

Welcome to Issue 5 of the Belsize Flood Resilience Project newsletter. In this issue we recap some of the main findings of the recent flood risk work and give you some important updates about the installation of property level protection measures to your homes in Priory Road.

### Community Flood Fair

Over 25 people attended the Community Flood Fair at Priory Hard on Saturday 21 June to view the latest flood risk modelling for St Denys, discuss the Belsize Project with the project team and get advice on obtaining the right level of cover for household insurance – something which several residents from the area reported they were having difficulties with.

Heather Shepherd from the National Flood Forum was on hand to offer advice on home insurance and said: "It is not always fruitful to use comparison websites to obtain quotes. If possible, ring the insurance company or better still, give the National Flood Forum's insurance helpline a call on 01299 403 055." For further advice, please look at the National Flood Forum's website at [www.floodforum.org.uk](http://www.floodforum.org.uk)

We would like to give a special thanks to Nigel Cook from Ivy Road for his research into historic flooding in St Denys and across the Solent; and to Peter Taylor of Priory Road for presenting the new community website which you can visit at [www.itchentides.org.uk](http://www.itchentides.org.uk)



Community Flood Fair  
21 June



### Urgent update: Property level protection

We are currently experiencing problems with the appointment of a contractor to supply and fit the property level protection measures which the property surveys recommend.

We apologise for the delays and would like to reassure you that we are working hard to resolve the issues. However, further setbacks mean that installation may not happen until the autumn. We feel this is an unacceptable delay, particularly considering the number of predicted high spring tides as we approach the autumn/winter period.

We are therefore considering the option of supplying grants directly to each property owner for the purchase of the recommended products from a supplier of your choice.

To simplify things further, if several residents have a preferred supplier or product type, it is possible that a collective scheme could go ahead. This approach would mean that property level protection measures could be installed over the summer in time for the autumn high tides.

In the next few days, Bernadine Maguire, Project Manager, will be contacting all residents in Priory Road (where property surveys have been completed) to discuss this new approach and what would happen next if we progress with it. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bernadine on **023 8083 2403** or email [bernadine.maguire@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:bernadine.maguire@southampton.gov.uk)

Alternatively you can contact Sam Foulds, Flood Risk Technical Officer at Southampton City Council on **023 8083 2076** or email [sam.foulds@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:sam.foulds@southampton.gov.uk)

## Understanding flood risk interactions

Consultants from URS have now completed the work to help us understand flood risk interactions and their findings have been very interesting. The work was presented at the Community Flood Fair in June. Please read the following summary of their findings:



Jane from URS explains the changing ground water levels

### Groundwater

Groundwater and tidal-level monitoring show that groundwater levels respond primarily to rainfall rather than tidal fluctuations. In the Priory Road area, groundwater is several metres below ground-level and does not appear to be contributing to above-ground-level flooding.

### CCTV surveys

A CCTV survey was undertaken on the local surface water and foul sewer networks. The survey data shows that there are some problems with tidal flaps on the drains and blockages in the drains and sewers caused by debris and encrustations. Several cracks and fractures were noted in some areas. If tidal flaps are not operating correctly, water can pass up through the surface water sewers. This may mean the sewers

are contributing to above-ground flooding. The data from the CCTV survey has been passed to Southern Water who are responsible for the maintenance of the sewers.

### Tidal-level monitoring

The analysis of water levels shows a phase lag of less than five minutes between high water at Dock Head and Woodmill. Peak-to-peak water level analysis (in which the maximum water level was recorded, regardless of time) shows that the average difference in tidal-level between Dock Head and St Denys is 6cm, with a maximum recorded difference of 15cm. For Woodmill and Dock Head, the average difference is 8cm, with a maximum difference of 24cm.

Once the final checks have been made, the final report will be available to view and download from [www.itchentides.org.uk](http://www.itchentides.org.uk)

## Contact change

Alec will be unavailable over the next few weeks and therefore unable to take your calls or respond to your emails. If you have any questions or queries over the next few weeks

please contact Sam Foulds (Project Officer for the Belsize Project) on 023 8083 2076 or email [sam.foulds@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:sam.foulds@southampton.gov.uk).

**Please continue to talk to your friends and neighbours about the project to help generate support for it and make it a success.**

## Flood risk modelling

The Flood Action Group is a community initiative aimed at reducing flood risk.

