



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, THE BUCKINGHAM CENTRE,
VERNEY CLOSE, BUCKINGHAM MK18 1JP

Telephone/Fax: (01280) 816 426

Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk
www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Mr C. P. Wayman

Tuesday, 17 January 2017

Councillors,

You are summoned to a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council to be held on **Monday 23rd January 2017** at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Mr C. P. Wayman
Town Clerk

Please note that the Full Council will be preceded by a Public Session in accordance with Standing Order 1.3, which will last for a maximum of 15 minutes.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

Members are asked to receive apologies from members.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.

3. Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meetings held on:

- Monday 3rd October 2016 **Copy previously circulated BTC/07/16**
- Monday 21st November 2016 **Copy previously circulated BTC/08/16**
- Monday 9th January 2017 (Precept) **Copy previously circulated BTC/09/16**

4. Interim Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Interim Council meeting held on Monday 19th December 2016.

Copy previously circulated IM/05/16

5. Planning Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on:

- Monday 28th November 2016 **Copy previously circulated PL/09/16**
- Monday 19th December 2016 **Copy previously circulated PL/10/16**

Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Hiron and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council to ask every Committee to propose appropriate projects for the future use of s106 monies.

6. Town Centre and Events Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre and Events Committee meetings held on Monday 5th December 2016.



Proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the future dates for Christmas Lights Switch on be moved to a Sunday.

7. Environment Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 12th December 2016.

Copy previously circulated E/05/16

8. Resources Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Resources Committee meetings held on:

- Monday 7th November 2016

Copy previously circulated R/04/16

RECOMMENDED to Resources Committee to undertake a survey on the current usage of the Shopmobility service.

- Monday 3rd January 2017

Copy previously circulated R/05/16

Proposed by Cllr Harvey, seconded by Cllr Smith and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Council moves towards a paperless system of agendas and minutes. Any Member that wishes to continue receiving paper copies of minutes and agendas must inform the office.

9. Action List

Appendix A

10. Buckingham Community Centre

To note a request from The Community Centre Board of Trustees to use the Community Centre budget as match funding for a WREN application for the replacement of doors in the Community Centre. To Agree to contribute the budget for this purpose and write the appropriate letters of support.

11. Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan

To receive an update from the Town Clerk

12. Correspondence

Members are asked to note the letter from Hannah Condon, Department for Communities and Local Government

Appendix B

13. Land Registry Application for land adjoining 28 Nelson Street, Buckingham MK18 1BT

To receive notice of an application for registration of a person in adverse possession.

Appendix C

14. Flood Investigation Report

To receive a draft investigation report from BCC on the flooding that occurred in Buckingham between the 9-10th March 2016.

Appendix D

15. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

16. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members are asked to note the reports listed below:

- Minutes of Access for All meetings:
 - 14th November 2016
 - 12th December 2016
- Minutes of Unitary meeting with AVDC 9th December 2016
- Minutes of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway Working Group 6th December 2016

Appendix E

Appendix F

Appendix G

Appendix H

17. Mayoral Engagements

To receive a list of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

17/11/16 - Guest speaker at Friends of Buckingham University Dinner

25/11/16 - Mayor of Bicester Charity Dinner

26/11/16 - Buckingham Christmas Lights switch on
10/12/16 - Christmas Parade
11/12/16 - Well St. Church carol service
15/12/16 - Buckingham School Awards Ceremony
20/12/16 - Charity Christmas dinner at Villiers
20/12/16 - Mayor of Milton Keynes Carole Service
04/01/17 - Attend Funeral of Ex High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire
12/01/17 - Open new Nursery Hall at Buckingham Primary School

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

27/11/16 Brackley civic carol service
26/11/16 Buckingham lights switch on
04/12/16 Drinks with the University Vice Chancellor
10/12/16 Leighton Buzzard civic carol service
01/12/16 Vice Chancellor's vision for University

18. News Releases

19. Chair's Announcements

20. Date of the next meeting:

Interim Council – Monday 20th February 2017
Full Council - Monday 13th March 2017

FULL COUNCIL, INTERIM COUNCIL & EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

Subject	Minute	Form	Response received
Toilets	220/14	DTC & TC to arrange for the construction	Work to begin in February 2017.
Community Centre Lease	393/14 716/15	Draw up funding Plan for Community Centre	Currently in the process of purchasing for £50,000
Cycling Signage	643/14	Work with BCC and other parishes – discuss with Canal Society and BCC cycling route	Work ongoing likely to start after the cycleway
Buckingham Partnership	191/15 710/15 444/16	Town Clerk to form an initial meeting with University	
AVDC Devolved	310/15	To write to AVDC to take on services	Follow up sent 05/08/16
CCTV	432/15 710/15	Purchase new CCTV system	Talking with company over a compatible system to existing
Community Land Trust	712/15	Proceed with membership and advertising for local interest	
Moreton Rd toilets	837/15 303/16	Prepare report for costs of keeping facility open Town Clerk to investigate proposal with AVDC	Awaiting information from AVDC
Mayor Admin support	841/15	Report to Resources	



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

**Department for Communities and Local
Government**

2nd Floor NE Quarter Fry Building
2 Marsham St
London
SW1P 4DF

Mr C P Wayman
Buckingham Town Council
Buckingham Library
Verney Close
Buckingham
Buckinghamshire
MK18 1JP

Tel: 0303 44 42938
Fax: 020 7035 0018
Email: hannah.condon@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dclg

Our Ref: 2982505
Your Ref:

Date: 6 January 2017

Dear Mr Wayman,

Thank you for your letter of 30 November 2016 on the subject of local governance reform in Buckinghamshire. I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State will consider any proposals that he receives for new governance arrangements fully and carefully to ensure that they are right for local people and offer a better local service, greater value for money and stronger leadership, as well as putting in place a more financially sustainable structure and delivering significant savings.

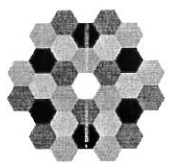
DCLG has currently received a proposal from Buckinghamshire County Council and one from the four district councils in the area. Once the Secretary of State has considered these proposals, he will announce a preliminary decision. There is no fixed timetable set in legislation – proposals will receive the amount of time and consideration required according to individual circumstances.

The comments that you have made in your letter with regard to the current proposals received will be taken into account along with any other letters that we receive.

I hope you will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Condon.



Private

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL
THE BUCKINGHAM CENTRE
VERNEY CLOSE
BUCKINGHAM
MK18 1JP



Date
4 January 2017

Notice of an application for registration of a person in adverse possession – B149

Important: this notice is not a circular. Please read it carefully.

Title number **BM410075**
Property **Land adjoining 58 Nelson Street,
Buckingham, MK18 1BT**

Dear Sirs

I am writing to inform you that we have received an application for registration of the land referred to above.

The application was lodged by:
Chandler Ray Solicitors of 22 West Street, Buckingham MK18 1HG,
(Reference: DD/HJ/B733.2) on behalf of Douglas Walter Branson
("the applicant").

The enclosed plan shows by red edging the land in respect of which the application is made ("the land").

The applicant claims to have acquired a title to the land by adverse possession. A copy of the statement(s) of truth or statutory declaration(s) lodged in support of the claim is enclosed.

A recent site inspection by the Land Registry Surveyor indicated that the land is exclusively occupied by the applicant.

If the application is approved the applicant will be registered as proprietor of the land under the above title number.

Land Registry
Kingston upon Hull Office
PO Box 75
Gloucester
GL14 9BD

DX 321601 Gloucester 33
Tel 0300 006 0011
kingstonuponhull.office
@landregistry.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/land-registry

Practice Guide 5 – *Adverse possession of unregistered land and transitional provisions for registered land in the Land Registration Act 2002* contains additional information. You can view or download copies of this guide from our website at www.gov.uk/land-registry in English and Welsh or obtain copies of it free of charge from Land Registry Customer Support (0300 006 0411) (0300 006 0422 for Welsh speakers).

Adverse possession can mean the loss of land, and the law in this area is particularly complicated, so you should **consider taking legal advice** from a solicitor or other person qualified to give legal assistance. Land Registry staff cannot provide legal advice.

If you object to the application you must do so before 12 noon on 25 January 2017.

If we do not hear from you before then the application may be completed.

If you object, the registrar may determine that the objection is groundless (that is without valid legal grounds) and go on to complete the application before the expiry of the deadline in this notice. It is important to bear this in mind when lodging any objection, and to consider whether or not you should obtain legal advice about the objection process.

Please read the explanatory notes which form part of this notice and explain the courses of action open to you.

If you would like to discuss this notice or require it in an alternative format please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Karen Harrison-Binks
Direct line 0300 0061337

Explanatory notes

If you have received a copy of this notice at any other address you only need to reply once. If this notice was delivered to you at a UK postal or DX address an envelope is provided for your reply. If the notice refers to enclosed plans or documents, these will only be enclosed with the notices sent to a postal or DX address.

1 If you do not object

If you do not object to the application you need not take any further action. Completing and returning the enclosed consent form to the Land Registry office at the address shown in this notice will assist in completing the application promptly. If you wish to consent by email, please ensure you supply all the information from the consent form in your reply.

2 If you object

If you object to the application your objection must be in writing (which includes email) and sent to the Land Registry office at the address shown in this notice. Your objection must

- quote the title number and the property affected
- state that you object to the application
- state the grounds for your objection. This means that you should tell us the facts and/or the legal reason why what the applicant is claiming is wrong or why what is being claimed would not give the applicant the interest claimed in the property
- give your full name and a postal address, whether or not in the United Kingdom, for further correspondence (you may supply further postal, email or DX addresses as well, but no more than three in all) and
- be signed by you as the objector or by your solicitor or conveyancer on your behalf.

Please note that a copy of an objection will normally be sent to the applicant or the applicant's legal representative.

Please also note that any communications or supporting documents you supply may also be disclosed to the other parties even if marked 'confidential' or to similar effect.

If you wish to object to the application you must do so before 12 noon on 25 January 2017. If we do not receive an objection before then the application may be completed.

3 Further information

If you have any queries regarding this notice please contact me quoting the title number. Please note that Land Registry staff are not authorised to give legal advice. For help of this nature please contact your solicitor or other person qualified to give legal advice.

NB. Is your address correct? An incorrect address could

mean that you do not receive important notices and you may suffer loss as a result. For information on how to change your contact details or add an address please see www.gov.uk/government/publications/updating-registered-owners-contact-address on GOV.UK (or search for "COG1") or contact Land Registry Customer Support (0300 006 0411) (0300 006 0422 for Welsh speakers).

