



Norfolk County Council PR 9150 - 05/12/2011 [For Immediate Release]

Fresh look at rainstorm flooding in Great Yarmouth

People living in and around Great Yarmouth don't need long memories to know that the town can struggle to cope with downpours that may become more common as the climate changes.

In September 2006 a torrential thunderstorm flooded over 100 properties including six schools in Great Yarmouth, and caused serious disruption to a much wider area. Since then measures to reduce the risk in the Northgate Street area of the town have included major improvements to the sewer capacity.

Now the risk of further surface water flooding in the town and borough is going to be investigated in detail in a year-long project that begins this week (5 December 2011) and will result in a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) being produced.

Surface water flooding happens when the ground, rivers and drains cannot cope with 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 not the same as tidal or storm surge flooding from the sea.

The Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) brings all the relevant organisations together to assess and map vulnerable areas and to prioritise measures to help reduce the surface water flood risk. The project, which will take over 12 months to complete, is jointly funded by Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Anglian Water and Norfolk County Council.

Bill Borrett, Norfolk County Council Cabinet member for waste and environment, said: "People in Great Yarmouth will need no reminder how devastating and long-lasting the effects of flooding can be. This year has been exceptionally dry, but the storm of 2006 showed how that can change in just a few hours.

"Since then improvements by Anglian Water have reduced the risk in the Northgate Street area that suffered so badly, but the work on the Surface Water Management Plan will look at the risks to a wider area. It will not only identify vulnerable areas and properties, it will also recommend measures that can be taken immediately by householders, and longer-term steps that the relevant authorities should be investigating."

The first stage of the project will collect all relevant data on land use, drainage and flooding across the Borough, before prioritising areas for detailed assessment and drawing up a range of actions to lessen the flood risk.

For political comment

Cllr Bill Borrett (Cons) Cabinet member for Environment and Waste on 01362 860200

Cllr Tim East (Lib Dem) on 01603 743241

Cllr Andrew Boswell (Green) on 01603 613798

Cllr Bert Bremner (Lab) on 01603 471134

For further information please contact:

John Birchall

Senior media and public affairs officer, Norfolk County Council

Tel: 01603 224222

Email: john.birchall@norfolk.gov.uk

 **Norfolk** County Council

PR 9346

10 April 2012

Flooding Survey underway around Great Yarmouth

Norfolk County Council is calling on Parish Councils around Great Yarmouth to complete a questionnaire which will help generate new plans to deal with rainwater flooding in the future.

The parishes are being asked to provide as much detail as possible about past flooding incidents - where they happened, what they affected and what they think caused it; whether the water came from nearby rivers or streams, directly from rainfall, out of drains or sewers or up from the ground. Photographs of the incident are also being called for to give the research teams an even better understanding of the incidents.

Talking about the survey, which is part of a year long project to develop a Surface Water Management Plan for Great Yarmouth, Bill Borrett, Norfolk County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste said: "Great Yarmouth knows better than many what devastation can be caused when there is a sudden period of very heavy rainfall.

"The survey we're asking parishes to complete is a very important part of a long term project that will help us to assess and pinpoint communities that are most vulnerable to flooding. The information gathered will be made available to the operational water management experts - like the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and Internal Drainage Boards - who will be instrumental in developing plans and finding funding for any actions that could reduce the risks from the type of flooding that affected Great Yarmouth so severely in September 2006."

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Belton, Bradwell, Caister on Sea, Hemsby, Hopton on Sea, Martham Ormesby St Margaret and Winterton on Sea have been asked to complete survey questionnaires. Data will also be gathered from a Red Cross project working with Community Resilience Groups in Great Yarmouth and Gorleston, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, local Internal Drainage Boards and other parishes.

The Great Yarmouth Surface Water Management Plan project is a year long scheme being carried out by Norfolk County Council with funding from Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Anglian Water.

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For further information please contact:

Helen McCorry, Media Officer, Environment and Waste

Tel: 01603 223978

Email: helen.mccorry@norfolk.gov.uk