

Bedford Borough Flood Forum

November 2021







CIIr Doug McMurdo

Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Culture Appointee for Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) Chair of Beds & Ivel IDB

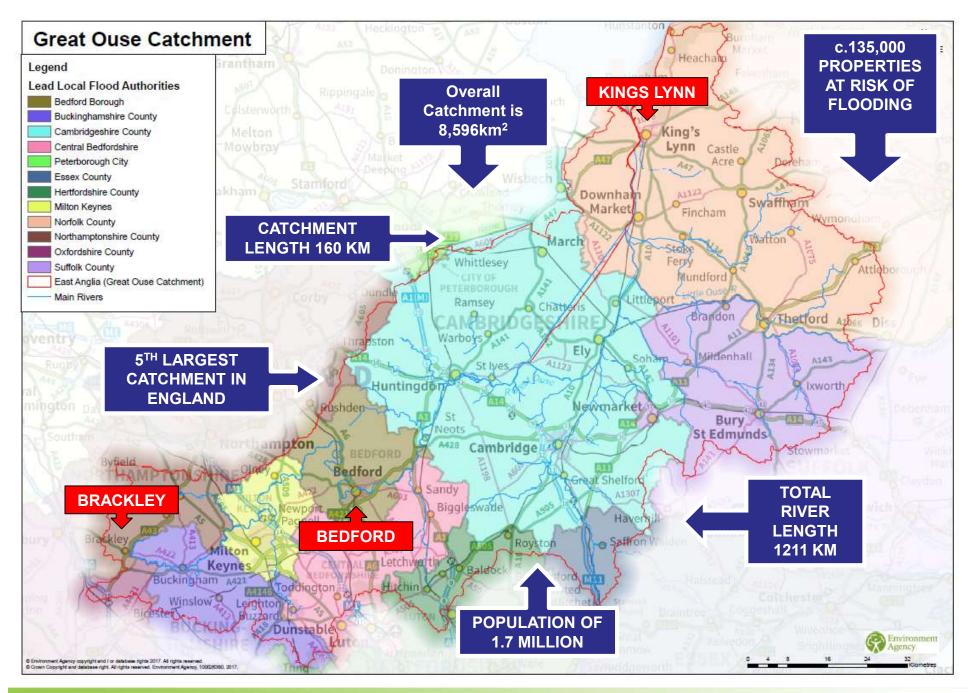


Agenda

- Introductions
- The Great Ouse Catchment
- Statutory Responsibilities
 - Bedford Borough Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority
- Christmas 2020
- Community Flood Groups
- Riparian Responsibilities
- Questions





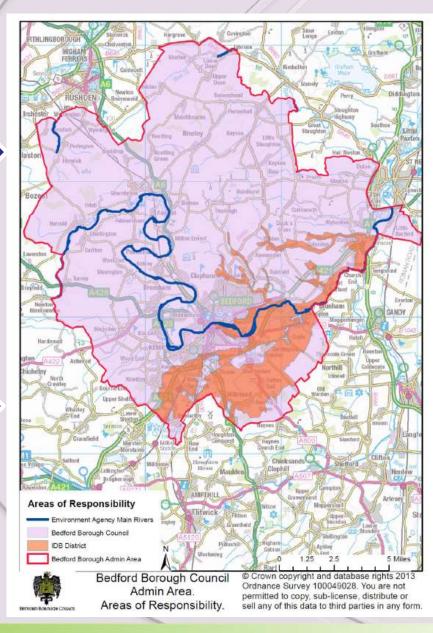


River Great Ouse within the

Borough

CATCHMENT UPSTREAM OF THE BOROUGH 456km²

CATCHMENT DOWN STREAM OF THE BOROUGH 1296km²





RIVER LENGTH WITHIN THE BOROUGH 95KM

5280 PROPERTIES AT RISK OF FLOODING

3,400 OF THOSE PROPERTIES WITHIN BEDFORD TOWN

Statutory Responsibilities



Bedford Borough Council is a designated Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) as an Unitary/Upper Tier Authority

> Take a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event



Act as a statutory consultee on surface water drainage to the local planning process



Carry out works to manage local flood risks in the Borough

Investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

CHAPTER 29

CONTENTS

PARTI

FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT

1. Key concepts and definitions

- "Flood" and "coastal erosion"
- "Flood risk management function"
 "Coastal crosion risk management function"

2. Strategies, co-operation and funding

- National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy: England National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy: Wales Local flood risk management strategies: England
- Local flood risk: management strategies: Wales Effect of national and local strategies: England Effect of national and local strategies: Wales Co-operation and a rrangements

