

Poynton Flood Update Newsletter

May 2021

Dear Resident of Poynton

We wanted to provide you with a further, multi-agency, update on the work which has been carried out since the last newsletter. This includes updates from Cheshire East Council, United Utilities, Environment Agency, Poynton Flood Group, and Poynton Working Group. Further advice and information can be found on the Floodhub.

As you are aware, we continue to live in unprecedented times with the global outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. Following government advice, we are committed to ensuring the safety of our staff, partners and residents. Much of our work has been identified as essential by the government and we have continued with this work, where it remains safe to do so.

Our key priorities are to protect the health, safety and well-being of our own staff, the public and the businesses and partners we work with; to prevent loss of life and serious harm to the environment; and to keep our critical operations running.

Please could residents ensure that flooding incidents are reported to the appropriate agency, numbers are at the foot of the newsletter.

We wish to reassure you that work is continuing in Poynton to further protect the communities from future flood events. We hope that you are all staying safe and well during this time.

Cheshire East Council Update

Section 19 Report

Cheshire East Council's role is to undertake the formal flood investigation which is called the section 19 report, which is a requirement of section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010.

The purpose of a formal flood investigation is to record:

- Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and
- Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

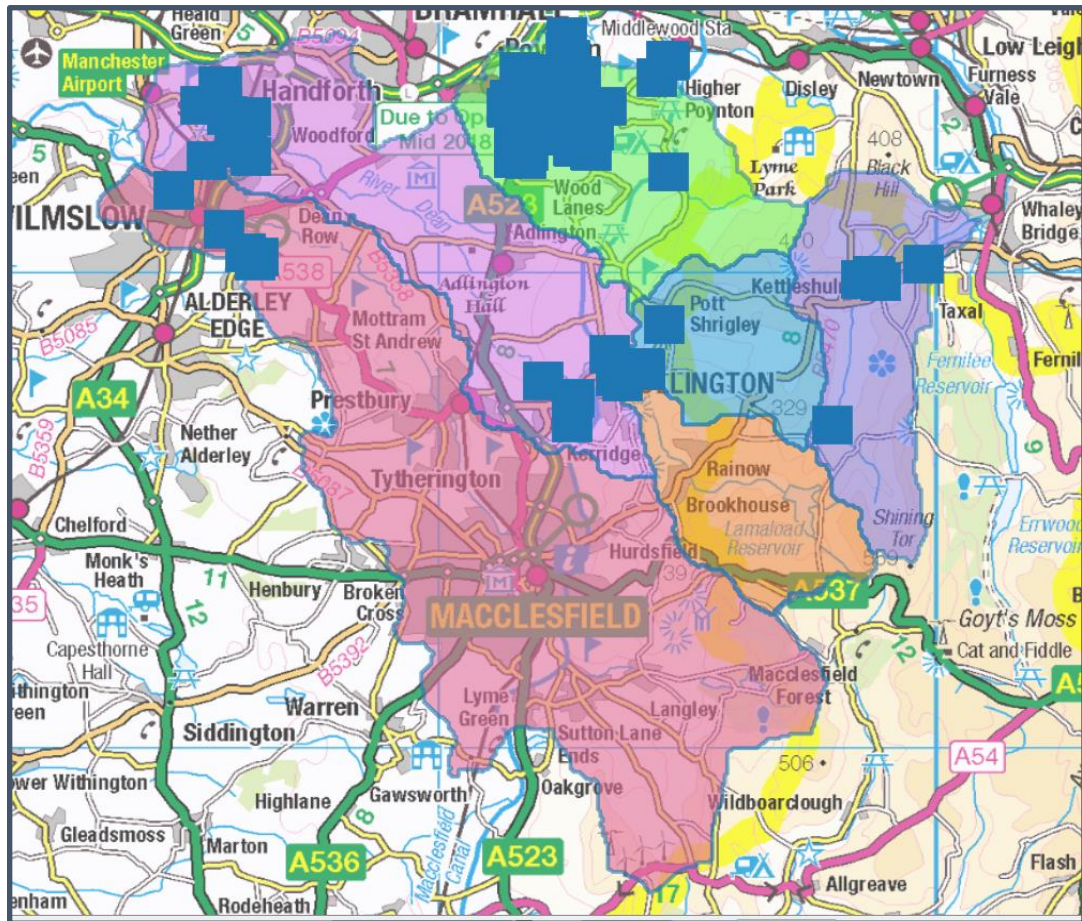
The risk management authorities who have recommendations for actions have been notified and this has formed the basis for some of the activities on-going since July 2019. The notification of these recommendations is not dependent upon the publication of the report (please see attached recommendations from the Section 19 report - local updates).

