

Piddle Valley: August 2016

Current situation

- The Piddle Valley has experienced flooding historically from a number of sources. Previous studies and reports have been completed to identify issues and consider options to reduce the risk of flooding.
- Over the years a number of improvements have been made, including the Piddletrenthide Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS).
- As a result of the flooding experienced throughout the valley on 7/8 February 2016 a community drop-in session was held on 25 February to collate information about the event.
- A review of the issues experienced has been conducted in partnership by the Environment Agency (EA), Dorset County Council (DCC), Wessex Water (WW) and West Dorset District Council (WDDC).
- A further community drop-in session was held on 29 June to provide an update of interim findings, actions already taken and next steps.

Cause and impact of flooding

- Flooding through the Piddle Valley can arise from multiple sources in any combination, including the River Piddle, surface water runoff and groundwater.
- On 7/8 February 2016 the Piddle Valley experienced extreme intense localised rainfall.
- Flow in the River Piddle exceeded 6000 litres/second, flow of this scale was last recorded in 2000. The Piddletrenthide FAS successfully reduced the impact of the flooding, working to the design capacity of 5000 litres/second.

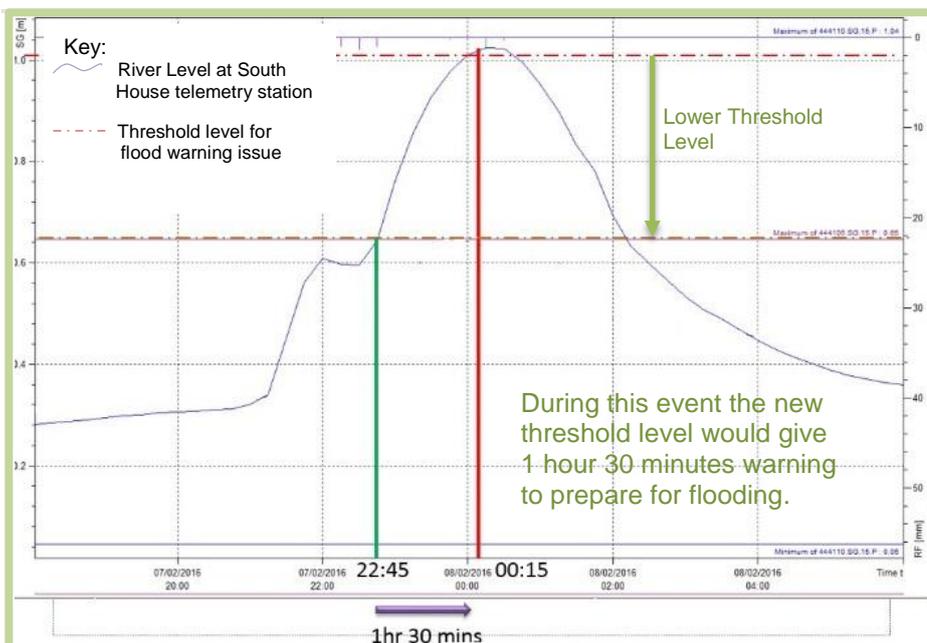
Proposed way forward

- A collaborative approach has been used to identify and share understanding of issues relating to each flooding source.

- Professional Partners will continue to consult and work together, and with the communities, to manage flood risk.

Environment Agency Progress

- The flood warning threshold level has been changed to offer more time to prepare in the event of flooding.
- A Groundwater flood warning service is now available.
- Assessed areas/structures reported as posing an issue.
- Worked with DCC regarding Church Lane Bridge, carried out re-profiling of grass area in front of the Vicarage.



Dorset County Council

Environment Agency

Next steps

- The Piddletrenthide FAS works well in high flows. Work is needed to better control flow into the structure in low flows. Consultants will now consider the options available.
- Progress options available to collect rainfall data within the Valley.

April 2017-2018:

- Hydraulic modelling of Piddletrenthide and Piddlehinton to further understand flooding mechanisms and improve flood warning techniques.

Dorset County Council

Progress

- Jetting of Highway Drainage Infrastructure.
- Investigations have been undertaken into surface water run-off in the Piddle Valley.
- Potential restrictions to flow within Plush Brook have been identified.

Next steps

- Feasibility study into reducing flood impacts at Church Lane Bridge, Piddletrenthide.
- Investigate diversion of surface water from Dead Cat Lane away from the centre of Plush.
- Explore whether the entrance to West Lane in Rectory Road, Piddlehinton, can be modified to allow more surface water into the existing drainage system.
- To publish the results of the formal Plush investigation by October 2016.

Wessex Water

Progress

- Inspected 1200 metres of sewer and identified 4 lengths of sewer within the valley which require sealing.
- Inflow Management Action Plan published on Piddle Valley Parish website.
- Meeting with Oliver Letwin MP and Piddle Valley Parish Council representatives.

Next steps

- Seal manholes which have been identified as currently allowing river water into the foul sewerage system.
- Investigate viability of two new permitted pumped relief stations.

West Dorset District Council

Progress

- Jetting of drainage system in Egypt and Rectory Road Flood Alleviation Scheme.
- Sandbag stores replenished and a new store set up in Plush.

Future Flood Management

- EA, DCC and Landowners to work together to explore options for Natural Flood Management and Catchment Management.
- The proposed work will continue to be reviewed between partners.
- The Piddle Valley Parish Council and Flood Risk Management Authorities work together to create a flood plan.

Useful Information

Information and links about flood risk, flood warnings service, resilience, being prepared and supporting literature:

<https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-a-flood>

Check your flood risk and sign up to receive Flood warnings for River and Sea and Groundwater:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding>

Practical advice on what to do to protect you and your property from flooding (booklet):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-what-to-do-before-during-and-after-a-flood>

Practical advice on preparing your property for a flood:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prepare-your-property-for-flooding>

Make a personal flood plan:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan>

Resilience Measures: National Flood Forum

<http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>

Sandbags: how to use them properly for flood protection

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sandbags-how-to-use-them-to-prepare-for-a-flood>



Dorset County Council

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188