

SECTION 19 REPORT – ARNOLD (FRONT STREET) 19 JULY 2014

Introduction

Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:

1. On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:
 - (a) Which Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have relevant flood risk management functions.
 - (b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
2. Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must:-
 - (a) Publish the results of its investigation.
 - (b) Notify any relevant risk management authorities.
3. The objective of this report is to investigate which RMAs had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding in July 2014 and whether the relevant RMAs have exercised, or propose to exercise, their risk management functions (as per section 19(1) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010).
4. The Risk Management Authorities for this area of Nottinghamshire are the Environment Agency (EA) (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire), Gedling Borough Council (GBC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and Highways Authority (HA) and Severn Trent Water Ltd. (STW) (there is no Internal Drainage Board here).
5. It should be noted that this duty to investigate does not guarantee that flooding problems will be resolved and cannot force others into action.

Background

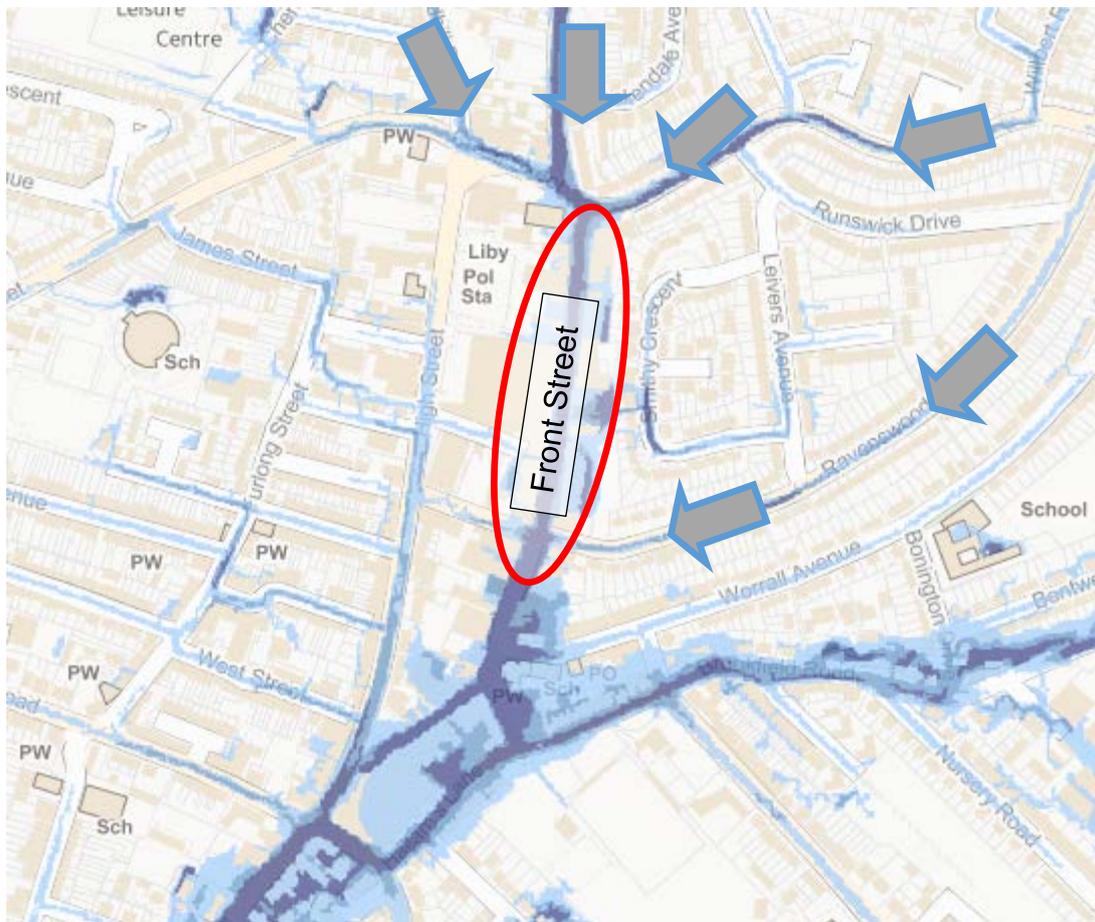
6. On the afternoon of the 19th July 2014 parts of Nottinghamshire were subjected to intense rainfall and as a result of this parts of the County, including Arnold, experienced major flooding. The flooding in Arnold centered on Front Street, with a number of business premises experiencing internal flooding. The exact number is unconfirmed however at least 5 properties suffered internal flooding triggering the need for a Section 19 report.

Summary of flooding and its causes

7. Front Street is one of the main commercial streets in Arnold and sits at the bottom of a large urbanised catchment. The topography of the area results in it being prone to surface water flooding.

Map 1 shows Front Street (circled) and the risk of surface water flooding taken from the EA's Flood Risk from Surface Water mapping data. The arrows show the flow paths from the surrounding areas.

The flooding in July was due primarily to the intensity of the rainfall and the surface water runoff flowing from the surrounding catchment onto Front Street where the existing drainage system was overwhelmed.



Map 1 – Flood Risk from Surface Water (arrows show flow paths from surrounding catchment)

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

8. Nottinghamshire County Council
 - a) Lead Local Flood Authority
 - i. Investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations.
 - ii. Play a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event.

- iii. If a flood happens, all local authorities are 'category one responders' under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency. LLFAs also have a new duty to determine which risk management authorities have relevant powers to investigate flood incidents to help understand how they happened, and whether those authorities have or intend to exercise their powers.
 - iv. By working in partnership with communities, LLFAs can raise awareness of flood risks.
 - v. LLFAs should encourage local communities to participate in local flood risk management.
- b) Highway Authority
 - i. Maintenance of the public highways.
 - c) Severn Trent Water Ltd.
 - i. Maintenance of the public sewerage system.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

9. The following lists the actions taken by each RMA in response to the flooding both in the immediate aftermath as well as in the longer term:
- a) Nottinghamshire County Council:
 - i. Initiated and co-ordinated Emergency Planning procedures.
 - ii. Initiated and led the S19 Flood Investigation.
 - iii. Facilitated additional clearance of highway gullies on Front Street.
 - iv. Pursued and secure funding to investigate performance and interaction of wider Daybrook catchment surface water assets. (Investigation ongoing in partnership with STW at a cost of £99k (secured from Local Levy funding)).
 - b) Severn Trent Water Ltd:
 - i. Actively engaged in S19 Flood Investigation.
 - ii. Contributed to surface water asset investigation providing the Contract and Consultancy lead.
 - iii. Historical significant investment into flood alleviation works on the public sewerage network serving Front Street and the surrounding area.
 - c) Gedling Borough Council
 - i. Initiated and co-ordinated Emergency Planning procedures.
 - ii. Provided centre point of contact for customer liaison and instigated a Flood Forum group.
 - iii. Actively engaged in S19 Flood Investigation.
 - iv. Commissioned a localised study of surface water assets on Front Street.
10. The investigation concludes that all risk management authorities have and continue to, exercise their respective functions in response to the flood.
11. During the investigations NCC officers liaised closely with STW and GBC in an endeavour to clarify responsibilities and ensure the community had as much support and understanding as possible to aid future flood resilience.

Future Actions

12. Information gained from the wider Daybrook Catchment study will be shared with GBC once complete.
13. NCC, STW and GBC will continue to liaise with customers via the Flood Forum meetings as necessary.