In recognition that communications have become more challenging this year, and as works continue locally we endeavour to update Poynton Town Council and their Flood Working Group of the local schemes that are being undertaken in response to the flooding experienced in Poynton. Details are also available on the Cheshire East Highways webpage and Twitter account. Please note, that where a scheme would highlight the flood risk at a particular property this **will not** be advertised publicly due to GDPR regulations and the risk of property blight.

To report internal property flooding to the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) please email: Flood.Investigation@cheshireeast.gov.uk or call 0300 123 5500.

Properties reporting flooding between 28th - 31 July 2019

The Green area highlights the Poynton Brook catchment.



The draft report has been presented to the Council for approval and will shortly be published online: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/flooding/floods-and-flood-risk/flood-investigations.aspx>

Task and Finish Group

At the Council's Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny (EROSC) Meeting on the 21st September 2020, a resolution passed to establish a task and finish group to undertake an in-depth review of flooding and flood risk management in Cheshire East. This would enable a number of meetings to be set up for task and finish members, as well as local ward councillors, Risk Management Authorities and others to scrutinise the impacts of the 2019 flooding in the various areas of Cheshire East that were affected (Including Poynton, Kettleshulme, Adlington, Prestbury & Bollington).

To date, meetings have been held with a range of stakeholders including The FloodHub (<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/>), Poynton Town Council, the Poynton Flood Action Group and the Poynton Flood Working Group. The final set of meetings to be held this month will include the Environment Agency, United Utilities and the Cheshire Resilience Forum (<https://cheshireresilience.org.uk/>).



Planning applications and strategic planning sites in Poynton

All planning application files are available to view online:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/view_a_planning_application/view_a_planning_application.aspx

Members of the public are invited to submit comments and any supporting evidence such as photographs or videos via email, or letter. Please see guidance online for full details.

Sustainable surface water management is a material consideration for **all** planning applications. This means all development proposals must include a site-specific surface water drainage strategy following sustainable urban drainage guidelines (SuDS).

- On Greenfield/un-developed sites, surface water run off must be managed to achieve at least no increase in run-off rates. Where possible, there should be a reduction in rates.
- On previously-developed sites, run-off proposals should demonstrate a reduction in rates in line with the non-statutory Technical Standards.

Highway drainage improvements:

Drainage improvement works have recently been completed on Woodside Close (March 2021). The ordinary watercourse that runs from the bifurcation on Park Lane Stream behind the Sports club has been cleansed and surveyed to outfall at Poynton Pool.

Images of cleanse and CCTV at Woodside (March 2021)



While this work is ongoing and until downstream land levels are appropriate some temporary stop logs have been installed at the bifurcation to manage low flows – during a storm event / high flows these would be overtopped and the flow path to Poynton Pool restored.

Image of bifurcation of Park Lane Stream (March 2021)



The 2021/22 business plan has allocations for highway drainage improvements at Lostock Road and London Road South the full list is published online:

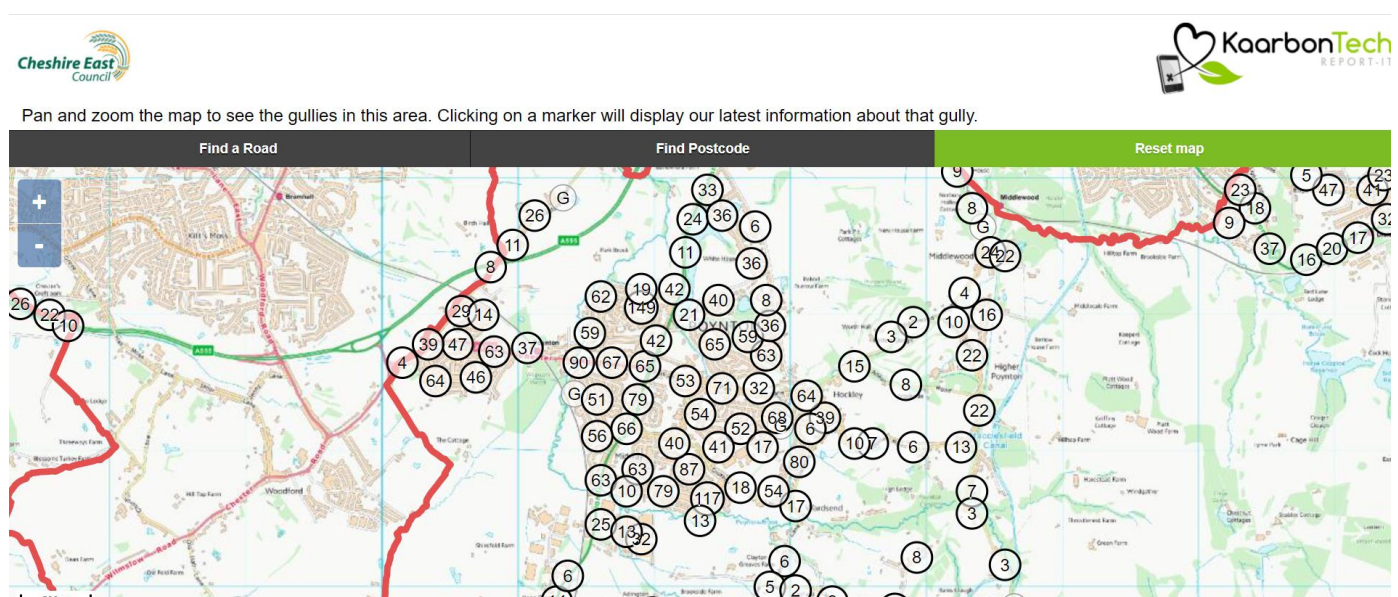
https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/highways_and_roads.aspx

Additional allocations for works off the highway have been made for further works at Glastonbury Drive, Coppice Road, Melrose Crescent and Waterloo Road.

Highway gully clearance

- The gullies in Poynton were last cleansed in May 2021, following cleansing a condition summary statement is sent to the Town Council
- Details of the condition of each gully, its schedule condition and the date it was last attended is updated online: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/road-maintenance/gullies-and-drains.aspx
- To report an issue: <https://www.cheshireeasthighways.org/report-it-general.aspx>

Image of new gully information website



Privately owned surface water sewers

- A number of privately owned surface water sewers have been discovered across Poynton, these are sewers that drain water from properties into local watercourses.
- All privately owned systems remain the maintenance responsibility of the property/land owner.
- Where a number of properties connect to such a system residents will share maintenance responsibilities.
- Cheshire East and United Utilities are continuing to support residents who have identified such systems.
- Cheshire East has, without prejudice, cleansed and CCTV surveyed the surface water sewer that runs down Melrose Crescent. The results of the survey will be shared with the residents who retain the responsibility for maintaining this system.