CONSENT

B149

IMPORTANT: Signing this consent could affect your legal rights. If you do not understand the effect of this consent or the notice sent with it, you should seek legal advice without delay.

If you wish to consent to the application please:

- 1. Complete and sign this consent form.*
- 2. Return it to Land Registry (see page 1 of the notice for office address) by the reply deadline below. You can use the reply envelope sent with the notice, if provided.*

B149 Notice of an application for registration of a person in adverse possession

Date of notice: 4 January 2017

Title number: BM410075

Reply deadline: 25 January 2017

I **consent** to the application referred to in the above notice.

Signed

**Name in full
(print)**

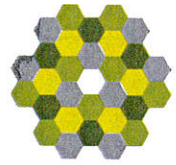
Date

*Office use only:
Case reference (internal)*

GA641DB

Land Registry Notice plan

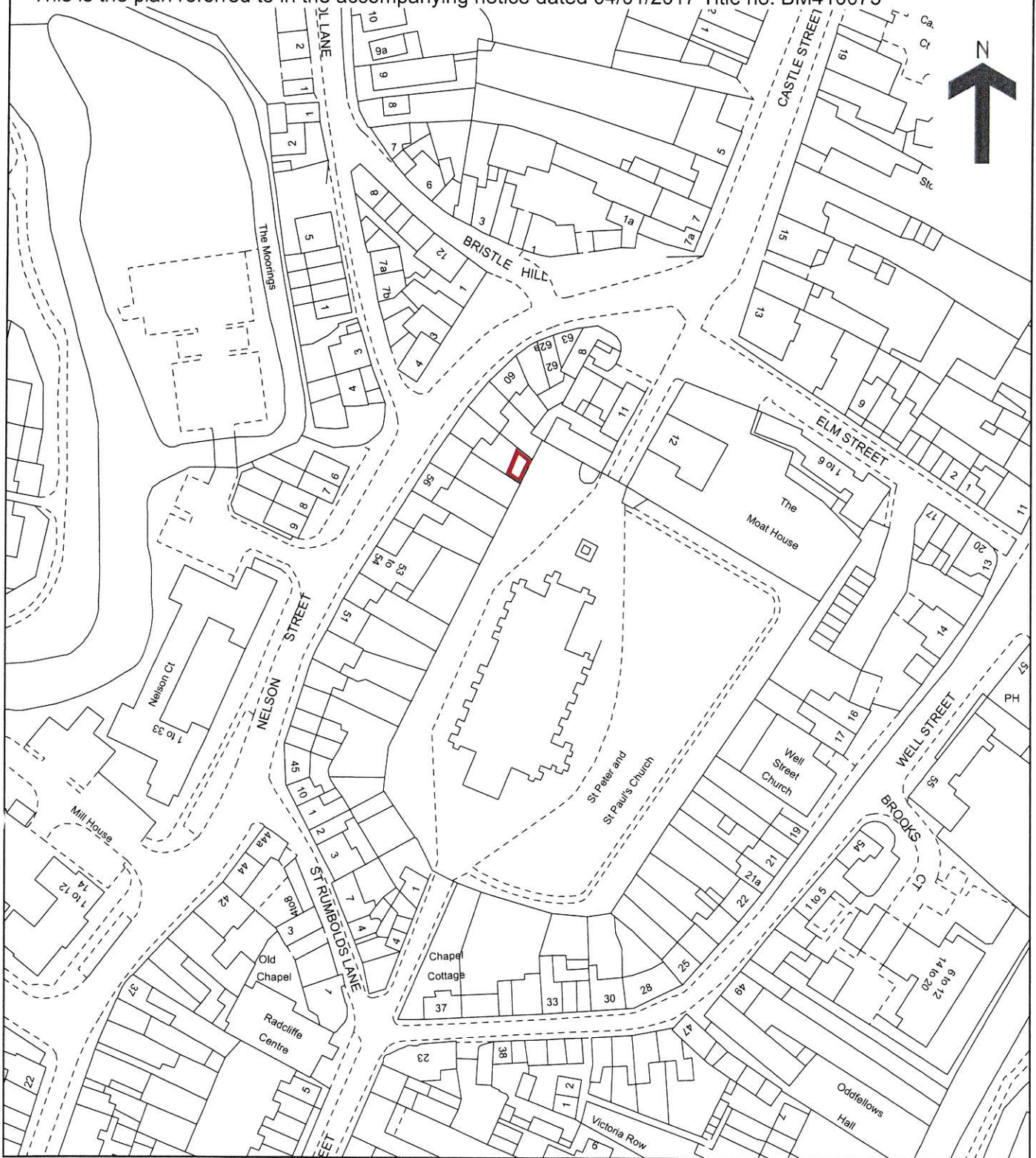
Title number **BM410075**
Ordnance Survey map reference **SP6933NW**
Scale **1:1250** enlarged from 1:2500
Administrative area **Buckinghamshire: Aylesbury**
Vale



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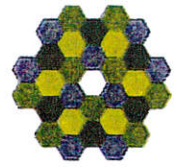
This is the plan referred to in the accompanying notice dated 04/01/2017 Title no. BM410075



This plan shows the general position, not the exact line, of the boundaries. It may be subject to distortions in scale. Measurements scaled from this plan may not match measurements between the same points on the ground.

Land Registry Illustrative plan

Title number **BM406403**
Ordnance Survey map reference **SP6933NW**
Scale **1:500** enlarged from 1:2500
Administrative area **Buckinghamshire: Aylesbury Vale**



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This is the plan referred to in the accompanying letter dated 24/10/2016 Title no. BM406403



This plan shows the general position, not the exact line, of the boundaries. It may be subject to distortions in scale. Measurements scaled from this plan may not match measurements between the same points on the ground.



10th January 2017

Buckinghamshire County Council

Flood Investigation Report

Buckingham, 10th March 2016



River Great Ouse beneath the Tingewick Road Bridge (provided courtesy of Mr P. Wallace)

10th January 2017

Revision Schedule

Buckinghamshire County Council **Flood Investigation Report**

10th January 2017

< Reference number and final revision number >

Rev	Date	Details	Author	Checked and Approved by
1	20/12/2017	Version 1 – draft	Abigail Alderson	
2	10/01//2017	Version 2 – draft	Abigail Alderson/ Andrew Waugh	Karen Fisher

10th January 2017

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Executive Summary

This report has been produced by Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) to investigate the flooding that occurred in Buckingham between the 9th and 10th March 2016. The report provides details of the event and makes recommendations for Risk Management Agencies (RMAs) to undertake to prevent a repeat in the future.

A Section 19 Investigation is a statutory requirement for Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010. On becoming aware of a flood in its area, the LLFA must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:

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

It was deemed necessary to produce this report as the flood event in Buckingham exceeded BCC's criteria for carrying out a Section 19 Investigation.

The aim of the Section 19 Investigation is to give an explanation of what happened in the flood event and what were the RMAs' responsibilities during the event. It is not intended to identify which properties flooded, nor to provide an exhaustive hydraulic analysis of the event. The recommendations are there to help the RMAs learn lessons from the event and to move forward with management of the flood risk in the future.

The flood event in Buckingham occurred as a result of almost a month's worth of rainfall falling on already near-saturated ground. Water levels in the River Great Ouse rose rapidly through the morning of the 9th March 2016, first peaking around in the late afternoon, then rising further that evening and into the early hours of the 10th. The river peaked around 2am, with overtopping of the banks in low lying areas of Buckingham. River levels at Buckingham gauge were only 10cm below the record level of 2007, but the impacts were much less severe.

A list of recommendations is included in the report which is intended to ensure that the flood management, warning and response to events are improved going forward. All the RMAs will be involved in taking forward these recommendations.



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1. Introduction

1.1 Background to investigation

BCC as the LLFA has a responsibility to record and report flood incidents as detailed within Section 19 of the FWMA 2010:

Section 19

- (1) On becoming aware of a flood in its areas, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate-
 - (a) Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and
 - (b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
- (2) Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must-
 - (a) Publish the results of its investigation, and
 - (b) Notify any relevant risk management authorities.

BCC has established criteria for section 19 flood investigations which can be found in the appendix.

It was deemed necessary to complete an investigation into the flood incident in Buckingham because it meets the following threshold:

- Internal flooding of two or more business premises within an area of 1km²



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1.2 Site Location

Buckingham is a town in Aylesbury Vale District in the north of Buckinghamshire as shown in Figure 1, close to the borders of Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire.

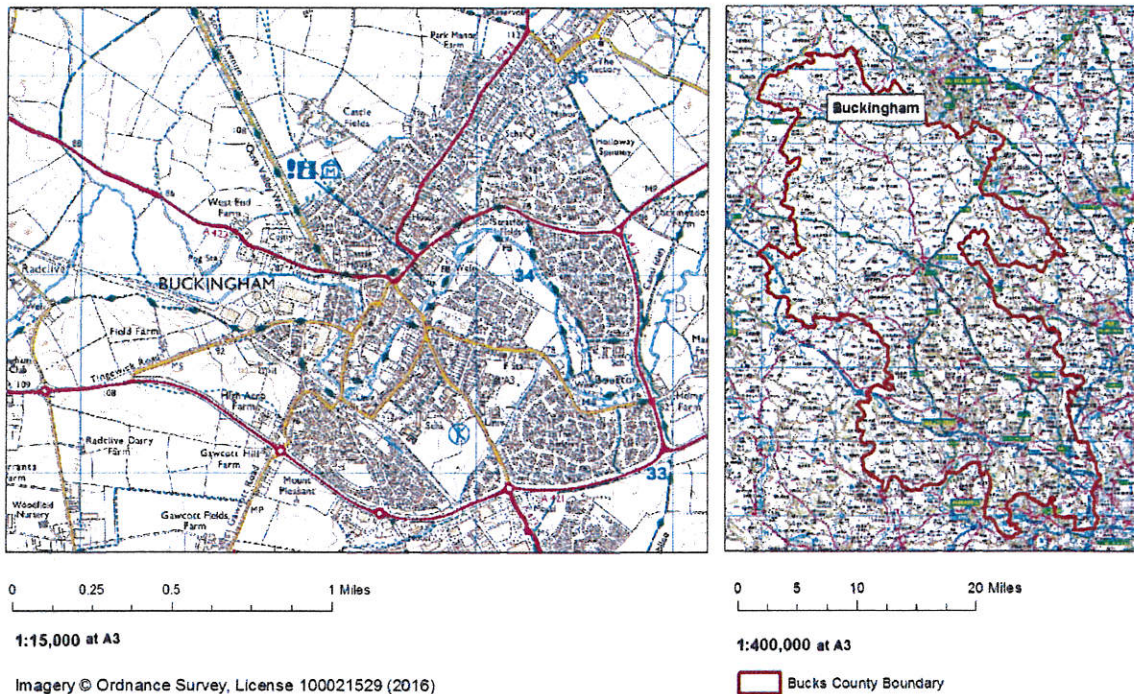


Figure 1: Location of Buckingham at local and county level.

