh Expansion and Hildenborough Embankments. The Leigh storage area would be expanded by 24% (in capacity rather than in size). This would protect a total of 1,570 properties and businesses.

(16) Ms Harvey's final slide focussed on the Lydd Ranges Scheme. Urgent work had needed to be undertaken at Jury's Gap in 2020 to retain the green wall which had been in imminent danger of being breached. The total funding for the Lydd Scheme was £31.3m of which the MoD was contributing £13.2m. 1,761 properties would be at reduced risk of coastal flooding once the Scheme had been completed.

(17) Ms Harvey replied to questions from Mr Chittenden by saying that the defences she had described would prevent surface water and fluvial flooding, but not groundwater flooding when the land became saturated. Although she had used the phrase "help to reduce flooding", the risks were measured by specific categories in any particular year. A property would only be considered to have been improved when it fulfilled the criteria to be moved into a better category of flood risk. It was important to recognise that there would come a point where improving flood defences would become a decreasingly effective option. There was consequently a need to develop adaptation and resilience. At Lydd, for example, the flood defences were only being built to last for 25 years with a view to moving the defence line back to enable the environmental benefits of this protected area to flourish.

(18) The Chairman explained that the flood maps produced by the EA identified flood risk as though there were no protection measures in place. The defences at Lydd would last until 2055. At that point, the effects of climate change would be more identifiable, as would the best flood defence strategy.

(19) Ms Harvey replied to another question from Mr Chittenden by saying that the situation at Yalding was extremely complicated due to its location at the confluence of three rivers. A number of flood defence options had been modelled following the flood events of 2013/14. Currently, there was no technically possible project that would be socially acceptable or cost effective. Different measures were therefore being explored through the Medway Flood Partnership to ensure adaption and resilience.

(20) Mr Rayner asked whether the EA could give an estimated update for the Hildenborough Embankment scheme. He had recently attended the Parish Council's Annual Meeting and been informed that there were objections to aspects of the scheme that could lead to an indefinite postponement of the works.

(21) Ms Harvey replied that she would notify Mr Rayner of the finish date after the meeting. There was to be a public inquiry in April 2021 at the part of the proposal for the flood storage area. This meant that the timescales for the works would need to be reviewed (partly for technical reasons). There was, however, no intention to not go ahead.

(22) The Chairman suggested that the EA could consider publishing their design life projections for their schemes, including the likely date of review, so that this information could be disseminated through the Parish Councils.

(23) Ms Harvey replied to a question from Mrs Mackonochie by saying that properties built after a certain date (*later identified by Mrs Brown as after 2013*) would not be able to attract funding for adaptations. The intention was that all properties built after that date would be flood resilient.

(24) The Chairman said that some 400 new houses were being built in Romney Marsh in a Flood Zone 3 area. These would not be flood resilient. He said that DEFRA should take steps to ensure that all such new builds were flood resilient.

(25) Mrs Brown referred to paragraphs 149 to 158 of the NPPF which she said meant that all new properties had to be flood resilient.

(26) RESOLVED that Sally Harvey be thanked for her presentation and that its content be noted.

5. Environment Agency and Met Office Alerts and Warnings and KCC severe weather response activity

(Item 6)

(1) Mr Harwood introduced his report by saying that since publication of the agenda papers, the number of Met Office Weather Warnings had risen from 45 to 47 between November 2020 and March 2021. Consequently, the table in Appendix 2 should be amended so that there were 6 Warnings for Fog and 5 different events. Likewise, the number of Warnings for Wind had increased to 6 in 5 different events. This meant that the number of severe weather warnings was almost identical as for the same period in the previous year.

(2) Mr Harwood then said that the most significant events of the period had been the very dry November. There had been no alarms until the week of Christmas 2020 with the arrival of Storm Bella bringing high winds and heavy rain. This had coincided with the Covid19 testing requirements, the suspension of sailings of freight to Calais and Boulogne as well as the problems at Manston where the lorry drivers had been stranded over the festive period.

(3) Mr Harwood turned to the precautionary evacuation which had taken place at Little Venice on 27 December. The co-operation between the various agencies as well as the owner and manager of the Park had worked smoothly.

(4) The Medway Confluence Partner Group had met during the festive period, working very well together to deploy sandbags. They had also been particularly

successful in terms of clean-up and recovery interventions. This had involved the heavily silted drainage infrastructure.

(5) Mr Harwood said that there had been significant surface water flooding in January in sporadic locations across the entire county of Kent; from Edenbridge to Sheerness in the West to Alkham in the East. This had impacted on winterbournes such as the Nailbourne at Barham and the Drellingbourne in Alkham Valley.

(6) There had been highway flooding at Boughton Monchelsea where KCC Highways had worked very proactively in deploying pumps and tankers in order to clear the water before it could affect property. The community had also been proactive in alerting the agencies to the dangers at an early stage. The Boughton Monchelsea PC meeting, which Mr Harwood had attended following the event, had also provided important feedback.

(7) Mr Harwood continued by saying that Storm Darcey had brought persistent and occasionally heavy snow to the county on 7 and 8 February. No flooding had occurred, but there had been widespread disruption to the Medway Valley Line and to both the strategic and local highway networks including the A229 at Bluebell Hill and the A249 at Detling.

(8) Mr Harwood concluded his introduction by referring to his report to the previous meeting. Events had transpired as anticipated in that report. It was likely that the next few months would be a quieter period in terms in respect of severe weather impacts.

(9) Mrs Brown said that she and David Goff (Chair of Collier Street PC) had worked closely together during an unusual period which had seen the local villages affected by different floods instead of experiencing them at the same time as was normally the case. She then expressed the concern, which Mr Goff shared, over the number of alerts and warnings issued. This resulted in the local population reacting with insufficient urgency on those occasions when a significant event occurred. The EA issued flood alerts as a notification to farmers to move their livestock, but local people were treating them as false alarms. She and Mr Goff had arranged to discuss this with the EA to see what steps could be taken to overcome this problem. This could involve a reduction in the number of alerts or a publicity campaign to explain the purpose of the flood alerts.

(10) Mr Harwood said that he would also discuss this with the Environment Agency. There had been significantly fewer alerts in Yalding and Collier Street over the winter than in that of 2019/20. Flood alerts were often necessary even when no damage to properties was expected because of the potentially significant impact on the highways network. There had been quite a few road closures in the Yalding/ Collier Street area during the winter, and alerts had been important for the blue light services, particularly ambulances.

(11) Mrs Brown said that the problem with the alert system was that each one of them was received in every part of the river Beult. This contrasted with the Warnings which were far more locally focussed.

(12) Mr Harwood referred to paragraph 2.5 of the report which set out that there had been 91 Flood Alerts and 26 Warnings since November 2020 which represented

a considerable reduction from the 147 Flood Alerts and 44 Warnings for the same period in 2019/20.

(13) The Chairman said that he hoped that the discussions between the Parish Councils and the EA would result in the alerts being better targeted and more clearly expressed.

