

Poynton Flood Update

Newsletter

April 2022

Dear Resident of Poynton

We wanted to provide you with a 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.

Storms Eustace and Franklin brought high winds and heavy rainfalls to Poynton, with local rainfall gauges recording 74mm of rainfall in 30hrs 20th-21st February during storm Franklin. A major incident standby was declared on Thursday 17th February which ran until all storms had dissipated. A multi-agency team chaired by the Cheshire Resilience forum planned proactive and reactive responses to the emerging storms and resultant weather. As part of this contact was made with Poynton Town Council to establish communication throughout the event.

Cheshire East Council Update

Section 19 Report

Cheshire East Council have undertaken a section 19 report which can be found at the following link : <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.

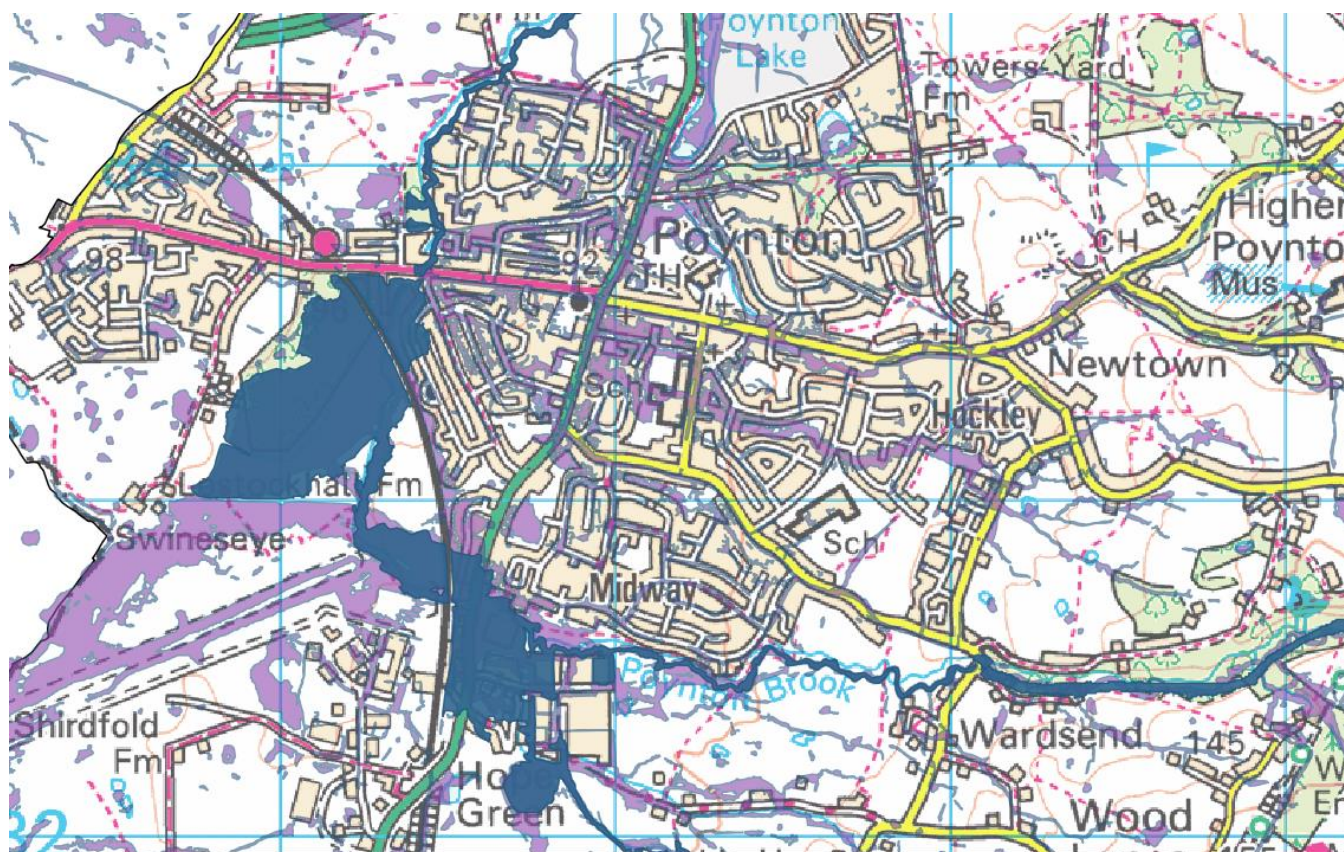
This would enable a number of meetings to be set up for task and finish members, as well as local ward councillors, Risk Management Authorities and others to scrutinise the impacts of the 2019 flooding in the various areas of Cheshire East that were affected (Including Poynton, Kettleshulme, Adlington, Prestbury & Bollington).