1.3 Drainage system and river network

The River Great Ouse flows for 150 miles from its source until it discharges into the North Sea at the Wash. It flows through Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

The Buckinghamshire stretch of the river flows along the county border with Northamptonshire to Brackley and then the border with Oxfordshire. It then passes close to the communities of Westbury and Water Stratford before flowing through Buckingham. Downstream it passes Thornton before becoming the Buckinghamshire border with Milton Keynes and passes close to Beachampton before leaving

10th January 2017

Buckinghamshire. The detailed river network around Buckingham is shown in Figure 2.

The Environment Agency (EA) is the Risk Management Authority (RMA) for the main rivers, as defined in section 4.3. The Environment Agency has permissive powers to work on main rivers and the sea to manage flood risk. Buckinghamshire County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority for Buckinghamshire, is the RMA for ordinary watercourses.

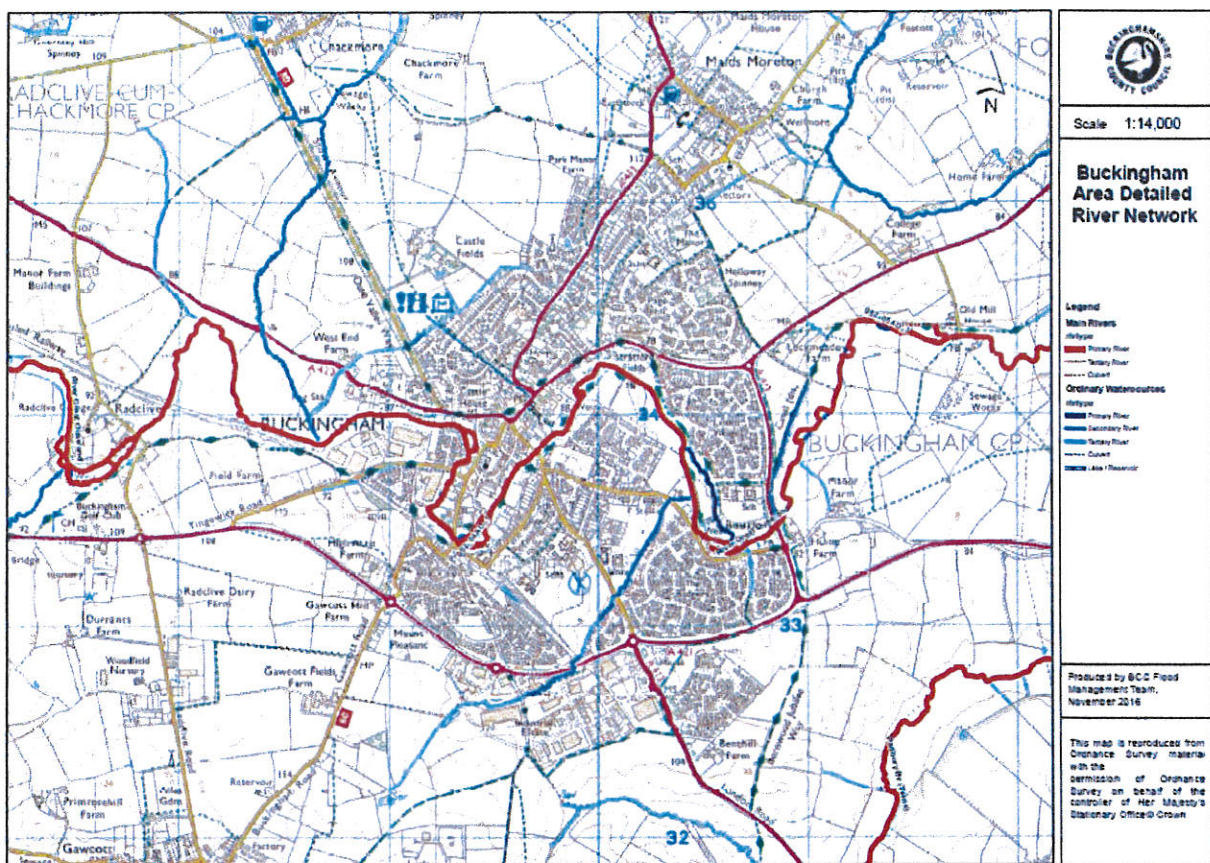


Figure 2: Buckingham Detailed River Network

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2. Background

2.1 Catchment characteristics

The River Great Ouse drains a large catchment area consisting, in the upstream reaches, of gravely clays which are relatively impermeable overlying mudstone and limestone. Generally, rainfall infiltrates fairly slowly into the ground and runs across the surface to the nearest river. Rivers in this part of the catchment area therefore tend to react fairly quickly to rainfall events. Buckingham itself is situated on clay, silt, sand and gravel along the line of the Great Ouse, with no superficial deposits in Buckingham outside of the alluvium areas.

Buckingham is at risk of both fluvial and surface water flooding, but the principal source of flood risk is from fluvial sources. The publically available fluvial Flood Map for Planning (see Figure 3) models the area which could be flooded from the ordinary watercourse by a flood with a 1 in 100 (1%) chance of occurring each year (medium blue/ Flood Zone 3), and by a flood with a 1 in 1000 (0.1%) chance of occurring each year (light blue/ Flood Zone 2).



Figure 3: Environment Agency Risk of Flooding from Rivers and the Sea

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Figure 4 shows the publically available “Flood Risk from Surface Water” flood mapping, shown here for a flood event with a 1 in 1000 (0.1%) chance of occurring in any given year. Surface water flooding occurs when extreme or prolonged rainfall cannot infiltrate into saturated ground, or flow into the rivers and/or highways drainage due to high volumes of water. The Flood Risk from Surface Water mapping is viewable at: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map>. It has not been possible to reproduce this mapping at a closer scale for the purposes of this report, but different scenarios of depth, velocity and extent can be viewed at various scales via the above link.



Figure 4: Environment Agency Risk of Flooding from Surface Water and its depths in a 1 in 1000 year flood

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2.2 Previous flood events

There have been four significant flood events in Buckingham; March 1947, December 1979, April 1998 and July 2007. April 1998 saw extensive flooding of the River Great Ouse at Buckingham, with the flooding of 75 properties.

The most recent previous flood event in Buckingham occurred in July 2007, when 118.4mm of rain fell on Buckingham, almost three times the average rainfall of July. Extremely heavy and prolonged rainfall caused the catchment of the Upper Ouse to become saturated and river levels to rise rapidly. The peak water level at the Buckingham river gauge reached a new record at 80.66 mAOD. Flood water spread throughout the low lying areas of the town, much of which had already seen some flooding from surface water which had overwhelmed the drainage system in places. 96 properties in total were flooded (Environment Agency).

Following the 2007 flood event, the Buckingham Property Level Flood protection scheme was delivered by Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC), protecting 87 properties. These events also led to the creation of a community flood action group “Flood Action 4 Buckingham” and raised community awareness.



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3. Analysis of March 2016 flood event

3.1 Conditions at the time

Rainfall totals across England were above average for a fifth consecutive month at 127% of the March long term average in more than three quarters of hydrological areas across England. Soil Moisture Deficits (SMDs) at the end of March were less than 10mm across the whole of England, and at or close to zero in most areas (soil moisture deficit levels provide a measure of the capacity of the ground to store water: the higher the number, the greater the capacity).

Over the period of 2nd - 8th March 2016, weekly precipitation exceeded 40mm in many parts of the county (figure 5).

Many river flow sites were normal or higher for the time of year. Groundwater levels also increased at the majority of sites during March and month-end water levels were predominantly normal or higher for the time of year.

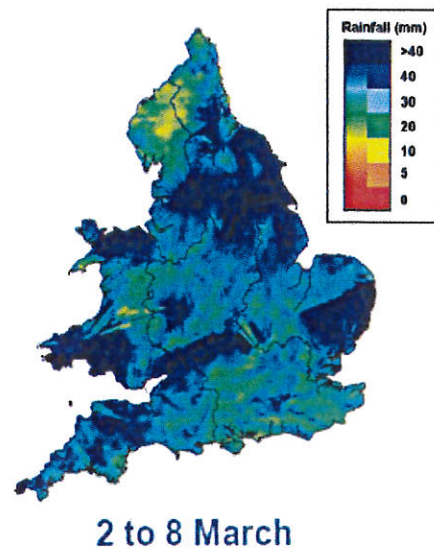


Figure 5: Rainfall totals over the period 2-8th March 2016 (EA, 2016)

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3.2 What happened?

The EA river gauge at Castle Bridge, Buckingham, recorded water levels rising through the 9th March, first peaking at 17:15. It is likely that this first peak was due to the effects of the local rainfall. It then rose further through the evening and early hours, with a second higher peak of between 01:30 to 02:15 on Thursday 10th March. This second peak was likely due to the rainfall making its way down through the catchment from Brackley.

The peak river level was recorded as 80.56 mAOD. This is only 10cm below the record level of July 2007. The floodwater inundated low-lying areas of Buckingham.

Water levels recorded at the Buckingham river gauge between 8th March to 13th March, together with rainfall at the nearest EA rain gauge at Foxcote, are shown in the hydrograph in Figure 6, below.