(14) RESOLVED that the warnings received since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

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To: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee – 23rd November 2020

From: Tony Hills, Chairman of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee
Stephanie Holt-Castle, Interim Director of Environment, Planning and Enforcement

Subject: Little Venice Country Park and Marina

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To update the Committee on the Little Venice Country Park and Marina

1. Background

- 1.1 The issue of Little Venice was raised during the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee meeting on 9 March 2020. I therefore invited interested parties to participate in a site visit and discussion. At the same time, legal advice on the possibility of undertaking a compulsory purchase was sought in accordance with the Committee's wishes.
- 1.2 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it proved impossible to hold a physical site visit. Furthermore, the use of a drone to film the site was not possible due to GDPR considerations. Nevertheless, all the attendees were very familiar with the site which ensured that a productive discussion could take place on a Virtual basis.

2. The Virtual Site Visit

- 2.1 The Virtual site visit was held on 23 September 2020. Notes of this visit included in the report to the November 2020 meeting of the Committee (**Appendix 1**). The Committee agreed to receive a further report in July 2021.

3. Discussion with the Landowner.

- 3.1 Mr Albert Lee, the owner of the Little Venice site wrote to Mr Tony Hills, the Chairman of the Committee asking for a meeting to discuss the situation at the site. This meeting was held on 8 April 2021. It was attended by the Chairman, Max Tant and Tony Harwood from KCC and by Mr Albert Lee (landowner) and Iris Lara (site manager). Andrew Tait from Democratic Services was also present.

- 3.2 The meeting was regarded by all parties as a positive experience as one of the outcomes was that closer liaison between all parties involved was set as a welcome goal for the future.
- 3.3 The Chairman agreed to Mr Lee's request for him to attend the July Committee meeting in order to discuss Members' concerns in a formal setting. Mr Lee also undertook to provide supporting documentation.
- 3.4 Mr Lee has provided the following documentation:-

Appendix 2: Introductory Letter

Appendix 3: The Little Venice Flood Plan.

Appendix 4: Photographs of Flotation Systems.

Appendix 5: Information provided to residents.

Appendix 6: Community Flood Plan (*Redacted*).

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 The three areas of concern identified in September 2020 were:

The possibility of zoning the site by floodwater depth and velocity; better informing the residents of the flood risks on site; and establishing the exact level of responsibility for the duty of care at the site, including for evacuation and return of residents, and how this will be enforced if required.

- 4.2 The documents provided suggest that information is being provided to the residents and that the duty of care is taken very seriously. Liaison on the question of site zoning is taking place and there is a willingness on all sides to see whether this can be undertaken.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Committee is invited to note the progress made together with any matters arising from the discussion with the site landowner.

5. Report Author:

Tony Hills, Chairman of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

Contact Details

Andrew Tait (Senior Democratic Services Officer

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email andrew.tait@kent.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

To: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee – 23rd November 2020

From: Tony Hills, Chairman of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee
Stephanie Holt-Castle, Interim Director of Environment, Planning and Enforcement

Subject: Virtual Site Visit to Little Venice

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To inform the Committee of the virtual site visit to Little Venice on 23 September 2020

1. Background

- 1.1 The issue of Little Venice was raised during the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee meeting on 9 March 2020. I therefore invited interested parties to participate in a site visit and discussion. At the same time, legal advice on the possibility of undertaking a compulsory purchase was sought in accordance with the Committee's wishes.
- 1.2 Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it proved impossible to hold a physical site visit. Furthermore, the use of a drone to film the site was not possible due to GDPR considerations. Nevertheless, all the attendees were very familiar with the site which ensured that a productive discussion could take place on a Virtual basis.

2. The Virtual Site Visit

- 2.1 The Virtual site visit was held on 23 September 2020. The list of attendees was:

Tony Hills (KCC – Chairman of Kent Flood Risk Management Committee)

Max Tant (KCC – Flood and Water Manager)

Tony Harwood (KCC – Resilience and Emergency Planning Manager)

Derek Mortimer (Maidstone BC – Chairman of Communities, Housing and Environment Committee)

James Bailey (Maidstone BC – Development Manager)

Geraldine Brown (Yalding PC – Chairman)

Guy Gardener (Kent Resilience Team - Senior Resilience Officer)

Luke Thompson (Environment Agency – Area Incident Manager; Kent, South London and East Sussex)

Jonathan Alawo (Environment Agency - Team Leader Flood Resilience Team; Kent, South London & East Sussex)

Grant Brooker (Kent Fire and Rescue- Water Resource and Flooding).

Andrew Tait (KCC Democratic Services)

- 2.2 All participants agreed that the safety of the residents was paramount. They also noted that legal advice separately obtained by both Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council clearly stated that the CPO option suggested at the Committee meeting was incapable of being successfully pursued. The attendees therefore discussed what measures could be undertaken to improve health and safety on the site.
- 2.3 Major flooding events are expected to occur more often as a consequence of climate change. Research has established that a 1 in 100-year flooding event occurs every three years somewhere in the UK. This does not, however mean that any one location is at a level of risk substantially greater than that.
- 2.4 Little Venice is a site which is inhabited by a significant number of elderly and vulnerable residents. It is very prone to flooding. The evacuation of vulnerable people is typically a challenge to achieve safely.
- 2.5 The Environment Agency identified a Community Flood Plan for Little Venice had been developed following the event of 2013/14. This had provision for Flood Wardens, although there is not one there at this time. The aim is to rectify this through training for flood wardens which was due to be held shortly after our Virtual meeting took place. The updates to the Flood Plan will follow the flood warden training and be written bearing in mind the debrief following the events of the winter of 2019/20.
- 2.6 The draft Medway Confluence Flood Plan covers Laddingford, Yalding and Collier Street and sets out arrangements for sandbag provision and highways management in those localities during a localised event. As stated above, there was a debrief following the events of the winter of 2019/20.
- 2.7 Little Venice was previously covered by three different warning systems that were issued at different times. This has now been reduced to a single warning that is tailored to the site without warning the rest of the Yalding community unnecessarily.
- 2.8 Gauge boards have been installed on site to enable water height to be measured at Hampstead Lock so that the anticipated extent of the flooding can be communicated to the residents. The residents typically expect the site to be flooded to some degree every winter. The Flood Warning messaging service and the gauge boards improve the ability of site residents to understand the level of severity during any flooding event that is going to happen. The 2013/14 Flood Plan and the Evacuation Plan that arose from it have worked very well since its creation and the residents on site have been able to self-evacuate quite effectively. This was also the case during the 2019/20 event where there

was a *de facto* Flood Warden to assist. There were, however, significant issues for the most vulnerable residents.