- Power to request information

3. Supplemental powers and duties

18 Environment Agency, reports

Use powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 to regulate ordinary watercourses to maintain a proper flow (outside of IDB jurisdiction)



Co operate with other **Risk Management Authorities**



Maintain a strategy for local flood risk management across the Borough



Maintain a register of assets



December 2020

- Widespread flooding across the Borough from 23rd - 26th December 2020
- River levels reaches Easter 1998 levels
- Internal flooding across 27 different locations at 65 properties
- Second wettest December across East Anglian since records began in 1981
- Ground was saturated
- 20 30 mm rainfall in 24hours which some areas received greater than 50mm
- The catchment could not cope



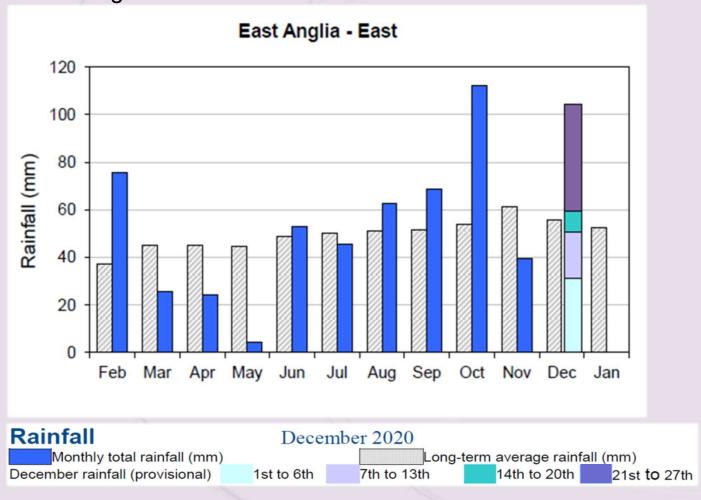




Rainfall



The average rainfall across East Anglia in December 2020 was 108mm 195% of the Long Terms Average.



Environment Agency, 2020. Great Ouse Catchment – December 2020 Flooding Factsheet





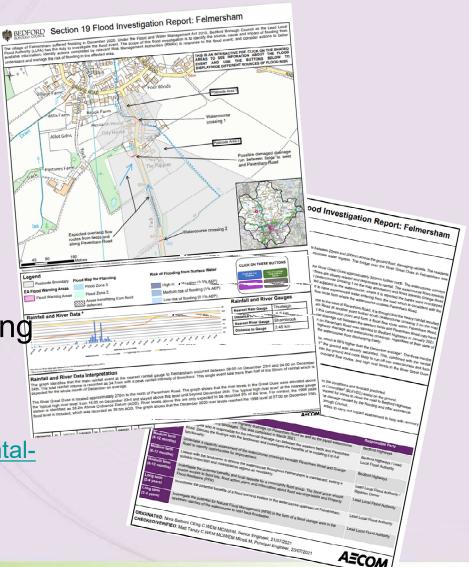




Section 19 Investigations



- 27 Individual Flood Investigations
- 141 Recommendations
- Working with landowners/riparian owners
- Building Resilience into communities
- Working with Highways clearing gullies/culverts
- Setting up Flood Groups
- https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmentalissues/flood-risk-management-inbedfr/investigating-flooding/



Community Flood Groups



- Flood Groups have been set up across the Borough in Riseley, Yelden and Clapham.
- Since Christmas Groups have also been set up in Carlton, Odell, Harrold and Turvey
- Provide training, support, advice, equipment/kit, exercises
- Communities better prepared and more resilient during flood events
- We are encouraging more communities to set up groups



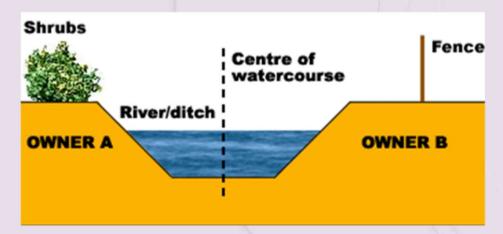
Riparian Responsibilities



Land Drainage Act 1991: Section 25 Powers to require works for

maintaining flow of a watercourse/ditch

You are considered a "riparian owner" by law if you own land which is adjacent to a watercourse or land which has a watercourse running through or underneath it.



*If you live adjacent to a roadside ditch you are responsible for the maintenance of this ditch where it boarders your land. This applies to the entire width of the channel, as Highways do not own the road, they are just a maintainer of the road.





Questions?





For further information please visit:

https://www.bedford.gov.uk/environmental-issues/flood-risk-management-in-bedfr/

Or contact:

floodrisk@Bedford.gov.uk