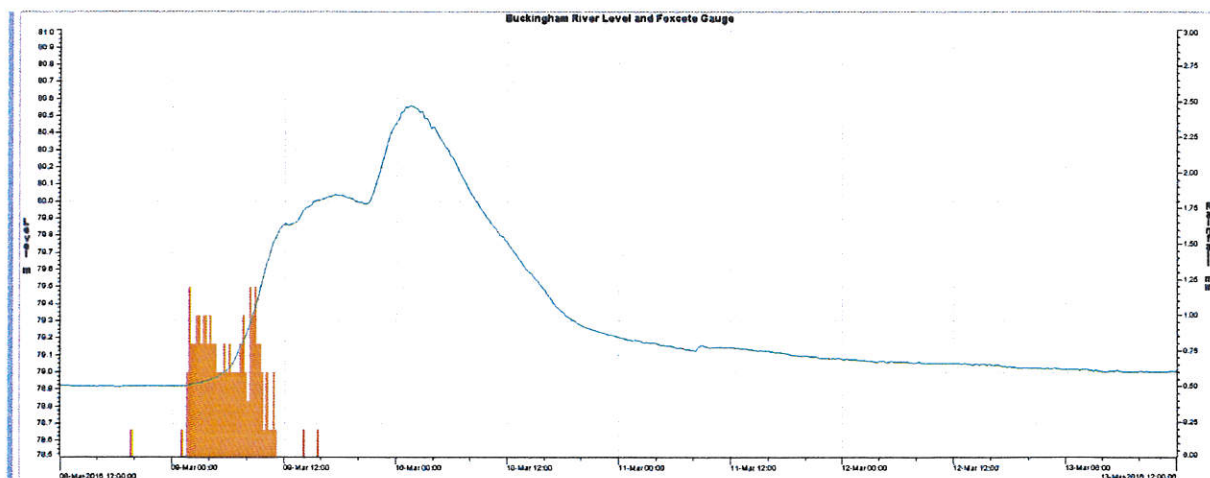


Figure 6: Hydrograph and rainfall between 8th March to 13th March. The green line shows the level of the river level gauge at Castle Bridge, Buckingham, and the orange bars indicate rainfall at the nearest EA rain gauge to Buckingham at Foxcote (Environment Agency).

Similarly Figure 7 shows the hydrograph and rainfall upstream in the catchment at Brackley over the month from 25th February to 24th March 2016, showing the intense rainfall on 9th March 2016 and the rise in flow following on from that.

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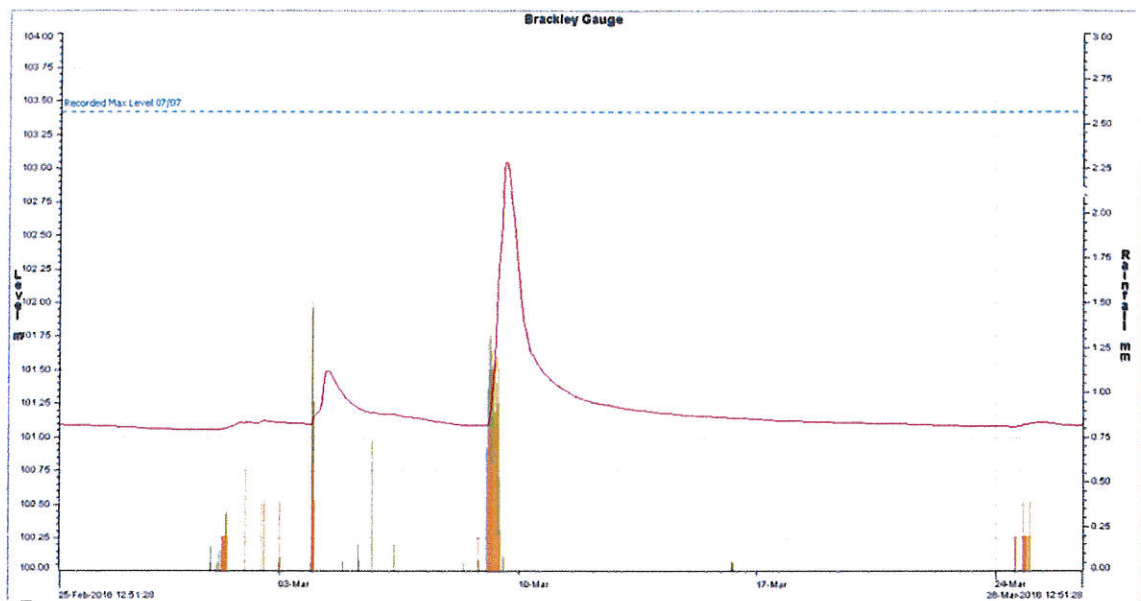


Figure 7: Hydrograph and rainfall at Brackley between 25th Feb to 24th March 2016. The red line shows the level of the river at the river gauge at Brackley and the orange and green bars indicate rainfall at the nearby EA rain gauge, also at Brackley (Environment Agency).

There were some reports from local residents that water was surcharging out of drains, which could potentially have resulted from the surface water drainage system being unable to discharge into the Great Ouse due to the high river levels. Other drains were simply overwhelmed by the volume of runoff. However, the source of flooding to properties was overtopping of the Great Ouse.

There were also problems with vehicles driving too fast through flood waters, causing a bow wave to ingress into property boundaries.

Six properties within Buckingham were affected by floodwater, including four residential properties. However, of the 86 properties previously fitted with property level flood protection products as part of the Buckingham Property Level Flood protection scheme (2010), only 3 reported internal property flooding.

Follow-up correspondence between BCC, local residents and other RMAs has suggested that not all properties with PLP deployed their equipment during this event,

10th January 2017

as in some cases it was clear to the resident that it was not required. In other cases, PLP was deployed but not needed in the event.

Though levels at Buckingham gauge were only 10cm below the record level of 2007, the impacts were much less severe. In 2016, 6 properties were affected by floodwater, compared with 2007 where 96 properties were flooded. It may be possible that the 10cm difference sufficiently explains the significantly less damage. Alternatively, the implementation of the PLP measures may have mitigated some damage that may otherwise have occurred.

One further potential factor in the large difference in consequences between the 2007 and 2016 events may have been the influence of Padbury Brook. In 2007, levels on the Padbury Brook recorded at the EA gauge at Bourton were 20cm higher than in 2016, indicating that more water was entering the Great Ouse downstream of Buckingham in 2007 than in 2016. This may have caused water levels in the Great Ouse to 'back up' towards Buckingham in 2007, perhaps until this effect was progressively mitigated by the channel gradient and larger structures (eg. the cascade weir beside Buckingham University). Any such influence would therefore not be apparent from the gauge at Buckingham, situated further upstream beyond such influences. Further more detailed investigation would be required to confirm this.

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3.3 Possible causes

Following a wet winter, soil moisture deficit levels around Buckingham were just 4mm prior to Wednesday 9th March 2016 (Environment Agency), indicating that the ground was already saturated and had capacity to store only 4mm more water.

Between midnight and 11:00am on Wednesday 9th March, 39.7mm of rainfall was recorded at the Environment Agency's (EA) rain gauge upstream of Buckingham at Brackley. This amount of rainfall is equivalent to the total rainfall that would be expected on average for the whole of March. BCC have calculated the probability of such a rainfall event occurring in any given year as approximately 1 in 5 (20%), using the Flood Estimation Handbook (FEH) methodology.

Total 48-hr rainfall accumulations at three nearby EA rain gauges are provided below (Table 1).

Table 1: Rainfall totals across the Upper Great Ouse catchment region 9-10th March 2016

Rain gauges in the region	Total on 9-10 th March 2016 (mm)	Grid Reference
Byfield	34.9	SP 52347 52534
Brackley	40.6	SP 60115 36084
Foxcote	29.6	SP 71278 35758

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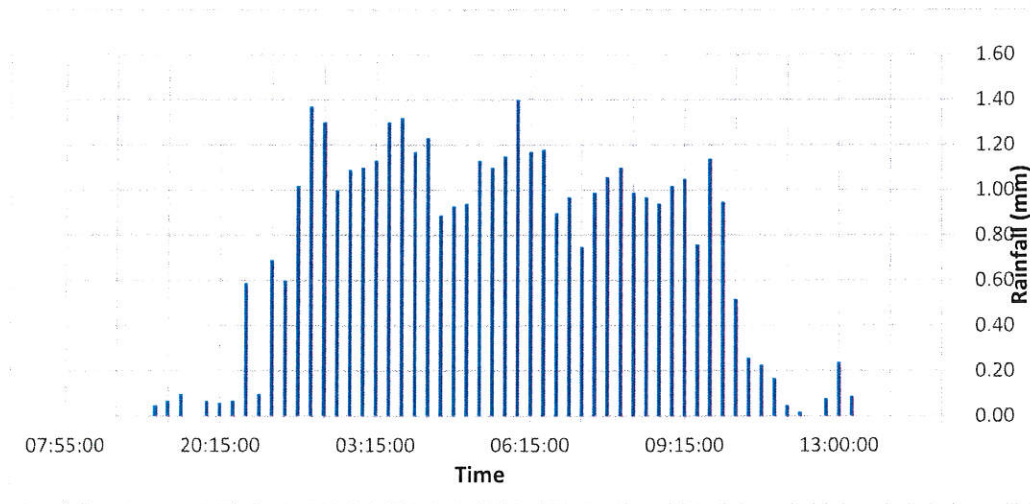


Figure 8: Brackley rain gauge data for the period 07:55 07/03/16 to 19:55 09/03/16 in 15minute intervals.

Figure 8 above gives the 15 minute rainfall interval totals from the Brackley rain gauge. From this data it can be seen that there were high levels of rainfall (over 0.8mm in 15 minutes) maintained between 01:45am on 9th March to 10:00 9th March.

It is possible that higher and lower rainfall levels may have been recorded in the surrounding area.

HYRAD rainfall radar data (courtesy of the EA) show persistent heavy rainfall countrywide leading up to the main flood event, with some areas in the region receiving 6mm of rain in a 15 minute period (Figure 9).

