

Great Yarmouth Borough Surface Water Management Plan

Briefing Note

Introduction

This briefing note is intended for local and parish councillors to outline the purpose and progress of the Great Yarmouth Borough Surface Water Management Plan.

The purpose of this Briefing note is to:

- a) Increase awareness of the threat of surface water flooding across Great Yarmouth and the Borough;
- b) Improve understanding of the impact of the Flood & Water Management Act and Flood Risk Regulations policies and legislative changes and the positive steps Local Government officers are taking;
- c) Allow partners and stakeholders to express any concerns they have and update the group on progress so far.

Background

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) imposes substantial new duties on Local Government in the management of surface water and groundwater flood risk, among other duties. As part of the new legislation Norfolk County Council is identified as a 'Lead Local Flood Authority' (LLFA). LLFAs will take charge of local flood management issues for their areas. These include flooding caused by surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

One of the key tools promoted by Defra to help support LLFAs under their new responsibilities are Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs).

A SWMP is a framework to help LLFAs understand the causes of surface water flooding and agree the most cost effective ways of managing surface water flood risk. The main outputs are a co-ordinated Action Plan to prioritise projects to reduce surface water flood risk and detailed mapping of areas prone to surface water and groundwater flood risk. These maps will assist both land use and emergency planning.

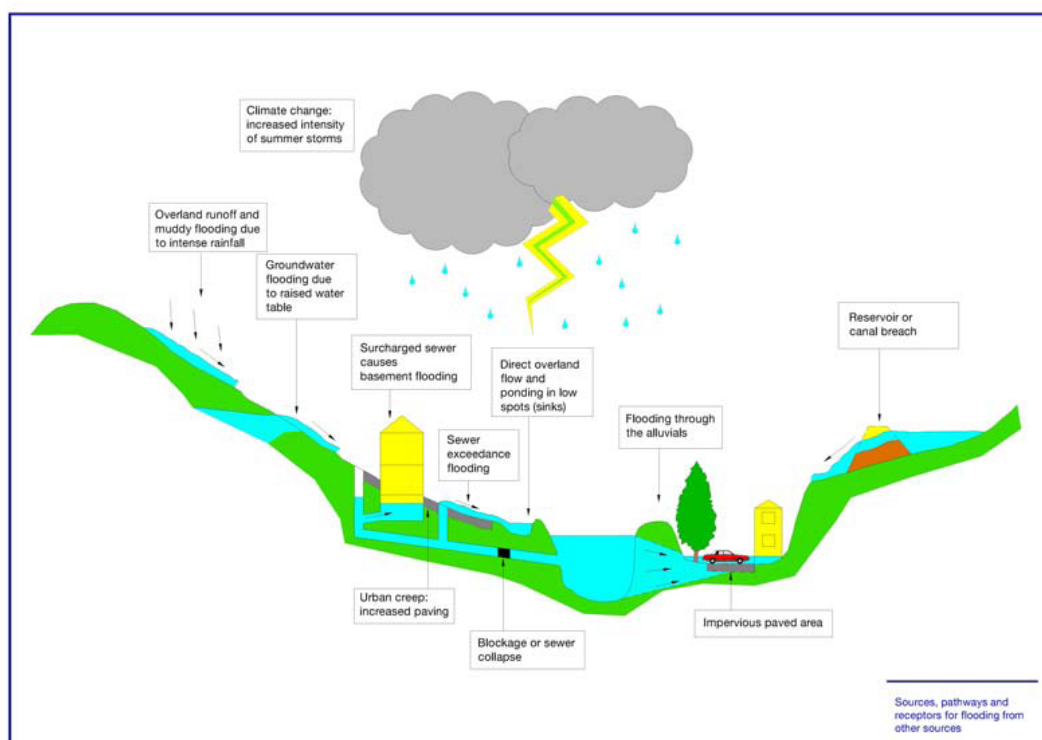
Surface Water Flooding

Surface water flooding happens when the ground, rivers and drains cannot absorb heavy rainfall.

Typically this type of flooding is localised and happens very quickly after the rain has fallen, making it difficult to give any flood warning. It is therefore important to identify areas where measures need to be taken to protect properties and critical infrastructure from surface water flooding.

Surface water flooding is a general term which is used to cover flooding from:

- Runoff of rainwater from impermeable surfaces, such as roofs, roads, driveways, patios and car parks
- groundwater in areas where water has percolated into the soil on high ground and then emerges in lower areas, and
- flooding from small streams, drainage ditches, drains or sewers.



Flooding from Local Sources (Making Space for Water HA4a pilot)

Great Yarmouth Borough Surface Water Management Plan

Funding for this SWMP has come from Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Norfolk County Council and Anglian Water. Norfolk County Council has provided officer time for the project management of the SWMP.

One of the key outputs from the Great Yarmouth Borough SWMP will be detailed surface water flood risk maps. These maps can be used to help identify potential Critical Drainage Areas (CDAs). The identified CDAs will be the main focus for our stakeholder engagement and the detail of the SWMP Action Plan.

An important part of the SWMP is the Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. This seeks to inform and liaise with all relevant stakeholders who could be affected by or have an input towards mitigating surface water flooding.

Website pages are being developed that will provide general information, progress updates and mapping results. The mapping information is intended to be the first point of reference for any Freedom of Information Requests.

The Great Yarmouth Borough SWMP is targeted for completion by the end of December 2012. Further funding will need to be identified to implement any future priority projects.

Please feel free to contact us if you wish to discuss any points relevant to the Great Yarmouth Borough Surface Water Management Plan.

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