

Severn Trent Evidence to Wyre Forest District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Agenda Item 5

2nd July 2020

Presentation

Please refer to presentation “Wyre Forest - Overview and Scrutiny - 020720 - Severn Trent presentation”

Summary

Severn Trent flood risk management roles and responsibilities

- Severn Trent’s flood risk management responsibilities are set out in the Water Industry Act 1991. We are required to provide and maintain sewers to ensure our operating area is effectually drained in relation to wastewater and surface water runoff from roof and areas surrounding properties.
- Severn Trent also has flood risk management duties set out in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
- Severn Trent are responsible for the management of flood risk from sewers.
- Other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) have responsibilities for the management of flood risk from other sources, such as rivers.
- For further information about sewer flooding, please go to our website:
 - <https://www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/flooding/>
 - <https://www.stwater.co.uk/content/dam/stw/my-water/document/your-guide-to-sewer-flooding.pdf>

Severn Trent assets and temporary pumping at Beales Corner, Bewdley

- There are two Severn Trent surface water sewer systems discharging to the River Severn at Beales Corner. There is also a network of foul sewers draining to a pumping station on the bank of the River Severn at Beales Corner.
- The surface water and foul sewer systems are impacted by high river levels and flooding from the River Severn.
- The Environment Agency started to deploy temporary barriers at Beales Corner from 2007. Severn Trent installed manhole chambers and fittings at the time to enable temporary pumps to be deployed behind the Environment Agency temporary barriers.
- The purpose of the temporary pumps is to ensure the surface water sewers and foul water pumping station can operate during times of high river levels when the temporary barriers are in operation.
- Since 2007, Severn Trent have deployed temporary pumps each time the Environment Agency deploy the temporary barriers at Beales Corner. This is part of an agreed multi-agency plan with the Environment Agency and other authorities such as Worcestershire County Council Highways.

Property Flood Resilience Measures at Beales Corner, Bewdley

- The Environment Agency recently installed Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures to some properties in Beales Corner. Such measures included flood door barriers, airbrick covers and non-return valves on private drains.
- Severn Trent worked with the Environment Agency on the PFR scheme and installed some non-return valves on public foul sewers. These non-return valves were installed to help prevent water backing up private sewer connections when the area is being affected by high river levels and flooding from the River Severn which can get into and overwhelm the sewerage system.

February 2020 flooding

- The River Severn reached one of its highest record peaks levels in February 2020. This resulted in the River Severn overtopping the temporary barriers at Beales Corner for the first time.
- Properties were flooded in February 2020, despite the temporary barriers, temporary pumping and the PFR measures.
- Severn Trent pumps were also flooded out when the barriers were overtopped.
- The Environment Agency is leading on a review of the performance of the Property Flood Resilience measures, and will share the outcomes of this review with other Risk Management Authorities, including Severn Trent.
- Severn Trent, along with other Risk Management Authorities have had virtual meetings with some of the affected residents (arranged as part of a National Flood Forum flood recovery event). This is one element of various investigations being undertaken into the February 2020 flooding.

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