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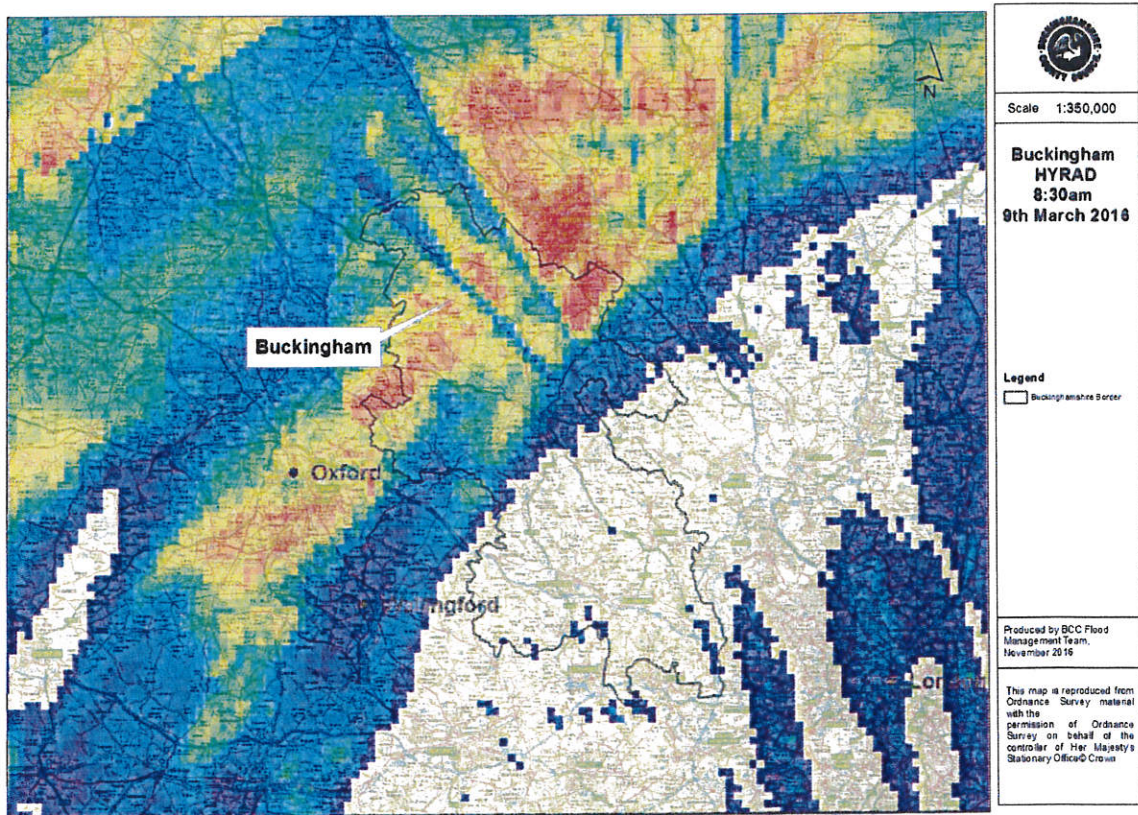


Figure 9: HYRAD rainfall radar imagery of Buckinghamshire and the surrounding area for 08:30am 9th March 2016 (provided by EA, 2016). The linear “stripe” of blue colours to the north-east of Buckingham (between heavier rainfall denoted by yellows and reds) is likely to be a radar anomaly.

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3.4 Incident response

Environment Agency

- Flood Alert for Great Ouse issued 09:00 on 09/03/16
- Flood Warning issued 14:02 on 09/03/16
- Advised partners at adverse weather teleconference at 15:30 that the river level was forecast to reach approximately 1.65m above the Buckingham gauge site datum (80.25mAOD). Further advice given at follow up teleconferences at 18:00 and 20:00. (Actual maximum levels reached were 1.96m above site datum [80.56mAOD] between 01:30 and 02:15).
- Flood support officers visited the town on 10th March 2016 and talked to residents about the flooding, heard their experiences and collected valuable data and information.

Transport for Buckinghamshire

- Following the heavy rain on the 9th March 2016, Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) closed a number of roads in the area (see table 2). Stratford Road was closed on recommendation of Thames Valley Police.
- Three TfB crews were putting out signs and sandbags throughout the day and 2 crews on standby overnight whilst the levels were being monitored. Team had 500 sandbags loaded up ready to be deployed if necessary but rain subsided quickly.
- The main concern was the Great River Ouse. The A422, Stratford Road, had to close where the river had risen by 1.6m.
- Other locations in the area including Beachampton and Leckhampstead also faced flooding incidents.



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Table 2: Transport for Buckinghamshire response sites across the area on 9th March 2016.

Date	Request taken by	CRN Number	Order Number	Time (hrs)	Defect	Address 1	Address 2	Depot	Time Passed (hrs)	Comments
09 March 2016	DF	46016053	5021121	9.17	2hr/Flood	Lillingstone Road	Akley	Gawcott	9.30	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016054	5021124	9.18	2hr/Flood	Grenville Road	Buckingham	Aylesbury	9.45	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016049	5021129	9.04	2hr/Flood	Church Road	Edgcott	Aylesbury	10.00	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016081	5021150	10.33	2hr/Flood	Nash Road	Beachampton	Gawcott	10.38	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016066	N/A	9.47	2hr/Flooding	Church Lane	Edgcott	Aylesbury	10.15	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016090	N/A	11.01	2hr/Flooding	Winslow Road	Padbury	Aylesbury	11.16	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016089	N/A	11.12	2hr/Flooding	Buckingham Road	Newton Purcell	N/A	11.18	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016087	5021215	10.43	Flooding	Church Hill	Akeley	Aylesbury	11.35	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016093	5021199	11.20	2hr/Flooding	Edgcott Road	Grendon Underwood	Aylesbury	11.50	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016092	5021202	11.06	2hr/Flooding	Winslow Road	Nash	Gawcott	12.02	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016129	N/A	12.32	2hr/Flooding	Stratford Road	Buckingham	N/A	12.53	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016119	N/A	12.17	2hr/Flooding	Main Street	Gawcott	Gawcott	12.58	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016137	5021234	13.28	2hr/Flooding	Stratford Road	Leckhampstead	Gawcott	13.39	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016130	N/A	12.38	Flooding	Ford Street	Buckingham	Gawcott	14.15	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016142	5021243	14.32	2hr/Flooding	Verey Road	Addington	Gawcott	14.33	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	N/A	5021245	14.38	2hr/Road Closure	Main Street	Beachampton	Gawcott	14.35	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	LM	46016136	5021236	13.22	2hr/Flooding	Tingewick Bypass	Tingewick	Gawcott	13.44	COMPLETE
09 March 2016	DF	46016175	N/A	16.44	2hr/Flooding	Fulwell Road	Westbury	N/A	7.01	COMPLETE

Aylesbury Vale District Council

- Made contact at approximately 16:00 on 09/03/16 with the remaining members of the Buckingham Flood Action Group and advised to put property level protection in place.
- Carried out street cleansing on the 10th March with AVDC staff checking streets for cleanliness on 11th March.

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Service:

- Thursday 10 March, 1.54pm: Flooding in basement, Bridge Street, Buckingham. One appliance and crew from Buckingham attended. Firefighters isolated the electricity and used a portable pump.
- Attended several other flooding incidents across the county during the period, but no other incidents in the town of Buckingham.

Anglian Water

Although information has been requested from Anglian Water on any flood records they had from this event or whether they experienced any problems with their assets, no response has been forthcoming.



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4. Responsible Authorities and landowners

There are different responsibilities for flood management depending on the type of flooding. Organisations responsible for flooding are known as Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and their responsibilities are detailed below. Riparian landowners also have responsibilities for watercourses across their land and these are also detailed below. These are summaries of the details included in the Buckinghamshire County Councils Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (due to be published 2017).

4.1 Lead Local Flood Authority

The Lead Local Flood Authority in this area is Buckinghamshire County Council. Buckinghamshire County Council has a role as a RMA in coordinating management of local flood risk from surface water, ground water and ordinary watercourses in the county.

4.2 Aylesbury Vale District Council

Aylesbury Vale District Council have responsibilities to inspect and maintain watercourses on District Council land, respond to requests for assistance during flood events and have the power, if instructed by Buckinghamshire County Council, to carry out flood risk management work which will benefit management of surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary water courses.

4.3 Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is one of the RMAs as defined by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Protecting the river environment and managing flood risk is part of their job. The EA is the RMA for flooding from main rivers.

4.4 Highways Authority – Transport for Buckinghamshire

Any flooding from highways is managed by the Highways Authority which is BCC and the highways function is managed by TfB.

4.5 Water Utility Company –Anglian Water

Affinity Water is responsible for flooding from foul sewers and surface water sewers which they own. Whilst undertaking this they must manage flood risk from sewers.

4.6 Landowners and riparian owners

Landowners and riparian owners must maintain any culvert, or the bed and banks of any adjacent watercourse. They should clear away any debris from the watercourse or



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culvert even if it did not originate from their land.

Riparian owners can find further guidance on their responsibilities as landowners in the Environment Agency document 'Living on the Edge' which can be found online at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/297423/LI_T_7114_c70612.pdf.

4.7 Residents

Residents have a responsibility to take measures to protect themselves and their property when flooding is imminent.

4.8 Emergency Responsibilities

The emergency responsibilities are outlined in Table 3 below. Please note that Parish and Town Councils do not have a legal obligation to respond to emergencies. Whatever service they provide is voluntary and unique to each Parish or Town Council.



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Table 3 Roles and responsibilities in an emergency, during and after a flood event

Local (County and District) Authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate emergency support within their own functions • Deal with emergencies on 'non main rivers' • Coordinate emergency support from the voluntary sector • Liaise with central and regional government departments • Liaise with essential service providers • Open rest centres • Manage the local transport and traffic networks • Mobilise trained emergency social workers • Provide emergency assistance • Deal with environmental health issues, such as contamination and pollution • Coordinate the recovery process • Manage public health issues • Provide advice and management of public health • Provide support and advice to individuals • Assist with business continuity 	
Police Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save life • Coordination and communication between emergency services and organisations providing support • Coordinate the preparation and dissemination Fire and Rescue Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save life rescuing people and animals • Carry out other specialist work, including flood rescue services • Where appropriate, assist people where the use of fire service personnel and equipment is relevant Ambulance Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save life • Provide treatment, stabilisation and care at the scene 	Utility Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend emergencies relating to their services putting life at risk • Assess and manage risk of service failure • Assist with recovery process, that is, water utilities manage public health considerations Internal Drainage Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate strategic assets to reduce flood risk in partnership with RMAs and public Town and Parish Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support emergency responders • Increase community resilience through support of community emergency plan development Voluntary services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support rest centres • Provide practical and emotional support to those affected • Support transport and communications • Provide administration • Provide telephone helpline support
Environment Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Flood Warnings and ensure systems display current flooding information • Provide information to the public on what they can do before, during and after a flood event • Monitor river levels and flows • Work with professional Partners and stakeholders and respond to requests for flooding information and updates • Receive and record details of flooding and related information • Operate water level control structures within its jurisdiction and in line with permissive powers • Flood event data collection • Arrange and take part in flood event exercises • Respond to pollution incidents and advise on disposal • Assist with the recovery process, for example, by advising on the disposal of silt, attending flood surgeries 	

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5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

The flood event in Buckingham occurred as a result of almost a month's worth of rainfall falling on already near-saturated ground. Water levels in the River Great Ouse rose rapidly through 9th March 2016, prompting a Flood Warning to be issued by the Environment Agency and the River Great Ouse to overtop its banks and flood low lying areas of Buckingham. Six properties within Buckingham were affected by floodwater, including four residential properties. River levels at Buckingham gauge were only 10cm below the record level of 2007, but the impacts were much less severe, potentially partly due to the installation of property level protection to vulnerable properties in the intervening years.