Ordinary watercourses

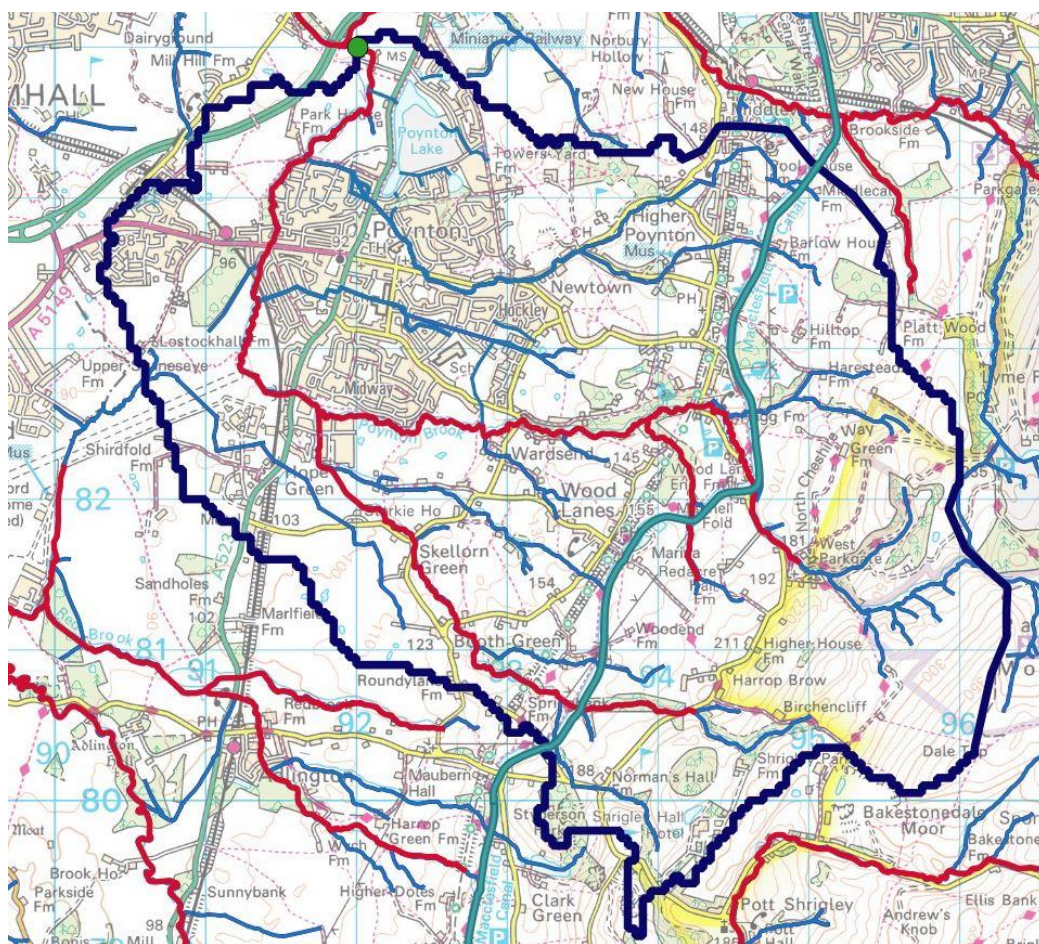
- Park Lane stream: Cheshire East has, without prejudice, cleansed the open section of the ordinary watercourse downstream of Glastonbury Drive. Works started here in June 2020. These works were then paused due to the bird nesting seasons as a number of trees had cracked or fallen and needed to be pollarded or felled to allow machine access. These works commenced again at the beginning of October, works should be completed in November 2020.
- Further works have been undertaken to remove debris washed down after Storm Christoph in January 2021 and a new Hop pave bridleway has been installed.

Images of Park Lane Stream and bridleway at Glastonbury Drive (March 2021)



- Coppice Stream: Localised issues have been discussed on site with local residents and local landowners.
- Survey work is planned, without prejudice, by United Utilities to CCTV a section of ordinary watercourse associated with Coppice Stream, the affected riparian owners have been notified of this in writing and contacted by the Poynton Town Council Flood Working Group.
- Works to slow the flow on Coppice Stream upstream of Waterloo Road are still being assessed to see if there is the possibility of a highway design to control flows.
- An additional gully was added to the system to drain water from Waterloo Road in the summer 2020.
- CEC are exploring potential opportunities to incorporate slow the flow with Council tree planting and carbon sink projects in the area. The NFM that CEC are working in partnership with is reported in the EA section.

Watercourse within Poynton: ordinary watercourses shown in blue, main rivers shown in red. Dark Blue line shows approximate watershed of the Poynton Brook and Both Green Brook catchment. All water falling within the dark blue line will flow through Poynton towards Lady Brook in the North Northwest of the image shown as a green spot.



Main River (shown in red)

A main river is usually a large stream or river, such as Poynton Brook. However, locally important smaller watercourses can be designated as Main Rivers. The Environment Agency has authority, powers, rights and responsibilities for managing Main Rivers in England and Wales.