To date, meetings have been held with a range of stakeholders including:

- The FloodHub (<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/>)
- Poynton Town Council
- Poynton Flood Action Group
- Poynton Flood Working Group
- Environment Agency
- United Utilities
- Cheshire Resilience Forum (<https://cheshireresilience.org.uk/>)

The report and its finding are expected to be presented to the Highways and Infrastructure committee in June 2022.

Flood Risk in Poynton (Fluvial shown in blue, Surface Water shown in purple)



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.

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).

In line with Part H of the building regulations, surface water drainage options must be considered in the following order. An option higher in the hierarchy can only be agreed if it can be demonstrated that earlier options are not feasible.

1. Into the ground (via infiltration)
2. To a surface watercourse/ water body
3. To a surface water sewer
4. To a combined sewer

Un-developed sites, known as “Greenfield” sites:

Surface water run off must be managed to mimic existing greenfield runoff i.e. achieve at least no increase in run-off rates by storing water on/under the site and controlling the flows from site

On previously developed sites, known as “Brownfield” sites:

Surface water run-off proposals should demonstrate a reduction in rates, by storing water on/under the site and controlling the flows from site

Building Control

Two sites with current planning permission are currently being investigated in Poynton by the building control team to ensure that the plans are followed correctly without causing an increase to flood risk on or off site, there are:

Coppice Road, 21/5556M

<http://planning.cheshireeast.gov.uk/applicationdetails.aspx?pr=21/5556M>

Park Lane, 20/2252M

<http://planning.cheshireeast.gov.uk/applicationdetails.aspx?pr=20/2252M&query=4fef1a79-5aa4-4901-83fe-b59d3af9d90b>

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/building_control/enforcement/building-control-enforcement.aspx