- 2.9 One of the problems with the Evacuation Plan for Little Venice is that it is unclear who has the responsibility to decide who should be evacuated and who should remain on site. In March 2020, Little Venice was left with 16 very elderly and vulnerable people who the Fire Authority had to evacuate overnight by boat. It then proved problematic to move them to appropriate temporary accommodation. Maidstone BC as the evacuating authority bore the cost of doing so. This did not extend to returning those people to their homes once the Emergency was over. The aim should be to ensure that evacuation of all residents is undertaken at the same time rather than piecemeal as was the case on this occasion. Responsibility for returning people to their homes after the event needs to be clarified.
- 2.10 From an Emergency Planning perspective, it was a complex matter to resolve how to evacuate people, who were elderly and vulnerable, without inflicting harm. In March 2020, there were significant problems in persuading people to evacuate and to identify appropriate specialist accommodation. The difficulties experienced in evacuating the Little Venice site have grown between 2013 and 2020 as the residents have become older and more vulnerable.
- 2.11 There is an inherent risk to mobile homes, even though they are tethered. Furthermore, many of the residents initially reacted to the March 2020 flood event with complacency. Consideration needs to be given to how the site can be made safer in terms of layout. Some parts of the site are very vulnerable to flooding, representing a danger to life when taken in combination with the vulnerability of some of the residents. This risk is born by residents, rescue workers and volunteers, which also places pressure on Adult Social Care and Health staff, who must ensure safeguarding.
- 2.12 Mobile homes are still being advertised at Little Venice for sale at a price that is attractive for people who have retired. It is not clear whether people contemplating purchase have been informed of the risks associated with purchasing a mobile home in sites such as Little Venice. One suggested response is to warn the residents of the nature of the risks, possibly by a letter undertaken by the Parish Council.
- 2.13 The point was made that quite a few of the residents mistakenly believed that they had purchased permanent homes and had sold their former houses under this misapprehension. Furthermore, some of the more elderly and vulnerable residents have acquired the right to live there permanently over time.
- 2.14 Little Venice has an extensive planning history. An enforcement investigation was carried out by Maidstone BC some ten years ago because the lawful use was for temporary holiday homes rather than for permanent accommodation, and it was believed that a number of people had been living there permanently for a considerable period.
- 2.15 Maidstone BC informed the virtual site meeting that there are some planning restrictions, including a S106 Agreement which is effectively a tie within the

main park area for a restriction of usage for that area on site. There is also a permission for the access; a 2019 Lawful Development Certificate (LDC) for the ancillary recreational use of an area in connection with Little Venice Country Park. A new application has been received by Maidstone BC for quarter of the land covered by the LDC. If granted, this would lead to a further 40 caravans with the possibility of a further 120 if the planning process were to be repeated.

3. Conclusions

3.1 The meeting identified a number of aspects that would benefit from further multi-agency consideration. These are:-

3.1.1 exploring further were zoning the site by floodwater depth and velocity (although care would need to be taken to ensure that the residents would not be misled into believing that they would no longer be at risk if placed in a lower risk zone);

3.1.2 better informing the residents of the flood risks on site

3.1.3 establishing the exact level of responsibility for the duty of care at the site, including for evacuation and return of residents, and how this will be enforced if required.

3.2 The participants all agreed that they had become better informed of the full circumstances prevailing at the site, including options which could most productively be pursued.

3.3 The exercise was in my opinion an important step forward in improving health and safety at Little Venice. This meeting came about as an Initiative raised at the Committee. This reflects very well upon the manner in which it carries out its role. Whilst the site visit has not solved the problem, it has been able to facilitate work towards an improved situation.

3.4. I recommend that the Committee should receive an update report on progress at Little Venice within the next calendar year.

Recommendations

4.1 The Committee is invited to note the report and the three areas at 3.1 that will continue to be explored to a point of resolution

4.2 The Committee is invited to agree that an update will be presented within the next calendar year.

5. Report Author:

Tony Hills, Chairman of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

Contact Details

Andrew Tait (Senior Democratic Services Officer
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Little Venice Country
Park & Marina
Hampstead Lane,
Yalding,
Kent. ME18 6HH

Lee Park
Estates Ltd



Residential and Leisure Parks throughout the UK

Telephone: 01622 814158

Email: info@littlevenicepark.co.uk

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21st June 2021

Dear Mr Tait and Mr Hill

With reference to our zoom meeting on the 8th April 2021

I have enclosed our Flood Plan, which is implemented by myself and Iris Lara.

It gives a bit of an in depth look at the procedure that we apply every winter, and we have enclosed photos and information on how the floatation system works.

Each year if there are any updates to be added, they are added when they need to be.

I hope that this information is useful to understanding what goes on through the winter on the park, and I hope this puts your mind at rest that we have a plan that covers everything in the event of a flood.

It was great to meet you at the zoom meeting and to know that we have all the help at hand if needed as a part of Yalding Village.

Kind Regards

Mr Albert Lee

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LITTLE VENICE COUNTRY PARK AND MARINA
HAMPSTEAD LANE
YALDING
KENT ME18 6HH

LITTLE VENICE FLOOD PLAN.

Our Winter starts in October when we prepare our gardens and caravans for the winter weather. I send out letters for the gardens to be checked and all outside items such as garden furniture, Plant pots, fencing, and any loose items to be put in the shed or on our balconies.

We then do our Garden check list, marking any that need attention, send out letters of items that need attention, this includes park areas, Riverbanks, and roads on site.

We then start our Community Flood Plan.

Our community flood plan includes,

List of Flood Wardens, including phone numbers, making sure they are prepared for Day and Night calls.

Plans of the park including park maps, and emergency points, they are all from the park, so they know the layout of the park.

We update our Customer List, including checks on phone numbers are up to date.

We list our vulnerable customers, including contact numbers.

We list ALL our up-to-date contact numbers with Kent County Council, Maidstone borough Council, And Kent Fire and Rescue, and check our Flood Warnings from the E.A are all up to date.

When we sell a property, we explain about the flooding and we give one of our flood booklets to give them the information needed, in case of a flood.

We then send out a letter for everyone to be prepared, to go home or to family, friends etc.

Having a bag ready in case of evacuation, which include all clothes, medication, phones, chargers, and pets are ready, also an address to go to which may include a hotel for those who may not be able to go home at that time, I help will with arranging Hotels that are available, phone numbers and booking for those who do not have Mobiles or Internet.

We then get our Park Boats ready and up and running, we now have two Park Boats if needed, to bring people to the Park top Carpark if some water comes over the roads, This depends on how quick we get the E.A information, in the past 2 years we have had the information very quick which is relayed to us through Maidstone Borough Council, They let us know whether to evacuate or if its ok to stay, which has worked out excellent and would like to thank them for all the work they do in helping with this information.

We have some people on the park who have had Caravans on here for 20, 30, 40 years, and know the area very well.

We have had Floatation Systems put on the underneath of all of the Caravans and Lodges, for the last 20 years, which enables them to rise to the height of 12ft, the levels of the ground on Little Venice varies around the Park, some parts are higher than others, so some may go up and some may not, depending on the height of the water, but all are made to go up to the full 12ft if needed, because of this, no damage caused.

I have included a plan and photos of how the look and how they work., having these fitted makes our Caravans and Lodges fully insurable.

We understand all about the flooding in Yalding, and feel luckier than most, as they float.