This investigation has helped inform proactive flood risk management by BCC, working with our partners in other RMAs and the local community. The following provides a brief overview of specific recommendations and activities, some of which are already underway. The Strategic Flood Management Team will regularly monitor the delivery of these recommendations.



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5.2 Recommendations

Authority / Stakeholder	Recommended Actions	Further comments
All RMAs	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Work together to look at the catchment to reconsider options for flood management, eg.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. flood attenuation upstreamb. land management practicesc. slowing the flow2. Identify and make suggestions for flood betterment opportunities presented by strategic transport links in the area	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There may be linkages here with the EA's Great Ouse Strategic NFM Investigation.

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BCC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to support Buckingham Town Council with updating the Buckingham Flood Action Plan (and help integrate with a wider emergency plan). 2. Continue to progress the Community Flood Toolkits project in partnership with the EA. 3. Progress discussions with Buckingham Town Council (BTC) on the Community Flood Toolkits project (inc. legal agreement, support with training) 4. Facilitate sharing of information between RMAs and the community. 5. Support with any future training (eg. PLP deployment) to be set up as part of the Flood Plan 6. In planning consultee responses via AVDC, continue to ask that new development must seek opportunities to reduce overall level of flood risk at and downstream of the site, for example through reducing volume and rate of surface water runoff to at or below greenfield rates. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begun Nov 2016 – ongoing 2. The aim of the Community Flood Toolkits project is to allow volunteer flood groups or town/parish councils to respond effectively during a flood event using appropriate equipment. These toolkits include items such as Hydrosnakes, high-vis jackets, “road flooded” warning signs, loudhailers, two way radios, emergency blankets, etc. Communities are able to tailor the contents of the flood kit to their needs. A flood/emergency plan must be in place before the kit can be received. 3. Ongoing 4. Ongoing 5. Forthcoming 6. Ongoing
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<p>EA</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to work in partnership with BCC and BTC on the Community Flood Toolkits project 2. Continue to support BTC with updating the Buckingham Flood Action Plan 3. Use the information from the flood within future updates to the fluvial modelling or flood forecasting models on the River Great Ouse to calibrate against observations. 4. Continue to work to improve flood warnings issued in this area, and encourage residents to sign up to received Flood Warnings. 5. To distribute 'Living on the Edge' booklets to residents and land owners 6. Continue to undertake maintenance of the Great Ouse through a risk-based approach 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing 2. Ongoing
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TfB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For TfB culverts, including South End Bridge on Church End, Limes End Bridge on Wicken Road: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue inspecting culverts above 900mm in diameter in line with current codes of practice, which entail general inspection every two years and principal inspection every 6 years. - For culverts below 900mm in diameter, TfB to continue using the expertise of local area-based teams who look at all road infrastructure aspects in their area. Upon noticing issues, these will be raised as concerns or as work orders. 2. Continue to carry out cleansing of all gullies and highway drainage as part of the ongoing maintenance schedule. 	
Buckingham Town Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to liaise with BCC and the EA on updating the Buckingham Flood Action Plan 2. Discuss the Community Flood Toolkits project further with BCC and the EA. 	
Riparian Landowners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that the River Great Ouse banks are maintained in a suitable manner. The guidance given in the EA's 'Living on the Edge' booklet regarding riparian owner responsibilities should be followed. 2. Undertake clearance of vegetation and debris on the Great Ouse with guidance from relevant RMAs. 	

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Residents	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sign up for the Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct, where available.2. Take measures to protect themselves and their property against flooding.3. Continue to document and photograph flood incidents where possible and report flooding to BCC and the EA.	
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Explanation of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
AVDC	Aylesbury Vale District Council
BCC	Buckinghamshire County Council
BMKFRS	Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire & Rescue Service
BGS	British Geological Survey
CFMP/ Catchment Flood Management Plan	Catchment Flood Management Plans are produced by the Environment Agency to give an overview of the flood risk in the two primary catchments in BCC's area: Great Ouse and Thames.
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency, which has a Strategic overview role for flood and coastal erosion risk management
Flood	The temporary inundation by water of property or land not normally covered with water
Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA)	Part of the UK Government's response to Sir Michael Pitt's Report on the Summer 2007 floods, the aim of which (partly) is to clarify the legislative framework for managing local flood risk in England.
Fluvial Flooding	Flooding resulting from water levels exceeding the bank level of a river.
Groundwater flooding	Occurs when water levels in the ground rise above the natural surface. Low lying areas underlain by permeable strata (e.g. Chalk) are particularly susceptible.
HYRAD imagery	Standard radar display system for flood warning across England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Belgium
IDB	Internal Drainage Board. Applicable to only one area in Buckinghamshire for which the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board has flood risk management responsibilities.
LLFA / Lead Local Flood Authority	Local Authority responsible for taking the lead on local flood risk management

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Local Flood Risk	Flooding from sources other than Main Rivers, which principally concerns surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. BCC has a responsibility under the Flood & Water Management Act to manage flooding from these sources.
Main River	A watercourse shown as such on the Main River Map, and for which the Environment Agency has responsibilities and powers.
Ordinary Watercourses	All watercourses that are not designated Main River, and which are the responsibility of local authorities or IDBs
Resilience Measures	Measures designed to reduce the impact of water that enters property and businesses; could include measures such as raising electrical appliances.
Resistance Measures	Measures designed to keep flood water out of properties and businesses; could include flood guards for example.
Risk	In flood risk management, risk is defined as a product of the probability or likelihood of a flood occurring, and the consequence of the flood.
Risk Management Authorities (RMA)	Organisations that have a key role in flood and coastal erosion risk management as defined by the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. These are BCC (the Lead Local Flood Authority and Highways Authority), District Councils, Environment Agency, Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board, Anglian Water and Thames Water
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. These are produced by each District to give an assessment of flood risk from all sources and its implications for land use planning.
Soil moisture deficits (SMDs)	Soil moisture deficit levels provide a measure of the capacity of the ground to store water: the higher the number, the greater the capacity
Stakeholder	A person or organisation affected by the problem or solution, or interested in the problem or solution. They can be individuals or organisations; includes the public and communities.

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Strategy	Under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, BCC have a duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management
Sustainability	In the context of this Strategy, the risk of flooding must be reduced now, but in a way which does not compromise the interconnected needs of the economy, society and environment in the future.
SuDS / Sustainable Drainage Systems	Methods of management practices and control structures that are designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable manner than some conventional techniques.
Surface water/runoff	Rainwater (including snow and other precipitation) which is on the surface of the ground (whether or not it is moving), and has not entered a watercourse, drainage system or public sewer. The term 'surface water' is used generically to refer to water on the surface and is often associated with periods of intense rainfall.
SWMP	Surface Water Management Plan
TfB	Transport for Buckinghamshire

References

Reference in document	Refers to:
Great Ouse catchment flood management plan (CFMP), 2009	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/great-ouse-catchment-flood-management-plan
EA water situation reports	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-situation-reports-for-england
Environment Agency 'Living on the Edge', 2016	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/riverside-ownership-rights-and-responsibilities
Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-management-information-for-flood-risk-management-authorities-asset-owners-and-local-authorities



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Contacts

Lead Local Flood Authority



Flood Management Team
Buckinghamshire County Council
County Hall
Walton Street
Aylesbury
Bucks HP20 1UY

Telephone: 084537 08090

Email: FloodManagement@buckscc.gov.uk

Website: www.buckscc.gov.uk/flooding

Environment Agency



**Environment
Agency**

National Customer Contact Centre
PO Box 544
Rotherham
S60 1BY

Telephone: 03708 506506

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

District Council



Aylesbury Vale District Council
The Gateway
Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury
Bucks HP19 8FF

Opening times

Monday - Thursday

8.45am – 5.15pm

Friday

8.45am – 4.45pm*

Telephone: 01296 585858

*Customer service centre closes at 4pm on Friday



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Highways Authority

Transport for Buckinghamshire

Telephone: Transport and roads – 0845 2302882

Out of hours emergencies (Highways) – 01296 486630

Email: tfb@buckscc.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Transport-and-roads.aspx>

Water Utility

anglianwater

Anglian Water

PO Box 4994

LANCING

BN11 9AL

Telephone: 03457 91 91 55

Website: <http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-contact-us/contact-us/>

Emergency Response:

Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service

Address: Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, Brigade HQ, Stocklake, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1BD

Telephone: 01296 744400

Website: <http://www.bucksfire.gov.uk/BucksFire/Contact+Us/>

Thames Valley Police

Telephone: 101 in non-emergency, 999 in emergency

Website: <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/contactus-phone.htm>

Buckinghamshire Ambulance Service

Telephone: 111 in non-emergency, 999 in emergency

Website: <http://www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk/content/press-release/buckinghamshire/flooding-advice.ashx>



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Appendices

Appendix A: BCC criteria for a Section 19 Investigation

- Internal flooding (including to basements) to five or more residential properties within an area of 1km²
- Internal flooding of two or more business premises within an area of 1km²
- Internal flooding (including to basement) of at least one property for one week or longer
- Flooding of one or more items of critical infrastructure, which could include hospitals, health centres, clinics, surgeries, colleges, schools, day nurseries, nursing homes, emergency services (police, fire, ambulance) stations, utilities and substations.
- Caused a transport link to be impassable for the following periods:
 - Motorways, trunk roads and major rail links – 2 hours or more
 - Class A and B highways and other railway links – 4 hours or more
 - Class C highways – 10 hours or more unless the route is the only means of access, or is primary route for critical infrastructure then reduce to 4 hours
 - Class U highways – 24 hours or more unless the route is the only means of access, or is primary route for critical infrastructure then reduce to 4 hours
- Any flooding event that a risk management authority deems significant does not meet the agreed thresholds should be brought to the next strategic flood management committee for consideration.

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Appendix B: Photographs from event



Nelson Street 10th
March 2016 (photo
provided by resident).



Flooding on Clarence
Park site, 10th March
2016, as seen from
gardens of Glynswood
Road (photo provided
by Mr Argles).



Flooded River Great
Ouse adjacent to
Fishers field, 9th March
2016 (photo provided by
Mr Wallace).

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Ford Street, Buckingham at 12.15am, 10th March 2016. Property level flood protection board (blue barrier) in operation (photo provided by Buckingham Flood Action Group).