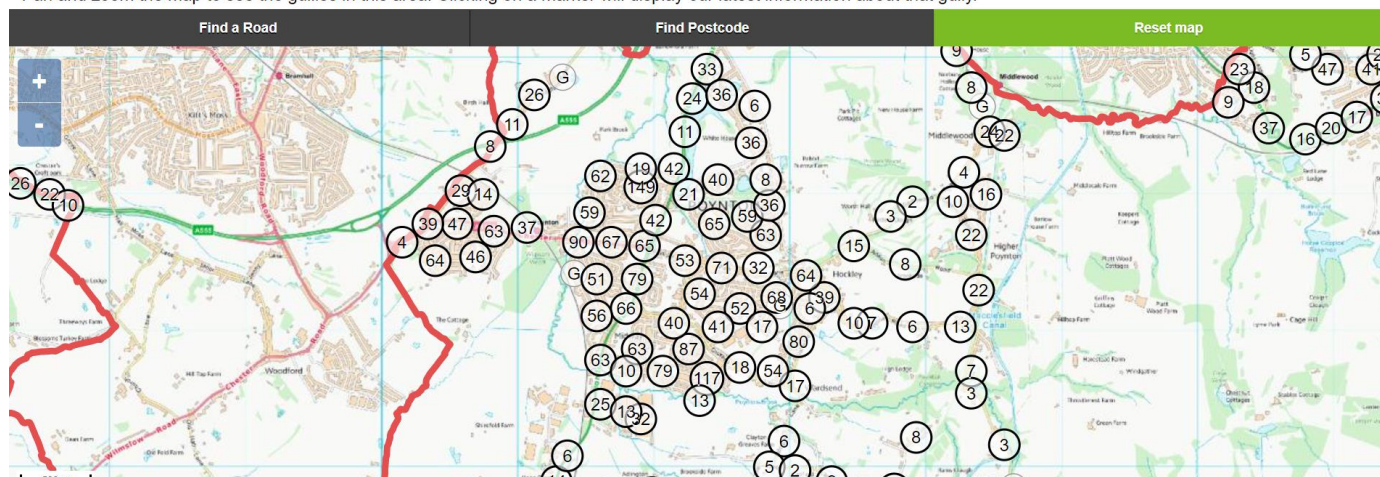
Highway gully clearance

- The gully's 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



Pan and zoom the map to see the gullies in this area. Clicking on a marker will display our latest information about that gully.



Highway drainage improvements:

Drainage improvement works were completed on Woodside Close in 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. Since these works the adjacent property owners, who are the riparian owners of the watercourse downstream, have worked to restore the open section of this watercourse to Poynton Pool.



Stop logs were placed in the bifurcation channel to prevent low flows from draining into the bifurcation culvert while the works are taking place. These wooden stop logs will not prevent higher flows entering this system during extreme events. These will be removed following the completion of the outfall works by United Utilities which will restore the natural flow path to Poynton Pool.

Lostock Road

A drainage improvement scheme is planned to replace the existing highway drainage assets and improve highway drainage from Lostock Road to outfall in Poynton Brook. An ecological survey was undertaken in March 2022 and consent is being sought from the Environment Agency to re site the outfall on the bank of Poynton Brook main river.

Coppice Road

Works completed in March 2022 to improve localised flooding, by increasing the highway drainage and increasing kerb heights and profiling the carriageway to retain water on the highway during intense storm conditions.

Melrose Crescent

With agreement from local landowners a high level overflow for an existing drainage system was fitted in September 2021. This is designed to provide provision in extreme weather events only, for excess surface water from the upper catchment to drain onto the Middlewood Way, where the water will be temporarily stored before infiltrating and naturally draining via gravity towards Norbury Brook.

Photos of high-level overflow onto Middlewood Way



These works compliment the Natural Flood Management interventions upstream at Middlecale Farm to reduce flood flows downstream into Park Lane Stream

Waterloo Road / Kettleshulme Way area

A feasibility study is underway to establish the potential of raising the highway at Waterloo Road to store flood flows upstream (to the East) as part of this work the ordinary watercourse that flows west via Kettleshulme Way will be cleansed and CCTV surveyed, without prejudice by Cheshire East Council, from the twin inlets on the eastern side of Waterloo Road, downstream.

The Full list of highway drainage improvements 2021/22 is published online:

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

Privately owned surface water drains/sewers

- A number of privately owned surface water sewers have been discovered across Poynton, these are sewers that have not been adopted formally by United Utilities and remain the responsibility of the home owner or in some instances a management company.
- Privately owned surface water sewers tend to direct 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.

Ordinary watercourses

Park Lane Stream

The culvert underneath Park Lane, near Willow Close was cleansed in August 2021 as part of the Council preventative maintenance programme. This removed silt and debris via suction while larger items were removed using rakes and shovels.

Other planned works in Poynton are available to view online:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/road-maintenance/road-repair-and-improvement-programme-2021-2022/road-repair-and-improvement-programme-2021-2022.aspx

The channel and culvert at Willow Close and Park Lane stream were cleansed and silt and debris removed in August 2021. This site was last attended in April 2019, and December 2018. Each time a cleanse is undertaken a substantial amount of silt and debris is removed along with other items such as tree stumps, bin lids and a traffic cones.

Willow Close / Park Lane: Culvert cleanse August 2021



Work was completed in January 2022 to a section of culverted watercourse, of Park Lane stream that runs in culvert downstream of Park Lane, near School Lane. These works improved the conveyance and the stability of this system, rebuilding the access chamber, allowing for improved access for future inspection and maintenance works. The verge has been reinstated the verge reinstated, but not reseeded due to the time of year, The verge will be grass seeded in the spring to complete the works at this location.