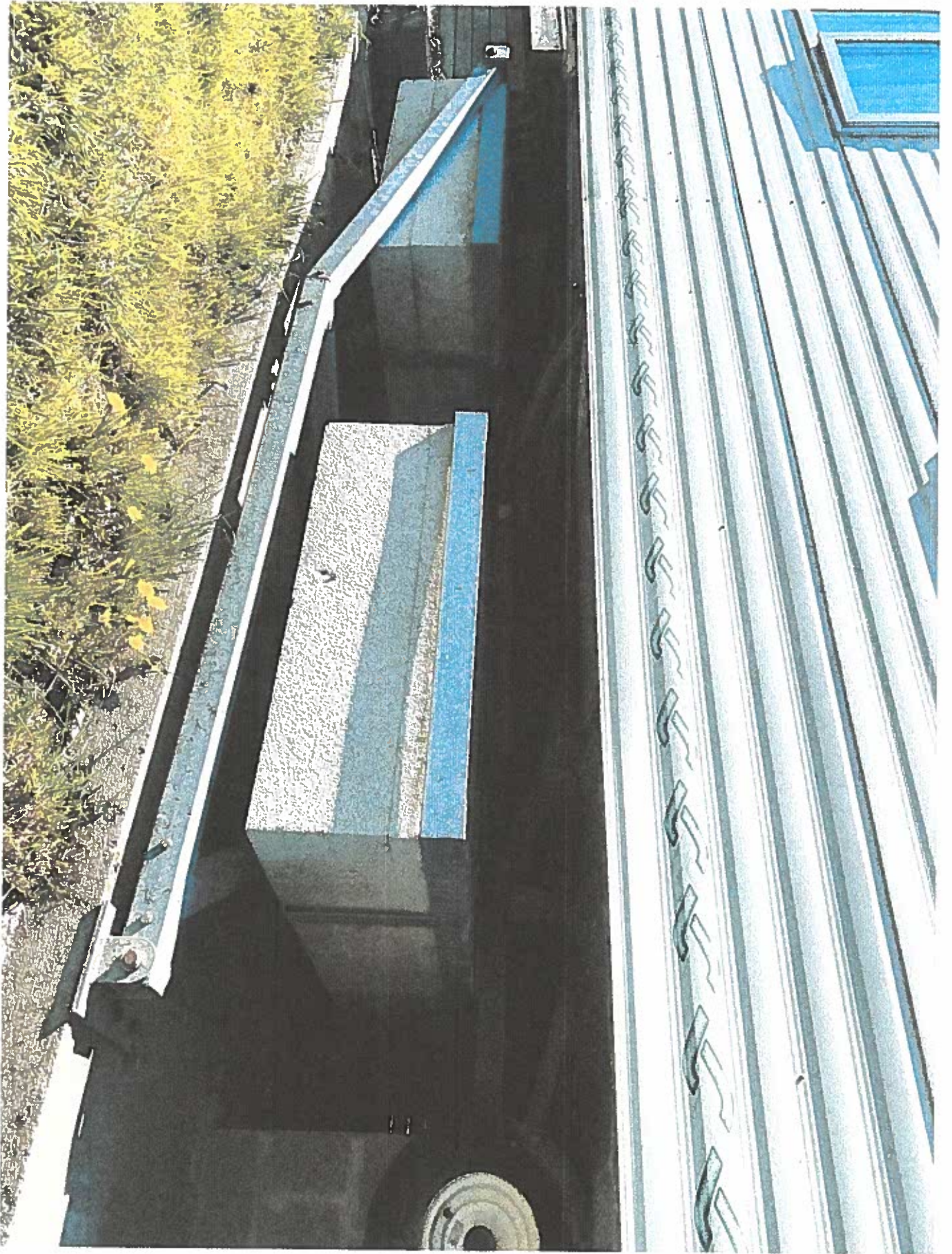
No one has ever been injured here, and our knowledge goes back a few decades, and we want to keep it that way, so we do all that we can to prevent it happening. I know people that live in the Village and know that they waited a long time to get back into their homes through flood damage, some over a year, so we know we are incredibly lucky to have the system that we have.

We work extremely hard to make sure that everyone is safe and are looked after if flooding does occur and we hope this shows in the Flood Plan that we have on the park.

FLOATAATION Systems.









Tick as appropriate:

I authorise Little Venice to carry out checks to siting condition, gas, water, sewage and electrical connection.

I will contact my own contractors to carry out repair works after flooding and understand that services will be isolated until contractors issue written confirmation of repair, including a copy of a Gas Safety Certificate.

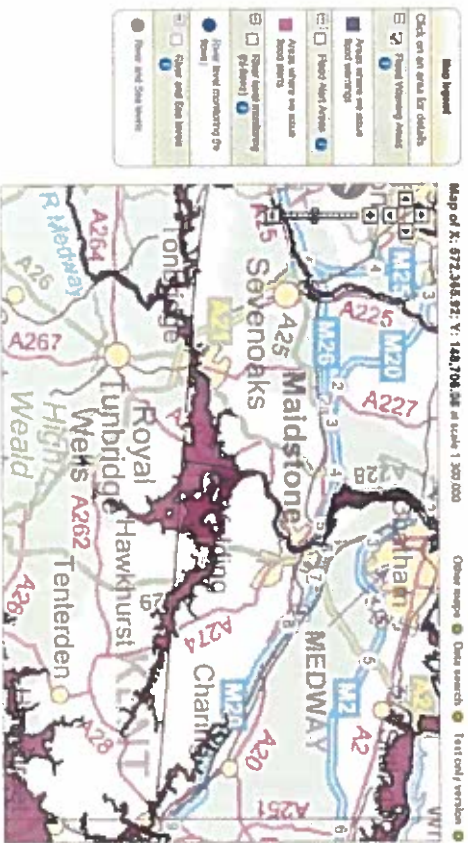
Little Venice Country Park and Marina



PRODUCED OCTOBER 2014
 REVISED JUNE 2021

ABOUT LITTLE VENICE COUNTRY PARK AND MARINA

Little Venice is located along the river Medway just outside of the village of Yalding. Within the Yalding area are three rivers the Beult, the Teise and the Medway all converging nearby into the Medway that passes alongside the park. As such the low-lying land around these rivers including Little Venice is known as flood risk areas. Details of areas liable to flooding are available on the Environment Agencies website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodrisk.



WORKS PERMISSION FORM FOLLOWING FLOODING

Please complete this form and return to the office. We will then use this information to organise any work during flooding. Please note this is at a cost to you and will be invoiced as such. If your insurance covers this works then you can forward on any invoices at the time to your Insurance Company along with your claim form. *(to be completed in capitals)*

Name..... Plot Number..... Date.....

Address of Main Residence to be held on file:

.....

Current Contact Numbers:

Name: Number:

Name: Number:

Emergency Contact/Next of Kin:

Name: Number:

Relationship to person completing this form:
 Does this emergency contact have authorisation to agree works on your behalf if you are unable to be contacted.

Please tick:
 Yes No

Caravan Lodge Boat

BEING PREPARED FOR FLOODING

To ensure that you and your property are safe in the event of a flood, this plan outlines information and rules for the park to ensure you and your neighbours have as little disruption to the use of your caravan or lodge during a flood alert, flood warning and actual flooding event. In the event of large scale flooding this plan will assist in limiting the time of disruption in returning back to normal use after the flood waters have receded.