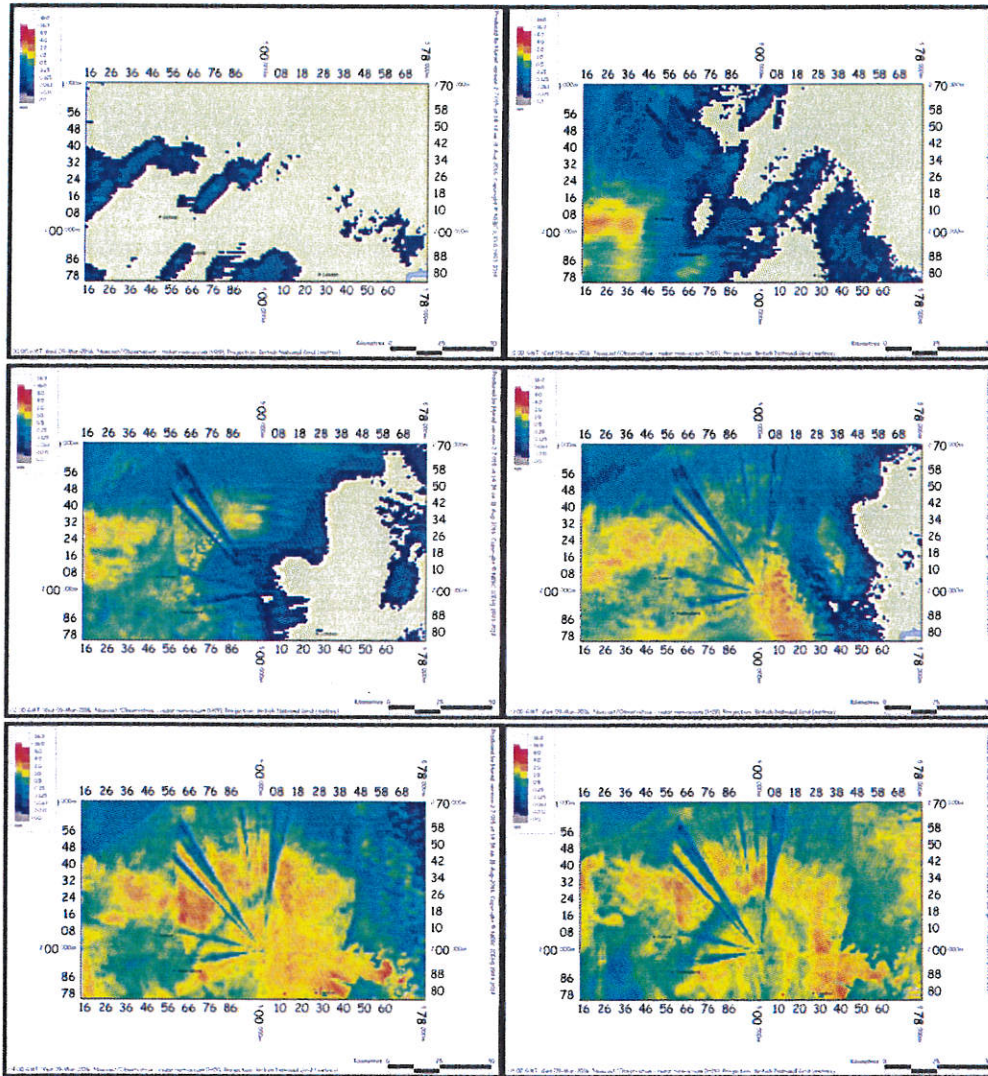


Flooded Chandos Park (photo via R Stuchbury twitter).

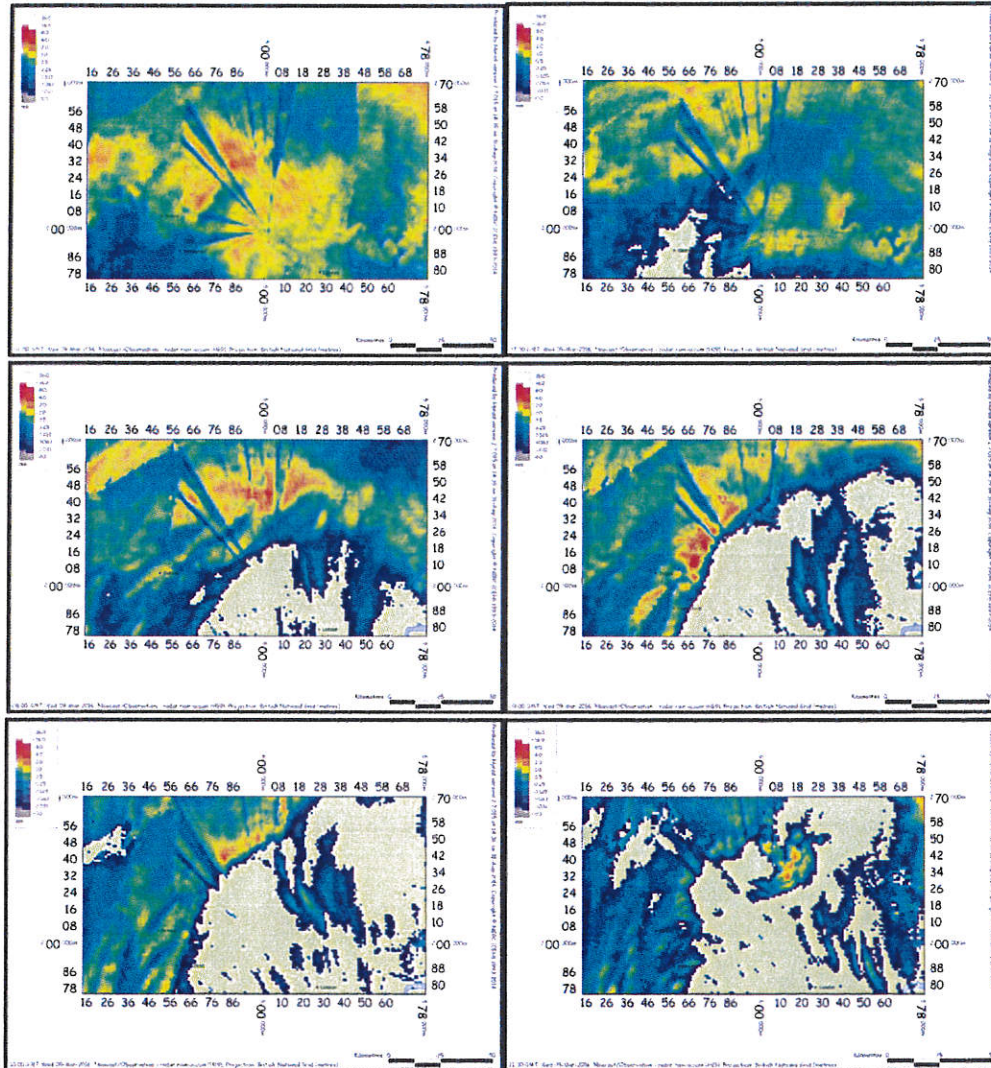
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Appendix C: HYRAD rainfall radar

Area surrounding Buckingham 09/03/2016 00:00 – 11:00 (at hourly intervals).
Data provided by the EA.



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Access for All

Minutes of November meeting

14 November 2016

The Library, Verney Close, Side Entrance

Actions from the meeting:	
All members	To continue to monitor the Buckingham DisabledGo website to check details, make corrections and add comments To report problems with roads and pavements to Transport for Bucks as they arise
Clair	To continue work on the leaflet and contact Black Dog Design to finalise the layout and illustrations To email the location of the missing dropped kerb to Mike To go through the DisabledGo venue list and identify changes that are needed for 2017
Chris and Peter	To follow up on use of the ramp at Esquires and to visit the Garage and Nelson Street Restaurant
Mike	To produce an A4 version of the DisabledGo poster and arrange to display at the Old Gaol To discuss grass cutting at the Cemetery and elsewhere in the town with the Green Spaces Manager
Jenny	To check whether DisabledGo has any promotional material to use at the Community Fair on 10 December and attend the Fair on behalf of Access for All To distribute the remainder of the leaflets To obtain artwork for a DisabledGo sticker To arrange for a link on the BTC website to the Buckingham DisabledGo website

In attendance: Cllr Jenny Bates, Joy Fuchter, Cllr Derrick Isham, Pat Knibbs, Clair Pudaruth, Cllr Chris & Peter Strain-Clark, John Russell, Cllr Mike Smith, John Squires, Graham White (Community Links Officer BCC).

Apologies: Mary Buckingham, Ed Grimsdale, Cllr Ruth Newell, Pam Tonge. Apologies also from Cllr Tim Mills who is unable to attend this and future meetings due to frequent conflicting AVDC meetings, and is therefore stepping down from the Group.

1. **Welcome, introductions and apologies**

John Russell introduced Jenny Bates as the new Secretary for the group. He also said that he felt it was helpful to have Town Councillors as members of the Group to act as

liaison with the Town Council.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting** held on 10 October 2016 (previously circulated) – These were agreed.
3. **Matters arising** if not elsewhere on the Agenda.

John Russell reported that he had arranged for Access for All notices to be placed on the town's notice boards in about 10 places. Waitrose agreed to put the notice up but it has since been taken down. When John asked why, he was told that there was no one available to ask, not until the following day.

There had been a problem with the Old Gaol which has since been resolved. John had wanted the notice to be displayed permanently but they are only interested in displaying information about specific events. It has however been displayed with the addition of the date of today's meeting.

At North End Surgery they wanted 3 notices, one for each of the surgeries. It has not as yet been displayed at Verney Close.

At the Community Centre, there was no manager at the time. Since then Cllr Paddy Collins has arranged for the notice to be put it.

John also took one to Lace Hill and it is being displayed.

Chris and Peter have arranged for Jenny to take on the Secretary role.

They have not yet had time to follow up on use of the ramp at Esquires or to visit the Garage or Nelson Street Restaurant. John said that he had tried to go to the Garage on a Saturday morning but it was not open at the time.

Chris sent out the link for the National Express Disabled Coach Card with the Minutes of the previous meeting. She has also taken the invoice for John's notices to the BTC office for payment.

The DisabledGo press release has been circulated and the latest list of venues has been circulated to members for discussion.

Graham reported that he has asked the BCC communications people if they are able to help with the Access for All logo and production of the leaflet. They would be happy to help, also with facebook, social media and possibly a video but wanted more background information on the group. Unfortunately the group had understood that BCC would not be able to help. The sub-group has therefore met and Clair has proceeded with work on the layout of the leaflet. It was decided to continue with the work that Clair has done on the leaflet.