Ordinary Watercourse (shown in light blue)

An ordinary watercourse is any river, stream, ditch and culvert not defined as Main River. Ordinary watercourses are the responsibility of the riparian owner. A riparian owner is the person, or people, with watercourses on, next to or under their property. If you own a property boundary contains a watercourse this means that you are a riparian owner, as such you are responsible for maintaining this watercourse under the Land Drainage Act, 1991.

Macclesfield canal (shown in teal)

The canal is owned and maintained by the Canal and River Trust

Trash Screen/culvert clearance on ordinary watercourse

Cheshire East Highways maintain the screens on Middlewood Road and Park Lane (Willow Close)

To report an issue: <https://www.cheshireeasthighways.org/report-it-general.aspx>



Riparian ownership

In summary if you are a riparian owner, you have responsibilities for the stretch of watercourse you own. These include, but are not limited to letting the water flow naturally.

You must let water flow naturally.

You may have to remove blockages, fallen trees or overhanging branches from your watercourse, or cut back trees and shrubs on the bank, if they could:

- Obstruct or affect a public right of navigation – ask your navigation authority for advice.
- Reduce the flow or cause flooding to other landowners' property – you may have to pay damages if they do.

You should:

- Leave all other trees, branches and shrubs - they can help prevent flooding by varying the shape and flow of the channel, and reduce erosion.
- Keep any trash screen, weir, mill gate or other structure clear.

Don't go inside a culvert. You could get trapped or poisoned by gases.

Cheshire East Council does not have a responsibility to undertake works on an ordinary watercourse, but they do control work carried out in and around watercourses.

For example:

- You have the right to protect your property from flooding and erosion, but you must:
- Get permissions to build anything in or around the watercourse.
- Not build anything which could divert water and increase flood risk to other people's property, or you may have to pay damages.

You must obtain consent before you:

- Change, remove or build any flood defence on your land.
- Do any work within 8 meters of a watercourse.

For more details on being a riparian owner, please visit the following site: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>

Cheshire East Covid 19 Advice/Guidance

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/media_hub/media_releases/cheshire-east-launches-covid-19-information-hub-and-support-network.aspx



United Utilities

United Utilities are the statutory undertaker for water and wastewater services and have carried out investigations into flooding which was reported to them. United Utilities are only responsible for flooding that occurs as a result of an escape from the public sewer system. The result of investigations we undertake is shared with the Lead Local Flood Authority and we are one of the risk management authorities who contribute to the section 19 report into flooding.

- We continue to work with Cheshire East Council to develop a partnership scheme to divert some surface water flow from Park Lane Stream via an existing culvert into Poynton Lake, thereby reducing the volume of water passing forward via the Park Lane Stream through the Mayfair Close / Covell Road / Tulworth Road culvert systems.
 - We have a project assigned to replace existing surface water outfalls on Park Lane Stream and on the land between Parklands Way and Woodside Lane as well as 2 surface water headwalls to Poynton Brook. We are currently liaising with the Environment Agency for permits to enable the delivery and completion of these projects.
- Work continues on the drainage area study. We have identified multiple areas across the catchment where we will be installing flow monitors. These flow monitors will be installed over the next 6 months and this information will give us a better understanding of how our network performs and will produce information that we can feed into our future business plan.
- United Utilities remain supportive of the National Trust and the Cheshire Wildlife Trust with the Natural Flood Management work in the land above Poynton to slow the flow of surface water runoff.

It should be noted that some of the above activities may be inhibited due to government restrictions and personnel availability as a result of the coronavirus situation.

There is no change to how United Utilities will respond during a flooding event. The procedure to call United Utilities' integrated call centre should you experience sewer flooding is unchanged and can be found on the website <https://www.unitedutilities.com/emergencies/got-a-problem/blocked-drains/>. The United Utilities emergency number is 0345 672 3723.

Any work that is to be carried out as a result of a sewer flooding incident would still be considered essential by United Utilities therefore we would still attend site to support, clean up, collect data and arrange any repairs which may be required.

On reporting the incident to United Utilities' call centre, customers will be asked whether they are self-isolating or are displaying symptoms of Covid-19. United Utilities will still attend in response to customer calls but for those customers who are self-isolating or displaying symptoms the United Utilities team will be provided with enhanced PPE to protect customers and employees.