First on your list is to ensure you have a Personal Flood Plan in place. Help on this can be found on the Environment Agency website and national flood forum.
(<http://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/about-to-be-flooded>)
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan>)

See the useful numbers page for the flood line number to register to receive flood warnings.

We have attached a copy of the Personal Flood Plan further on. When completing this Personal Flood Plan, you must also plan for alternative accommodation. This would be by returning to your main residence. If the situation arises that you are unable to return to your main residence due to it being temporary let or you're not able to travel at short notice, you must have an alternative plan (to go to friend, family or local hotel etc.) in the event of prolonged or major flooding. Maidstone Borough Council should not be approached for temporary housing as this is your holiday home. You should return to your main residence in the event that you cannot use your caravan/ lodge (this will not apply to the three residential units on site, as this would be your only residence. Maidstone Borough Council will be able to assist with temporary accommodation).

Little Venice Management are working with caravan/lodge owners, Kent Fire and Rescue, The Environment Agency and Maidstone Borough Council to set up and continue to run an ongoing Flood Warden

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PAGE**

programme. This will see two or more caravan owner volunteers at Little Venice along with appointed staff being trained to deal with the situation during flooding. This will include ensuring people are aware, on site, when flood alerts and flood warnings are issued, helping site users to gain access or leave the park should the water break the banks. Flood Wardens will also guide emergency services around the park during flooding, giving the emergency service onsite knowledge of where roads and paths lay under water and assisting in the evacuation of people onsite, should the need arise.

To ensure staff and Flood Wardens are aware of every person on site when a flood alert is issued, an up-to-date register will be opened of everyone on site. This will include their contact details updated and their emergency contact or next of kin details updated. We may also take details of vehicles on site. This register will be kept up to date by either staff or the Flood Wardens depending on the situation at the time. As flooding could happen anytime of the day, we may contact you by phone to confirm if you are on site when a flood alert is issued or if we are unable to contact you, a Flood Warden or member of staff may check in person at your unit to see who is on site, this may mean a knock on the door in the middle of the night, but this is for your safety and awareness of potential flooding.

The following pages outline our flood procedure at each stage of the flood alert and warning scale.

To ensure you and your property are prepared for flooding, to prevent damage or harm to you or others we have outlined below some procedures and rules that must be followed. These rules or procedures may change from time to time or during a flood event if required. The Management of Little Venice give the power to staff and Flood Wardens acting on our behalf to enforce or adjust these rules or procedures if the situation calls for it. If you feel that the requests are impractical or unsafe, please make your reasons why known or speak to one of the Management.

- Waterproof boots, waders. Torch with spare batteries.
- Mobile phone and charger.
- Some form of walking stick to help feel your footing if the water covers the view of the floor and speed bumps along the road.
- Animal transport boxes if you have pets.
- Any medication

You will not be able to return to your caravan/lodge until an evacuation order has been lifted by the park management. Flood Wardens will not be allowed to return to your caravan/lodge at any time during an evacuation.

Flood line (register to receive calls, text and email flood alerts):

0345 988 1188

0845 988 1188

Maidstone Borough Council:

01622 602 750

Emergency Services:

999

USEFUL EQUIPMENT TO HAVE TO HAND

Below is a list of items you may find helpful to have in your caravan or lodge in the event of a flood. This list is only general suggestions, and you should consider any other items that may be specific to assisting you.

- Analogue Phone. (If you have a land line you may want to have a handset that does not need power to work, in the event of a power loss due to storms or flooding).

General everyday rules for all times whether at risk of flooding or not:

Any changes to the exterior of your caravan/lodge or garden area including decking, steps, fences, trees, changes to ground surfaces e.g., from grass to gravel or slabs etc. must be approved by the Management before any work commences. Information of what you wish to carry out must be put in writing along with drawings or plans including measurements and materials to be used. This will then be checked to ensure it meets with the Site Licence and will have no effect on any of your or your neighbour's property in the event of flooding.

Any contractor adding new services to your caravan/lodge e.g. Sky, BT, electricians or plumbing including gas must check either with yourself (if you are 100% confident) or the office that cables, pipes or other materials being added to the exterior of the unit including underneath, will not impair the operation of the float of breakaway or get trapped under your or your neighbour's unit as the water recedes and unit lowers into position.

Under no circumstances can any loose items be stored under any part of the caravan or lodge. This is due to the amount of debris washed under your and your neighbour's float devices and metal work during a flood, causing them to become trapped and stopping the re-sitting of the unit after the flood. Random inspections may be made to any plot at any time through the year to ensure this rule is being followed. If any items are found to be stored under the caravan you will be given in writing 5 days to clear items from the underneath of the unit during normal conditions. If the items are not cleared within 5 days of receiving the written warning the items will be removed by a member of staff and if unable to be put in a safe place for storage e.g. on top of a decking, we will take action to dispose of these items. Any cost incurred will be passed onto the caravan/lodge owner. In the event that items are found to be stored under the caravan/lodge during an active flood alert or flood warning the caravan owner will be given a maximum of 24hrs to clear and if needed less if the predicted flood will occur in less than 24hrs. If this task is not

completed the Flood Wardens or staff will remove the items and dispose of off-site.

Any garden furniture not able to be moved in the event of a flood alert e.g. sheds, bunkers or large and bulky items must be fixed securely to the ground at all times. In the event of a flood alert all loose items not secured to the ground must be secured within the caravan or shed or moved to higher ground e.g. the decking and where possible secured to the decking also. This is in case flood waters reach these heights where items have been stored (predicted water heights will be available from the Flood Wardens as we are notified by the EA), this would include items such as garden tables, chairs, BBQ's and plant pots.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Little Venice Office:

01622 814 158

Head Office – LEE PARK ESTATES LTD

01795 510094 – 9am to 5pm Only

(There is no answer machine on this number)

Little Venice Warden (1st Contact): Iris

Lara

07904324260

Flood Wardens:

KARL ALLEN: 07851878273

IRIS LARA :07710614711

SCOTT CAREY:

PHILL HOSKINGS:

DAVE SIMMONS:

LLYOD GOODAYLE:

Returning After a Flood

- Before returning to site either after an evacuation or if you have told us you are off site during flood alerts or warnings, please inform us of when you will be returning so the flood register can be updated.
- In the event that the water reaches the depth required to make a caravan or lodge float, staff (after flood waters have receded) will isolate all water, gas and electrical supplies to each caravan/lodge where necessary.
- On returning to site you have two choices for reconnection of services:
 - a) **Option 1** - Site staff can carry out all tasks and ensure as little interruption as possible. This will include checking for trapped debris under your caravan/lodge, checking safety and security of water, waste and gas and check electrical connections are unaffected.
 - b) **Option 2** - You can elect and arrange with a contractor of your choice to carry out the works as you wish. To prevent the unsafe use of a caravan or lodge and to prevent pollution from disconnected soil pipes, the water and gas will be isolated to your unit as the flood water recedes. This will remain isolated until a competent person confirms in writing to the office that your water and sewage are securely connected and a qualified gas engineer issues a Gas Safety Certificate for your installation, to ensure there is no damage caused to any bottles, regulator or pipe work.

