

The Environment Agency, Hertfordshire County Council and East Hertfordshire District Council have all carried out various works in response to the flooding experienced in Little Hadham in February 2014. This newsletter provides an update on what we have been doing and a number of ways you can start preparing now before another flood happens.

What has the Environment Agency been doing?

Maintenance work on the River Ash and Lloyd Taylor Drain

- We have carried out vegetation cutting and management twice a year on the River Ash and once a year on the Lloyd Taylor Drain through Little Hadham as part of our permissive powers to reduce flood risk.
- We have removed debris from these rivers on a monthly basis, removing any blockages and fallen trees.
- We have continued to respond to reports of blockages reported by the public on our Incident Hotline.
- We have installed a gauge board on the River Ash at the rear end of Little Hadham Village Hall following the request from one of our Little Hadham Flood Wardens.
- As requested by Little Hadham residents a deflector has been installed where the Lloyd Taylor Drain enters the River Ash just downstream of the A120 road bridge.
- We have cleared the Albury Tributary culvert, beneath Albury Road, of gravel.
- We have removed a redundant concrete ford which was causing erosion to the bed and the banks of the River Ash. We also removed silt and gravel which were reducing channel capacity and conveyance.

Progress on the Little Hadham Flood Alleviation Scheme

- We have continued to work with Hertfordshire County Council to progress our plans for the proposed flood alleviation scheme, in conjunction with the proposed A120 Little Hadham bypass. This aims to make dual use of the bypass embankments over the River Ash and the Albury Tributary to temporarily hold back flood water during a storm event. In addition it will divert the Lloyd Taylor Drain around the edge of the properties so that flood flows would no longer need to pass through the existing culvert. The scheme recently distributed a leaflet on amendments we have made to the proposals since the public consultation. More information is available at: www.hertsdirect.org/a120bypass We have now submitted our planning application for the scheme. This will be considered through the usual planning process with a decision likely early in 2016.

What has Hertfordshire County Council been doing?

- As the Lead Local Flood Authority we have been working with East Hertfordshire District Council and the Parish Council to manage flooding of the road at Hadham Ford by carrying out works on nearby ordinary watercourses.

What has East Hertfordshire Council been doing?

- Our Environment and Engineering Team has been working closely with the Environment Agency and Hertfordshire County Council colleagues, most recently in a series of multi-agency meetings to discuss major flood risk reduction as part of the A120 Little Hadham bypass scheme.
- We have worked with Hertfordshire County Council and other land owners to coordinate the maintenance of culverts, ditches and gullies on Green Street.
- As part of an initiative funded by central government, we have helped arrange for several householders in the village to add flood protection measures to their properties.

What can you do?

1. Find out if you are at risk and where in your community is at risk:

- Visit www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding
- E-mail enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
- Call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**

2. If you are at risk sign up to Floodline Warnings Direct

- Floodline Warnings Direct is a completely free 24-hour service which gives you an advance flood warning in your area by telephone, mobile, fax, pager, text or email.
- Register for this service by calling **0345 988 1188** or by visiting www.gov.uk/floodline

3. Know your flood warning codes



FLOOD ALERT

Flooding is possible.
Be prepared.



FLOOD WARNING

Flooding is expected.
Immediate action required.



SEVERE FLOOD WARNING

Severe flooding.
Danger to life.

4. Be prepared for a flood:

- Create a personal flood plan
- Prepare your home in case there is a flood
- Check your insurance cover
- Find out how you can help your local community to be prepared
- For further information on how to carry out preparatory actions please visit www.gov.uk/prepare-for-a-flood

Useful Contacts

Contact **Floodline** on **0345 9881188** for up to date flood warning information or advice.

Contact the Environment Agency **incident hotline** on **0800 80 70 60** to report flooding, blockages in rivers or any other environmental incident.