As part of the flood risk interactions work, URS also updated the flood risk modelling with the new data. The new detailed flood map for the St Denys area places a few more properties (on the outskirts of the project area) on Priory Road into the highest flood risk zone. As a result it is likely that these properties will also require some form of property level protection measures to be installed to reduce the risk of their homes being affected by any future flooding.

At the Residents Working Group meeting, held on 1 May 2014, it was agreed that any remaining money from the project budget should be used to fund the required property level protection measures for the additional properties placed into the highest flood risk zone. We will write to the residents of those properties over the next couple of weeks with more information.

## Adelaide Road update

Following discussions at the Residents Working Group and project board meetings, it has been decided that due to a lack of interest from residents we will no longer be offering property level protection measures to those living in Adelaide Road. Instead, the money currently allocated to the 12 properties on Adelaide Road will be used for a more local scheme to reduce the potential for tidal flood water to encroach onto Adelaide Road. This scheme will include:

- **Replacing the gates on the access alleyway** running behind the properties with flood gates. This means that when the gates are closed the flow route will be cut, preventing water from flooding properties via the back gardens.
- **Raising the road/pavement at the junction of Priory Road and Adelaide Road** to cut off the flow route to the front of the properties.

Once implemented, these proposed measures will help protect residents in Adelaide Road from tidal flood risk; however, they will not reduce flood risk from groundwater flooding. To prevent water from rising up underneath the property, a dewatering pump may still be required. The flood risk to Priory Road will not be increased by blocking flow routes onto Adelaide Road. We welcome your thoughts on these proposals, so please get in touch to let us know what you think.



## Flood Action Group meeting

The purpose of the Flood Action Group is to bring several members of the community together to provide a representative voice of the wider community to work in partnership with agencies and authorities with the aim of reducing local flood risk.

The first local Flood Action Group meeting took place at the community centre on 8 May and was attended by several residents from the wider St Denys community. The group is still looking for more members so please get in touch if you are interested. Even if you think you cannot make every meeting, please get in touch with the group to offer your support. Details of the next Flood Action Group Meeting will be circulated in the next newsletter.

## Report it!

The drains on Horseshoe Bridge and the area around the junction of Priory Road and Adelaide Road have recently been inspected and cleared by the Highways team at Southampton City Council to ensure they are in full working order.

If you spot a blocked drain please report it to Southampton City Council's Actionline on 0800 519 1919 to ensure the problem is resolved quickly. If it is ignored, it could lead to flooding problems. Actionline is open from Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5pm. For services outside of these times please call the emergency/out of hours line on **023 8023 3344**.

Alleyway behind Adelaide Road properties (pictured left)

## Tide watch

Over the next two months there are a number of high spring tides to look out for; however as we head into the peak summer months, the weather should be calm with high atmospheric pressure keeping the risk of flooding low.

Date (2014)	Time (of high tide)	Height (metres Chart Datum)
12 July	11.33am	4.7
	11.48pm	4.7
13 July	12.16pm	4.8
14 July	12.32am	4.8
	1pm	4.8
	3.27pm	4.7
15 July	1.17am	4.8
	1.47pm	4.8
	4.16pm	4.8
16 July	2.04am	4.7
	2.38pm	4.7
	5pm	4.8
17 July	2.55am	4.6
	5.40pm	4.7
10 August	11.20am	4.7
	11.32pm	4.8
11 August	12pm	4.8
12 August	12.14am	4.9
	12.43pm	4.9
	3.12pm	4.8
13 August	12.58am	4.9
	1.28pm	4.8
	3.58pm	4.9
14 August	1.44am	4.8
	2.16pm	4.7
	4.40pm	4.8
15 August	5.16pm	4.7

Tips on tidal forecasting and a copy of the tide table supporting guide are available at [www.itchentides.org.uk](http://www.itchentides.org.uk)



## We want to hear from you!

Do you have a comment or question about the Belsize Flood Resilience Project, or perhaps an experience, story, sketch or photo of the area that you would like to share with others? If so, we would like to hear from you. Get in touch with us and you may see your article featured in the next newsletter.



## Find out more



### Community website

Don't forget to visit your new community website featuring lots of information about tidal patterns, flood risk and living by the

River Itchen:

[www.itchentides.org.uk](http://www.itchentides.org.uk)



### Contact us

**Sam Foulds**

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Southampton City Council

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Southampton City Council and the National Flood Forum, working in partnership as part of the Defra Community Flood Resilience Scheme



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