GAS BOTTLES

Gas bottles must be secured with gas bottle lifters or floats where provided. No more than two bottles per caravan/lodge may be kept at any time unless agreed with the office for reason such as Christmas (when the office may be closed, and replacement bottles are not able to be delivered). The spare bottles must be secured to a fixed object such as you're decking or brick built steps etc. During flood alerts any empty bottles awaiting collection or exchange must be kept either in the gas bottle lifter or float device, marked so staff are aware which bottle should be taken. If locked with a chain and padlock you must give the staff knowledge of the code or location of the key if you are not there at the time of the delivery. Alternatively, the empty bottle should be securely tied to the decking or fixed object, clear from anything that could hit or get trapped should the bottle float around. Where caravans/lodges are not fitted with gas bottle lifters or floats, (if for any reason you will be away from the caravan for a number of days) the gas bottles must be disconnected from the caravan and removed or secured away from harm. If you do not have a gas bottle lifter or float device and you are on site when a flood warning is issued, you must ensure that the gas bottles are disconnected from the regulator before any water reaches your area. This must be done to allow the caravan/lodge flotation device to operate correctly with no hindrance from external items keeping your caravan/lodge safe and dry. This will also prevent damage to the gas hoses and regulator, stopping any flammable gas leaking from the bottles. During a flood alert or warning the Flood Wardens will be checking for problems that may be caused by items such as gas bottles and if we or they feel that the gas bottles are not secured or removed correctly and we cannot contact you for any reason to ask you to resolve the problems noted, we will take action to remove them. Please note we will not take responsibility for any damage caused or any loss of bottle or gas if we have to remove them. This is done for the safety of your neighbours and to ensure there is as little disruption to all during and after a flood.



Severe Flood Warning

- On receiving a severe flood warning a member of the Management team will attend site to access the situation and liaise directly with Flood Wardens and all owners still on site.
- Should the need to evacuate be required the register will be used to contact all still on site and make arrangements to leave.
- If the site is evacuated a member of staff will be on site 24/7 until such time that the owners can return. They will work with subcontractor security where needed and report directly to the police as required. The Management will insist that the police patrols are increased at this time, but cannot guarantee complete security due to the size of the site and access issues, so please take all valuables and personal possession with you.
- During flooding, at all times possible, the office will be manned at Little Venice. Should this not be possible staff will be relocated to a third party location nearby. This location will be updated in the event of a flood and you will be notified by the office of Flood Wardens.

Flood Wardens

The Flood Wardens are for notifying of likely flooding, collecting information for the office and flood register, and checking that areas of the site are prepared for flooding.

All Flood Wardens have attended a comprehensive flood training course including water rescue. They will report to Little Venice Management Team. They are not to be used as a 'taxi service', only for emergency access and egress of the site.

The boat and equipment has been provided for the Flood Wardens to use. This equipment is not for general use, and for emergency purposes only.



Example of gas bottle riser

HOW FLOATS OPERATE

Below you will see a rough diagram of how the different types of floatation devices operate, to give you an idea of the direction and movement that the caravan/lodge will experience when floating.

When a caravan or lodge floats (due to the design of the framework that has to move) there is a certain amount of movement sideways which may cause the caravan/lodge to reposition itself after a flood of up to 50mm or 2 inches over from its original position. This may mean that decking steps, walls fences or even raised slabbing on floors may be in the way as the unit returns to its sitting piers. This could cause a lot of



Flood Warning

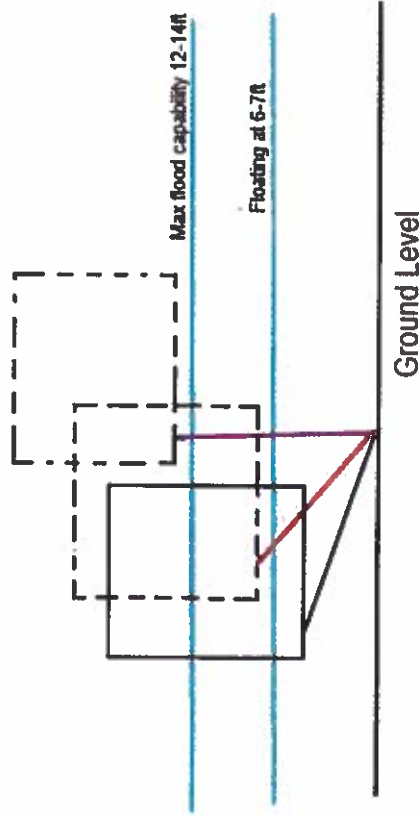
In the event of a flood warning being issued by the EA the following action will be taken:

- Flood Wardens will contact all persons on site and the on call staff will be called in as required to assist.
- Staff will contact any caravan/lodge owners (or person nominated by caravan owners) not on site to ensure they are aware of the situation and check they have taken all steps required to leave their property unattended.
- Caravan/lodge owners still on site will need to start to look at alternative accommodation options at this point, should the Management have to close the site for safety reasons. The Management will only ever close the site if they feel they can no longer operate safely or are informed that the level will reach dangerous levels by the Environment agency. These flood processes and procedures are in place to limit the need to close so please do not take our action to close lightly.
- During a flood warning Little Venice Management will be in constant contact with the Environment Agency and local emergency services and emergency planning teams, keeping up to date on predicted and actual weather and report back to caravan owners through Flood Wardens and available social media.

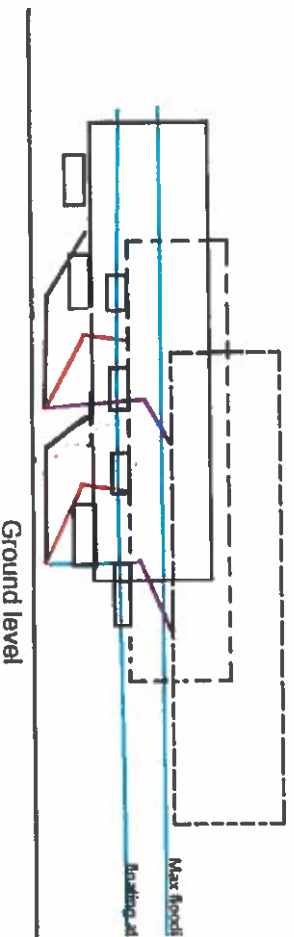
damage to your skirting or even the unit itself as the water recedes and the unit lowers. Damage caused by external influences such as decking etc. incorrectly positioned.

This may void any insurance claims and would then put all costs on you personally. Although we are able to relevel and re support your unit there is no way we can re-position you caravan/lodge without major works which may include a crane and the caravan owner would have to cover these costs. You will need to make allowances for this with anything constructed near the unit e.g. steps, decking, fences etc. Gaps between these structures and the unit may increase or decrease depending on the direction the unit travels when floating.

Example of side view of front to back lifting arm.



Example of rear view of a side lifting arm.



LITTLE VENICE FLOOD PROCEDURE

During normal operations throughout the year staff will be asked to check as they work throughout the park for anything that may have an impact on the flooding. As well as our staff we ask that all customers do the same. If you feel there are any issues that need addressing please make the staff aware by emailing info@littlevenicepark.co.uk or writing to us.

