

Welcome to the latest issue of the Belsize Flood Resilience Project newsletter. This issue includes updates on the work that has been going on behind the scenes and on the street as we get closer to implementing property level protection measures for your home. Please read on to find out more.

### Understanding flood risk

URS is nearing completion of the work to help us improve our understanding of flood risk and the interactions between different sources. They have used the findings to produce a visual model of flood hazard and a summary report.



The CCTV survey inspection of a manhole and the flap valve at Priory Hard. Photos provided by InSewer Surveys.

The last part of data collection (the CCTV survey of the local sewer network) was carried out in March, when the sewers along Adelaide Road, Ivy Road and Priory Road (up to Collier Close) were surveyed. The CCTV survey identified that the sewer may benefit from some minor maintenance, with some

further works required on the flap valve to reduce tidal entry and improve efficiency of the sewer.

Some residents have asked us why the CCTV survey did not cover a wider area, including the area under the rail bridge where the road has flooded in the past. We chose to include the lower end of Priory Road in the survey because it is at higher risk of sewer flooding as a result of surface water not being able to drain away at high tide which then 'backs up' the sewer system. Another reason for this decision is that it is more informative to survey both the surface water and foul sewers over a shorter distance in the higher risk area, than just surveying the surface water sewer over a greater distance. This is because the roof water from many of the properties along Priory Road drains into the foul sewer rather than the surface water sewer.

**Please join us at the next Residents Working Group meeting on Thursday 1 May where the consultants behind the work will present their findings and answer residents' questions. The final report and modelling will be presented to the wider community at the flood fair in June.**

### Calling all Adelaide Road residents!

If you live in a property in Adelaide Road, we would like to hear your thoughts on flood risk and how you would like to see it tackled through the Belsize Flood Resilience Project.

We have been trying to engage with all residents since the start of this project but have not had much feedback from you to date. Due to this, we have decided to look at other ways to try to reduce flood risk to your property on Adelaide Road rather than through the use of property level protection measures. If you have any views on this or any ideas we would like to hear from you.

We really value all residents' opinions and hope to hear from some of you soon. Please contact Alec Summersgill (Community



Adelaide Road

Flood Engagement Officer, National Flood Forum) on 07592 317 761 or email [alec.summersgill@nationalfloodforum.org.uk](mailto:alec.summersgill@nationalfloodforum.org.uk).

## Flood protection measures

### Property surveys

The property level surveys for the 14 properties on the riverside of Priory Road (phase one) were successfully completed by JBA Consulting in the last week of February. Mr and Mrs Bennett of Priory Road said: *“The girls (from JBA Consulting) were very good. We thought the survey was going to be more intrusive but it was no problem at all.”*

Following the survey, residents of the properties surveyed were given a report outlining the recommended measures and products which would help to reduce the risk of flooding to their properties. The recommended measures are tailored to both the needs of the property and requirements of the occupant, to ensure that they can be used safely and correctly when required.

Now that the flood risk interactions work has been completed we have a much clearer picture of how flood risk affects the remaining properties in the project area and we can now go ahead with phase two (remainder of Priory Road) of the property level surveys fully informed of the likely measures required to reduce flood risk. These property surveys will also be completed by JBA Consulting.

Phase two residents were invited to a ‘Meet the Surveyor’ event on 24 April for an informal chat with the surveying team from JBA Consulting to find out about the measures that can be installed and to book their property level survey appointments for May. Residents who were unable to attend the event will be contacted in the next couple of days to arrange a property level survey appointment.

### What next?

We are arranging to get the recommended measures installed in each property and hope to give you an update on this in the next few weeks. Installations for the properties in phase one will take place slightly ahead of the properties in phase two.

We will write to notify you of the installation process and timescales as soon as we know more, so please keep your eyes on your post. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the project team.



Above: Residents attend the ‘Meet the Surveyor’ event in April.

## Wider community involvement

Although funding is not currently available to provide physical flood protection measures to properties outside the defined project area, the information that will be shared between now and the end of the project in March 2015 will be relevant and useful to everyone.

The last edition of the newsletter was distributed to over 300 properties in St Denys, from Priory Hard up to Oliver Road at Woodmill, to help ensure that everyone within the lower flood risk zones is aware of the work of the Belsize Flood Resilience Project. Following this, several people came forward to express an interest in receiving future newsletters and updates.

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

## Flood Action Group

One of the original aims of the Belsize Flood Resilience Project was to help set up a local Flood Action Group to work on behalf of the wider community to find ways of reducing flood risk. However, several proactive residents are already one step ahead of the project team. Alec will now work with the members to set up a more formal Flood Action Group to work in partnership with the council, Environment Agency and the water company, Southern Water.

Alec said: "A couple of informal meetings were set up by residents in the Belsize Flood Resilience Project area providing a great opportunity for residents to come together and talk about different aspects of the project and the issues that affect local flood risk. Whether the issue is big, such as surface water sewers flooding at high tide, or small such as where the best place to keep your wellies is, people will be listening and we will be one step closer to finding a solution.

"Being part of a group is a great opportunity not only to talk about flood risk, but also to get to know your neighbours and other people with the same interests. In the past, other communities across England and Wales have reported that a

Flood Action Group is an effective way of helping to influence the way flooding and flood risk is managed in the local area, since they can apply local knowledge which is sometimes overlooked."

The local Flood Action Group is currently in the early stages and looking for new members. It is open to all residents of the wider community, so please spread the word and help make the community group a success. Please contact Alec (contact details on reverse of newsletter) if you would like to join or find out more about the local Flood Action Group, and keep a look out for upcoming events information in this newsletter.

*Being part of a group is a great opportunity not only to talk about flood risk, but also to get to know your neighbours*



### Upcoming events / dates for your diary



#### **Residents Working Group meeting, Thursday 1 May 2014, 7pm – 9pm**

Join us for the latest project updates and to have your say. Consultants from URS will also attend to present the findings of the flood risk interactions work and answer your questions. This meeting is open to everyone in the project area. To receive the agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting, please contact Alec. The meeting will take place in room 2/3 at St Denys Community Centre.

#### **Flood Action Group meeting, Thursday 8 May 2014, 6.30pm – 8.30pm**

All are welcome to join the Flood Action Group to discuss local flood risk issues and to find ways to solve them. This informal meeting is set up by residents and will take place in room 2/3 at St Denys Community Centre.

#### **Flood Fair, Saturday 21 June 2014, 10am – 1pm**

This is an opportunity for all residents in St Denys and Woodmill to find out more about the project, see the results and modelling of the flood interactions work and speak to the consultants behind it. A specialist advisor from the National Flood Forum will also attend to give advice about home insurance in flood risk areas and the products available to help protect your home from flooding. This event will take place at Priory Hard. Please pop down and see us any time between 10am and 1pm.

## Tide watch

As we move into spring we are gradually beginning to see a period of drier weather after a particularly wet winter. Although calmer weather reduces the chances of a flood, a number of high spring tides are predicted over the next two months. Tides to look out for include:

Date (2014)	Time (of high tide)	Height (metres Chart Datum)
16 May	12.24am	4.7
	12.46pm	4.7
17 May	10.04am	4.7
	13.30pm	4.7
18 May	1.48am	4.7
14 June	12.04am	4.7
	12.30pm	4.7
15 June	12.48am	4.7
	1:16pm	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 next month's 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

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Working in partnership as part of the Defra Community Flood Resilience Scheme



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