UU are monitoring work force levels as people are self-isolating and / or sick, so if there is any impact on response times the customer will be made aware of this at the time of reporting the incident



Help 'Stop The Block'

A blocked sink or an overflowing loo is the last thing any of us need right now, we're encouraging people to dispose of fats and grease responsibly and help to 'Stop The Block'.

Unfortunately when fats, oils and grease get poured down the sink, they can mix together with other waste, such as wet wipes, and form 'fatbergs' in our sewers. These blockages mean that wastewater can't flow through the sewers to our treatment sites and that can result in flooding. So, after cooking, please pour or scrape any fat, oil or grease into a heat-resistant container and once cooled, empty the contents into the bin. This way we can help keep the pipes, drains and sewers blockage free.



For more information, please visit <https://www.unitedutilities.com/help-and-support/wastewater-services/stop-the-block/>

A recent blockage found in the UU sewer network – a mixture of cotton buds, wipes and kitchen roll. Only flush the 3p's!

Priority Services – extra help for those who need it most

If you or any of your family and friends have particular health issues and haven't yet registered for United Utilities' Priority Services, then please visit [unitedutilities.com/priorityservices](https://www.unitedutilities.com/priorityservices) for additional support with your water services. If you know someone who isn't online then you can register them on their behalf.

Environment Agency

Natural Flood Management (NFM) update May 2021

To recap, the Environment Agency has been working in partnership with UU, Cheshire East and landowners in the catchment upstream of Poynton to deliver NFM interventions to try and intercept, and slow the flow of water upstream, in an attempt to reduce the peaks at downstream areas of flood risk. In March 2020, just prior to lockdown, leads with co-operative and willing landowners were established, and following that the Environment Agency commissioned Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) to identify, scope and deliver NFM interventions in the catchment upstream of Poynton.

Since then, and through lockdown, Cheshire Wildlife Trust staff have been working through these leads, trying to match up locations where interventions are needed most and where landowners are willing. Joe, Matt and Ashley from CWT spent a lot of time engaging with people to achieve this (this stage can be a long process). It is important to note that interventions require landowner co-operation and cannot be arbitrarily introduced.

As most interventions involve temporarily holding water in times of flood, or nudging water to flow a particular way through the landscape, generally landowners do not feel there is a significant conflict with their agricultural practices.

Areas of land around Poynton Coppice are a priority area and options in this area are being looked at thoroughly. Similarly, Higher Poynton is a priority area, as is the area around Rabbit Burrow Farm, Pool House Farm. Options to divert floodwaters onto Middlewood Way are also being considered.

We are pleased to report that upstream of Waterloo Road on one of the tributaries that has been identified as a flood route during previous events, and upstream of a vulnerable flood risk area, a bund to slow the flow has been constructed (see picture below). The bund will allow water to be contained at this point and should help trap and contain some of the runoff from upstream.



Additionally, at the Gables (Higher Poynton), 3 clay dams have been installed (see photo below), along with a tree felled into the channel and with a further two large woody dams underway.



Clay bund at the Gables

At Middlecale Farm, there are two further NFM intervention locations, consisting of storage ponds, woody debris dams and 'kested' (raised) hedgerows, which will serve to intercept, and temporarily store overland flood flows.

This work has shown what can be achieved and our thanks go to the landowners who've been willing to make this happen, and to their co-operation in helping achieving these outcomes. It couldn't have happened without their support, and without the hard work of Cheshire Wildlife Trust staff. What has been achieved so far is a great start and shows what is possible, but to make a difference on the larger magnitude floods, we need to do more interventions in more locations, and there are many places where we can and wish to do more. We will continue to work with landowners and the Flood Action Group to achieve these ends and encourage help in trying to find more locations where we can intervene to temporarily store water and slow the flow.

Embankment repair

A repair to the embankment along the Armcon Industrial Estate upstream of London Road, has been completed over the winter, reducing the risk of flooding to the industrial estate and locations downstream. Any embankment can be overtopped if an event is significant enough, but if we are faced with a similar event again the impacts should be less significant than those experienced in July 2019.