In the event of the Environment Agency issuing a flood alert the following action will be taken:

- Flood Wardens will be in contact with Little Venice Management to start to collect all the information required for the register of people on site and their plans to deal with the flood.
- During normal working hours staff will be tasked with checking from plot to plot for any of the issues mentioned earlier in this document



Flood Alert

- and report back to the office to arrange for any works required. This work will all be documented in a flood report file so we can look back after the flood to see if any work is required or if anything could have been done better. Out of hours the Flood Wardens will work alongside an on call member of the Little Venice Management to continue any other works or information gathering.
- During a flood alert if you decide to leave the site to go to your alternative accommodation or return to site, please ensure a Flood Warden or member of staff based in the office is informed of your movements (please do not tell a member of staff working around the site as they may not have access to the register).
- A member of the Little Venice Management will be in contact with the EA Control Centre from this point on until flood warnings are removed. This is to gain information of predicted heights expected of flood waters and times the peak is expected. This information will be passed to Flood Wardens and action required, depending on the information, will be passed out to caravan/lodge owners as required. Gaging boards will be fitted to the office, laundry and bar buildings and will have markings on them which the Flood Wardens will adjust according to the EA. Anybody found using these gaging boards without permission will be in breach of their Site Licence and Park Rules.
- We would ask that at this stage of flood alert any vehicle on site or along Hampstead Lane have a plot number or contact phone number displayed in the windscreen.
- No further action will be taken at this point.

community flood plan



Parishes and communities working together

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|--|--|
| Community or group | Little Venice Park | Address | HAMPSTEAD LANE WALDINGFORD. ME18 6TH. | |
| Floodline Quickdial Number | 0345 988 1183 | Which Environment Agency flood warnings are you registered to receive? | ALL TELEPHONE, EMAILS MESSAGES, DIRECT CALLS | |
| Local flood warning trigger <i>i.e. when water reaches bottom of the bridge</i> | | WHEN SURROUNDING WATER RISE, RISE, | | |
| Date | 24/11/20. | | | |

Contents

1. Actions to be taken before a flood
 - A - Locations at risk of flooding: flood warnings
 - B - Locations at risk of flooding: locations at risk of flooding / sources of flooding
 - C - Locations at risk of flooding: map showing direction of flooding

2. Actions to be taken during a flood
 - A - Local flood actions
 - B - Local volunteers / flood wardens
 - C - Important telephone numbers
 - D - Available resources
 - E - Arrangements between authorities
 - F - Vulnerable residents, properties and locations

3. After a flood
 - A - Reputable contractors

1A – Locations at risk of flooding: Flood warnings

From the information you have available, make a list of areas liable to flood and the level of warning which would affect them.

| Area number | Location of risk | Trigger level | Actions |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Area 1 | River Marina and outside LV78 | MARINACAR FRET filling up. | Move cars to Hampstead Lane. |
| Area 2 | | | |
| Area 3 | | | |
| Area 4 | | | |
| Area 5 | | | |
| Area 6 | | | |
| Area 7 | | | |
| Area 8 | | | |

1B – Actions to be taken before a flood: Locations at risk of flooding / source of flooding

Insert details of areas at risk from flooding and the direction of flooding. Include maps and if possible, details of existing defences.

| Area number | Location at risk | Source of flooding | Direction of flooding |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Area 1 | | | |
| Area 2 | | | |
| Area 3 | | | |
| Area 4 | | | |
| Area 5 | | | |
| Area 6 | | | |
| Area 7 | | | |
| Area 8 | | | |

1C – Actions to be taken before a flood: Map showing direction of flooding
Include a map in the flood plan showing the flood risk area and direction of flooding.



2A – Actions to be taken during a flood: local flood actions

Identify local flood actions.

| Area number | Location at risk | Action / trigger | Local action | Equipment required | Time required |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Area 1 | | | | | |
| Area 2 | | | | | |
| Area 3 | | | | | |
| Area 4 | | | | | |
| Area 5 | | | | | |
| Area 6 | | | | | |
| Area 7 | | | | | |
| Area 8 | | | | | |

2B - Actions to be taken during a flood: local volunteers / flood wardens

List local volunteers/flood wardens that could be contacted in an incident. They may be required to lift heavy sandbags so should be reasonably active or fit. Consider using other volunteers such as communicators, administrators or minders of vulnerable people during an incident. These volunteers could be registered on the Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct service so they receive the flood warnings. **Volunteers must not put their own life at risk.**

| Name | Address | Telephone Day | Telephone Evening | Mobile |
|---------------|------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| KRIS LARA | [REDACTED] | | | [REDACTED] |
| DAVE SIMMONS | [REDACTED] | | | [REDACTED] |
| Lloyd Gooday | [REDACTED] | WEEK DAYS ONLY | | [REDACTED] |
| KARL ALLEN | [REDACTED] | | | [REDACTED] |
| SCOTT AREY | [REDACTED] | | | [REDACTED] |
| PHIL Hoskins | [REDACTED] | | | [REDACTED] |
| Mindy EVENDEN | [REDACTED] | | | [REDACTED] |
| | | | | |
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2C – Actions to be taken during a flood: Important telephone numbers

Make a list of important telephone numbers so all the information you require during an incident is readily available.

| Organisation | Telephone (office hours) | Telephone (out of hours) | Fax |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------|
| Floodline | 0345 988188 | QUICK DIAL 012644. | |
| Environment Agency | 01782223166. | LUKE THOMPSON EIA. | |
| District Council | 07814172406 | 07814172406 LUKE THOMPSON EIA. | |
| County Council | GUY GARDNER | [REDACTED] | |
| County Contracting | | | |
| Fire & Rescue Service | 999 | | |
| Police | 999 (NICHOLA 07870163411. | | |
| Ambulance Service | 999. | | |
| Housing Unit | HINDA | 01622 602370 | |
| Environment Unit | | | |
| Water Company | — | | |
| Electricity Company | NPOWER PRIORITY 08003163105. | | |
| Gas Company | — | | |
| Telecommunications Company | — | | |
| Adjacent Town/Parish Councils | YALDING GERALDINE BROWN | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

YALDING PARISH COUNCIL .ORG.UK.
 Chairman @ yaldingparishcouncil.gov.uk
 Environment Agency – Community Flood Plan

2D – Actions to be taken during a flood: Available resources

Identify available resources.

| Organisation | Resource | Number | Location | Notes |
|--------------|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
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2E – Actions to be taken during a flood: Arrangements between authorities

Details of specific arrangements between the various authorities to be included here.

| Organisation(s) | Agreed arrangement |
|-----------------|--------------------|
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3A – After a flood: Reputable contractors

List companies/reputable contractors whose help you may need after a flood. Get contracts in place, or know who to call for assistance. If help is not needed, you can leave this section blank. If you plan to do the work yourself, leave this section blank.

| Company name | Business (e.g. builder) | Telephone | Fax |
|---|---|-----------|-----|
| Any Damage: ASSESSED FLOOD (CONTACTED) | AS MANY HAVE TO USE INSURANCE BUILDERS. | | |
| USE HAVE FLOTTATION SYSTEMS FITTED BALL | HOMES. | | |
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LIT 7488

To: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee – 8th July 2021

From: Rebecca Spore, Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services

Subject: Environment Agency and Met Office Alerts and Warnings and KCC severe weather response activity.