Photos of works at Park Lane Stream, January 2022.



All Ordinary watercourses

Maintenance of ordinary watercourses remains the responsibility of the riparian owners.

Cheshire East Council undertake maintenance of structures including trash screens on Middlewood Road and Park Lane (Willow Close)

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

Cheshire East Council continue to explore potential opportunities to incorporate slow the flow with Council tree planting and carbon sink projects in the area.

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>

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 the land between Parklands Way and Woodside Lane as well as 2 surface water headwalls to Poynton Brook. The outfall on Park Lane Stream has been completed. 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 installed a number of monitors across the catchment (Phase 1 – 71% complete). We are also now looking to see if we can add more value by adding more monitors into the area. These flow monitors 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

Over the last few months, we have finished off some of the existing NFM features, including enlarging and refining the one downstream of the fruit farm (upstream of Waterloo Road), in conjunction with the landowner, and Cheshire wildlife Trust. Below are photos of the feature retaining and holding water during the storm period that we recently experienced.

As a reminder we now have the aforementioned intervention, those at the Gables, Higher Poynton, and those around Middlecale Farm. We will have photographs of those in operation for future updates. But we can and would like to do more, and we would encourage anyone with land who could help to get in touch. It doesn't have to be much, possibly the old corner of a field that we could add a pond or bund too to temporarily store more water in.



22nd February 2022



26th February 2022



22nd February 2022



26th February 2022

Channel conveyance

As well as slowing the flow from upstream areas, we need the water to be able to get away in residential areas. We did some works to help maintain the channel capacity down at Wigwam Wood, following the last flood. We'd encourage anyone with the Brook flowing along their back of their property to not encroach into the watercourse or drop garden litter or any other water into the river, as this can reduce its capacity and worsen the flood risk for themselves or neighbours. It's against the law to impede a river from flowing freely, as well as it being an offence to cause pollution. If you see anything that you think could be causing an obstruction to the river you can ring our incident hotline on 0800 807060.

Environment Agency Incident Hotline – 0800 807060

It is important that members of the public call the Environment Agency incident hotline to report:

- collapsed or badly damaged riverbanks
- damage or danger to the natural environment
- dead fish or fish gasping for air
- flooding from main rivers or the sea
- illegal removals from watercourses
- incidents at Environment Agency-regulated waste sites
- main rivers blocked by a vehicle or fallen tree causing risk of flooding
- poaching or illegal fishing
- pollution to water or land
- unusual changes in river flow

This number is 24hrs 365 days of the year, and reports are passed to the relevant officers, if this is out of hours it will be passed to the on-call duty team if necessary.

Poynton Flood Group

Members of Poynton Flood Action Group continue to work with representatives from the Environment Agency, Cheshire East, United Utilities and Poynton Town Council.

Representatives of the Flood Action Group have become part of the Flood Warden team which is being led by Poynton Town Council. This has proved very useful in monitoring water levels and areas of risk during recent storms.

We also continue to look for opportunities within Poynton for Natural Flood management and encourage any landowners to get InTouch either by contacting the Town Council or by approaching the Environment Agency directly through the contact details in this Newsletter

Poynton Working Group Update

Flood Warden Scheme – New Recruits

On the 3rd of November, Poynton Town Council organised training for a new team of Volunteer Flood Wardens for Poynton. The **Flood Warden Scheme** was set up in response to the significant flooding which the town has experienced over recent years. Flood Wardens are the community's eyes and ears on the ground, who are able to report problems, support residents with advice and information and raise awareness about flooding in general.

The Flood Wardens will also support and work with the Town Council around flooding by getting involved with flood prevention initiatives and liaising with flood authorities.



On 14th December 2021, a resilience test of the scheme took place. Wardens submitted their reports, with updates on their allocated areas. This was a very encouraging outcome and will prove to be very valuable asset when the Town needs to respond to a risk of flooding.

Read more about Poynton's Flood Warden Scheme here
https://www.poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk/Flooding_35283.aspx

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.