The Environment Agency is always focussed on protecting lives, livelihoods and the environment. Our commitment to this does not change while dealing with the effects of coronavirus, but we have to take into account the national situation. During this crisis, our priorities are as follows: -

Protect our staff's health, safety and wellbeing we will protect the health, safety and wellbeing of all our staff. We will ensure the resilience of incident responders, equipment and critical suppliers.

Sustain our critical activities

Protection of lives and livelihoods – Our role is a Category 1 Incident Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means we continue operate 24/7 to respond to flooding and other environmental incidents alongside our partners.

Preventing serious harm to the environment –The Environment Agency will continue work to provide the appropriate level of regulation and services to ensure the environment is protected. We have agreed ways of working for our field teams to reduce the risk of contracting Coronavirus.

Warning and informing the public about flood risk; we continue to operate and maintain our existing flood defences and construct new ones.

We have taken action to ensure that we can sustain these vital services. While of course we always need to prioritise our work, we remain fully operational.

Poynton Flood Group

Cheshire East have appointed a Task and Finish Group to look into flooding county wide. The Poynton Flood Action Group (PFAG) have fed into this group with residents experiences of flooding. We hope to help the Task and Finish Group members understand the enormous impact flooding has on individuals and families. Some people are still not back in their homes from the 2019 flood, others had to move home several times.

We recently met with representatives from the agencies involved in work to help with flooding. The Environment Agency; Cheshire East; United Utilities; Poynton Town Council; Lyme Park. We are reassured by the actions carried out by the agencies as detailed in this newsletter. David Rutley MP also joined the meeting and lends his support to our aim to ensure Poynton homes and businesses don't flood in future.

We have been active in researching and understanding flood solutions that have had success elsewhere and that may be appropriate to apply in Poynton. We have found that 'Slow the Flow' options on higher ground are an important and effective solution for Poynton

We consider an overall strategic plan is required and in order to achieve this we need to understand how the water falls and travels into Poynton. With a strategic plan a comprehensive range of Slow the Flow measures could be put into place. With this in mind we are trying to access the help of a Hydrologist. If anyone can help with this please contact the group via Poynton Flood Action Facebook group.



Poynton Working Group Update

Flood information for residents

The Town Council and the Flood Working Group in collaboration with Risk Management Authorities have produced two helpful documents relating to flooding which can be found on the Town Council website www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk

Poynton Update and News - Flooding. Be Flood Aware. Prepare. Prevent provides comprehensive information about how flooding occurs in Poynton, how to build resilience against flooding ahead of a flood event and signposts residents to other useful resources. It also offers information on how to familiarise yourself with flood and weather warnings so you can take action at the right time, indicates what you can do to help to reduce the likelihood of flooding and what action to take if you are unfortunate to experience flooding.

The second document '**Poynton Update and News - Flooding. How to prepare and what action to take in the event of a flood**' provides information about flood and weather warnings, how to report a flood and what action to take to keep you and your family safe in the event of a flood. The Town Council have also secured funding from the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner to print and distribute the document to all households in Poynton over the coming weeks.

Poynton Community Flood Warden

Another initiative is to develop Poynton's very own Community Flood Warden Scheme. We are currently working with the Environment Agency to develop the scheme and further information will be released shortly .

Since March 2021, the Town Council's Operations Manager has been conducting a thorough survey of the Town's grids and faults are being reported to Cheshire East Highways via their web page portal <https://cheshireeasthighways.org/report-it-general.aspx>. Cheshire East Highways undertook to send gully teams to Poynton. S Dodgson Surfacing Contractors, on behalf of Cheshire East Highways, have been tasked with – Inspecting / Cleansing / Recording faults for every grid in Poynton. Residents are encouraged to report Highway faults including blocked gullies/grids to Cheshire East Highways via the portal.

Flood Hub - <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/>

The Flood Hub website is a joint initiative by Newground, the Environment Agency, United Utilities, and the Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire Strategic Flood Partnerships. It is funded by the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC), and it launched on 5th November 2018.

The website aims to be a one-stop-shop for providing flood resilience advice and information for householders, businesses and communities. Using our online digital capability we keep users up to date with the latest flood news, events and information resources available in order to stay flood aware and increase their own resilience .

Useful links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