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To update Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on the current water situation, weather statistics, Environment Agency and Met Office Warnings, and flood response activity since the last meeting of the Committee on 15th March 2021.

1. Background

- 1.1 This report is the latest of the regular updates to the Committee addressing the current water situation and severe weather and flood response activity, and covers the period from March to June 2021.
- 1.2 The KCC Resilience and Emergency Planning Service Duty Emergency Planning Officer (DEPO) and Contact Point receive Environment Agency (EA) and Met Office alerts and warnings regarding severe weather on a 24/7 basis. Any site-specific severe weather impacts are notified to the DEPO by the emergency services and other resilience partners, with reports from the public received by Contact Point and passed on to the DEPO and/or Kent Highways. DEPO further initiates multi-agency reporting using the county council's innovative Severe Weather Impacts System (SWIMS) to capture resources and costs arising from severe weather incidents.
- 1.3 Some 85,500 residential and commercial addresses across Kent are located within areas identified as at risk from fluvial (river) or tidal (coastal) flooding. Where possible, flood vulnerable properties are offered a Flood Warning Service by the EA. Early warning of flood risk to communities (including areas outside of floodplains) is delivered through Flood Guidance Statements, Severe Weather Warnings and mobilisation of the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) Severe Weather Advisory Group (SWAG).

2. Kent water situation and weather statistics

- 2.1 Kent's rainfall total for March 2021 was some 88% of the long-term monthly average for the county. However, April was drier still, with around 8% of normal rainfall for the month.

- 2.2 May was a wetter month, with 151% of long-term average rainfall recorded. Widespread showery rain fell for much of the month, with the highest totals recorded on the 17th May along the Kent / East Sussex border. Drier, more settled weather arrived in the last six days of the month.
- 2.3 June saw some unsettled weather, particularly around the middle of the month, where some spells of heavy rainfall were experienced. Up to 22nd June rainfall was 148% of long-term average. The month of June had by 22nd June recorded a mean temperature a little above average at +1.8 C, following cooler months in April (-2.3 C) and May -1.3 C).
- 2.3 The latest data available from the Environment Agency on soil moisture deficits and groundwater recharge is disappointing. At the end of May soil moisture deficits remained above long-term average right across Kent, with no effective groundwater recharge taking place. With no recharge in April or May, groundwater levels declined throughout these months. However, from an overall groundwater resources perspective, there are no immediate concerns flagged, as current groundwater conditions are still best described as normal to above normal. The situation will continue to be monitored as summer progresses.
- 2.4 Reservoir levels are mostly near their long-term average for the time of year, with Bewl at 90% and Bough Beech at 91% of normal levels.
- 2.5 11 Flood Alerts were issued by the EA since the last meeting of the committee (six fluvial and five coastal)¹. This contrasts with six Flood Alerts (two fluvial and four coastal) for the same period last year.
- 2.6 The Met Office issued five weather warnings covering Kent between March and June 2021 (three yellow warning for wind and two yellow warnings for thunderstorms)². This contrasts with 10 Met Office weather warnings (five yellow warnings for wind, one amber warning for rain and four yellow warnings for thunderstorms) for 2020.
- 2.7 The Thames Barrier was closed on four occasions since the last meeting of the committee in March (two for flood defence and two for test purposes)³. The figure for the corresponding period last year was six (one for flood defence and five for test purposes).
- 2.8 The generally unsettled weather conditions experienced in Kent during the second half of June have resulted in some localised highway and surface water flooding impacts. The A20 London Road at Aylesford, Hythe High Street and parts of the Low Weald and Len Valley were notably affected by these intense summer rainfall events. Collateral impacts from this unsettled weather included a lightning strike on a pumping station at Thanet, resulting in a marine pollution event, and subsidence affecting some local road and rail networks.

¹ Please see appendix 1

² Please see appendix 2

³ Please see appendix 3

3. Outlook

- 3.1 The Met Office three month outlook summary indicates a 15% chance that July to September will be cooler than average, a 50% chance that it will be near average and a 35% chance that it will be hotter than average. In terms of rainfall, the summary indicates a 30% chance the season will be drier than average, 55% chance that it will be near average and a 15% chance it will be wetter than average.
- 3.2 The EA continuously runs surge forecasts, informed by astronomical tide calculations. If a risk of coastal flooding is forecast, then this information is communicated to partners. The next notably high equinoctial spring tides, with a corresponding elevated risk of coastal flooding - if in combination with high winds, are forecast for early November.
- 3.3 To support local contingency planning for flood response, two table-top training exercises are scheduled for the autumn. On 28th October Exercise Scarce Emerald will test the county council's planning for a reservoir dam breach, while on 4th November Exercise Basilea will simulate a storm surge and coastal flooding response scenario. Key county council personnel and partner agencies will participate in these exercises, which form a part of an extensive KCC emergency planning exercise programme.
- 3.3 Kent Flood Risk Management Committee will continue to receive regular updates on water resources, flood alerts, weather warnings and response.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That Members note the warnings received since the last meeting of the Committee; and contribute to planning and response policy and practice through oversight and debate.

5. Contact Details

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Appendix 1: EA Flood Alerts and Warnings issued since 15th March 2021

| Date issued | Flood Zone | Status |
|-------------|---|--------|
| 28/04/2021 | Tidal Thames riverside from Dartford Creek and Mar Dyke to the Thames Barrier | Alert |
| 28/04/2021 | Isle of Sheppey and Coast from Kemsley to Seasalter | Alert |
| 28/04/2021 | Coast from Whitstable to Margate | Alert |
| 28/04/2021 | Tidal Medway, Medway estuary and Isle of Grain | Alert |
| 28/04/2021 | Coast from Dartford to Allhallows | Alert |
| 17/06/2021 | Shuttle and Cray | Alert |
| 17/06/2021 | Pent Stream in Folkestone | Alert |
| 18/06/2021 | Plenty, Swalecliffe and West Brooks | Alert |
| 18/06/2021 | River Bourne from Hadlow to East Peckham | Alert |
| 18/06/2021 | Upper River Stour | Alert |
| 29/06/2021 | Rivers on the Isle of Sheppey | Alert |

Appendix 2: Met Office Severe Weather Warnings since 15th March 2021

| Warnings (by period of extreme weather) | Date |
|---|--|
| 3 Wind | 10 – 11 March, 3 – 4 May & 20 – 21 May |
| 1 Thunderstorm | 16 – 19 June |
| 1 Thunderstorm | 27 June |

Appendix 3: Environment Agency Thames Barrier closures since 15th March 2021

| Thames Barrier closures | Date | Status |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Thames Barrier closed | 18/03/2021 | Test |
| Thames Barrier closed | 15/04/2021 | Test |
| Thames Barrier closed | 28/04/2021 | Operational |
| Thames Barrier closed | 14/06/2021 | Operational |