Mike has checked with Warren Whyte on progress with the timing of the lights at the crossing near Jardine's. He reported that the timing has now been increased by about 2 or 3 seconds.

He has made Robin Stuchbury aware of the missing dropped kerb at the far end of

Badgers. Robin is pressing for it but Transport for Buckinghamshire has an issue with it. He is trying to get it budgeted for next year.

Mike has made the new owner of the Fireside Café aware of the Group's concerns, particularly the heavy door. He also asked for a banister rail into the back part of the Café. The door is an adjustable self-closing door where the springs can be adjusted. This work has not yet been carried out as the owner is about to have the door refurbished. It will be more difficult to fix the banisters.

4. **Acting Chairman's Report**

John reported that the sub-group had a meeting on 11 November to discuss the leaflet and logo. Clair would shortly be having a meeting with the designer.

5. **Secretary's Report**

Jenny reported that some A3 DisabledGo posters and leaflets have been received. The posters have been given to the Town Council to display on their noticeboards, to the GP surgeries and the Library. The poster was too big for the Old Gaol to display but Mike agreed to print an A4 version. Leaflets have been left with the Library, the Town Council and the Old Gaol. She will distribute the remaining copies to Villiers and the White Hart. She will also email Philip Holt to ask about artwork for stickers.

Jenny also reported that BTC has discussed improving the entrance to the Community Centre in a similar fashion to the work undertaken to the Council Chamber. Once the Community Centre committee has agreed to the work, BTC will be able to obtain quotes and to arrange for the work to be carried out.

6. **Treasurer's report**

John reported that the Group has £1134.78 in the bank as well as some money held on account from the community leaders' fund. This amounts to approx £500 which should cover the cost of producing the leaflet and other publicity materials. He has been reimbursed £13 for the Access for All leaflet he produced.

7. **DisabledGo Update**

There are already some venues scheduled for assessment next year. It was agreed to take Paynes Court and Revival Health off the list, as well as Well Street Church which has now virtually gone. Villiers Hotel and Ballroom have already been assessed so should be removed although after a discussion it was agreed that it might be advisable to add a comment on the website that those wanting disabled access to the ballroom should call ahead. Mike pointed out that there are some premises such as the Whale and the White Hart which have been altered. Clair agreed to go through the venue list and identify changes that are needed.

8. **Access for All leaflet**

Clair circulated the draft she has produced following the meeting on 11 November. She will check with Christina from Black Dog Design if she has the images when she

meets with her on Monday. She will also need the map and the QR code from DisabledGo. With regard to Disabled toilets it was agreed to only include those disabled toilets that the town has at the moment. It is still unclear what will happen with the Moreton Rd toilets when the new Shopmobility toilets open. Clair will try to get a proof from Christina in time for the December meeting. If it is available before then, John asked for it to be circulated.

9. **Website and other Publicity ideas**

Graham reiterated that BCC could help with the production of a video with no cost implication. It was agreed that it was difficult to identify a message for a video at the moment. Graham suggested that it was something that the group could return to in the future when a more useful function for a video was found. Clair suggested it could be re-visited next year to raise awareness, after the leaflet has been produced. John suggested a video might be useful in the library or doctors' surgeries.

Jenny said that Access for All can have some space at the Community Fair in the Community Centre on 10 December. She suggested that it could be used to publicise DisabledGo and offered to attend with her laptop to demonstrate the website to anyone who is interested. Chris will also be at the Fair on the Twinning stall so might also be able to help. Jenny will ask DisabledGo if they have any publicity material that we might be able to borrow for the event. John said he could also help as he will not be taking part in the Christmas parade this year.

It was also suggested that when the leaflet is produced this could be used to publicise the Access for All group via a link from the BTC website. The DisabledGo website could also be publicised via a link from the BTC website.

10. **Members' concerns**

Clair has noticed another road without a drop down, near Otters Brook. She agreed to email the exact location to Mike.

There were concerns about the work of the Green Spaces team in the Cemetery. It was felt that there is a lack of respect with grass clippings being left on the gravestones and flowers being chopped off. This means that many of the mainly elderly visitors are having to use scrubbing brushes to clean gravestones. There were also concerns about the way BTC staff are cutting the grass elsewhere in the town. Mike agreed to refer this matter to the Green Spaces Manager.

Clair asked about the cars that are parked on the pavement on Brackley Road. It is a particular problem when there is a bowls match, with the police having to be called from time to time. Mike pointed out that there is a similar problem on Western Avenue.

Joy informed the group that she had seen the advert for the Claydon Christmas Tree Farm and had wanted to take her grandchild there. She had emailed them to ask if it was suitable for the disabled and pushchairs but was told that she wouldn't be able to get into the shop. This is similar to the issues at Waddesdon where there is now a bus from the parking area but it is difficult for two scooters to be accommodated. Chris

said people are constantly having to think ahead to avoid problems. It would be helpful if venues had their own fleet of scooters so visitors didn't need to take their own scooters. Stowe now has golf buggies but the lift breaks down regularly there. Group members reported that they have had to pay £6 to hire a scooter in Harrogate and in Taunton.

11. **Next meeting** – Monday 12 December 2016, 2:00 – 3:30pm, Buckingham Library

Access for All

Minutes of December meeting

12 December 2016

The Library, Verney Close, Side Entrance

Actions from the meeting:	
All members	<p>To continue to monitor the Buckingham DisabledGo website to check details, make corrections and add comments</p> <p>To report problems with roads and pavements to Transport for Bucks as they arise</p>
Clair	<p>To continue work on the DisabledGo leaflet, select photo(s) and finalise the layout</p> <p>To contact DisabledGo to clarify how many venues can be included on the list for assessment in 2017</p> <p>To obtain a quote for purchasing a pop-up sign for Access for All</p>
Chris and Peter	<p>To follow up on use of the ramp at Esquires and to visit the Nelson Street Restaurant.</p>
Jenny	<p>To contact DisabledGo again about artwork for a window sticker</p>

In attendance: Cllr Jenny Bates, Joy Fuchter, Pat Knibbs, Clair Pudaruth, Cllr Chris & Peter Strain-Clark, John Russell, John Squires, Mary Buckingham

Apologies: Cllr Derrick Isham, Cllr Mike Smith, Ed Grimsdale, Cllr Ruth Newell, Pam Tonge.

1. **Welcome, introductions and apologies**

John Russell welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting** held on 14 November 2016 (previously circulated)

Agreed.

3. **Matters arising** if not elsewhere on the Agenda.

John Russell reported that the Access for All notices appear to be displayed.

Chris and Peter reported that they have not yet had time to follow up on use of the ramp at Esquires or to visit the Nelson Street Restaurant. They have visited the Garage but this had been a 'disaster'. Access was alright but not brilliant. People working on the building were using all of the pavement for carpentry. They didn't try the disabled loo because of concerns about being able to manoeuvre the wheelchair.

4. Acting Chairman's Report

John had nothing new to report. He suggested that the Group should consider meeting less often as they had done in the past. The Group decided that it should continue to meeting monthly as this enables new issues to be raised and continuity to be maintained.

As an exception it was agreed that there should be no meeting in January 2017 as the date would be early in the New Year, shortly after the Christmas break. The next meeting will therefore take place at 2pm on 13 February 2017.

5. Secretary's Report

Jenny reported that she has still not received a response from Philip Holt about artwork for window stickers. She will try emailing them again.

6. Treasurer's report

John reported that the Group has £1118.28 in the bank as well as some money held on account from the community leaders' fund. This amounts to approx £500 which should cover the cost of producing the leaflet and other publicity materials.

7. DisabledGo Update

Clair has been through the DisabledGo venue list, identified suggested changes that are needed for 2017 and circulated the revised list for comment.

Chris said that the Group needs to decide on priorities for 2017 and check on premises that have changed ownership or closed down such as HSBC. Other venues, such as The Whale, Domino's and the Kings Head have been refurbished. She suggested that one person needs to take on responsibility for coordinating this. Clair has agreed to take this on and will contact DisabledGo to clarify how many venues can be included on the list for assessment in 2017.

8. Access for All leaflet

Clair circulated a proof of the leaflet. A decision needs to be made on photos for the front cover. Various suggestions were made eg the River or Circular Walk, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham Library/Community Centre, Swan Pool, Lace Hill Community and Sports Centre. It was suggested that the Town Council, the U3A photographic department or Chapmans might be able to help but we need to ensure that there are no copyright issues. Clair suggested that we could possibly use just one photo and the most important thing was to ensure any photo showed accessibility. It was agreed that it will be left to Clair to decide.

9. Website and other Publicity ideas

Jenny reported that she attended the Community Fair in the Community Centre on 10 December, sharing the Town Council stall. Unfortunately she did not receive any response from DisabledGo to her request for publicity materials but she had been able to speak to a number of people about DisabledGo.

To date the link from the Town Council website to Access for All has not been set up.

Since the meeting an Accessible Buckingham page has been set up and can be reached via this link: <http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/town-matters/accessiblebuckingham/>

Chris suggested that the Group should look into purchasing a pop-up sign for Access for All that could be used at all council events. Clair agreed to obtain a quote.

10. Members' concerns

Clair has informed Mike of the location of the missing dropped kerb.

Mike has reported the Group's concerns about grass cutting at the Cemetery and elsewhere in the town to the Green Spaces Manager who is looking into the matter.

The Group discussed their concerns about the condition of the footpaths around the estates in Buckingham and also in the town itself. One area of concern is the pavement outside the new Domino's where there is a drainpipe down the building without a drain underneath it. The water goes straight onto the pavement and can be dangerous in frosty weather.

Another area of great concern is the heavy goods vehicles that continue to drive through the centre of the town and the danger they pose for pedestrians. On the day of the meeting a truck had driven along Well Street and become stuck at the junction with Church Street.

It was felt that the County Councils should do more to improve the signage, making it clearer for trucks using the A43/A422 junction at Brackley that the route through Buckingham is unsuitable for HGVs. Another possibility would be to create a means for any HGVs who have already turned onto the A422 to turn around before arriving in Buckingham.

Chris reported that at Lace Hill Community Centre the Entry Press button is not working.

Joy asked when the new public toilets and Shopmobility unit would be opening. She had recently seen an engineer measuring up in Shopmobility. There will be an update at the next meeting.

11. **Next meeting** – Monday 13 February 2017, 2:00 – 3:30pm, Buckingham Library

Unitary meeting with Aylesbury Vale District Council at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre, 9th December 2016 10am

Present

Cllr. Jenny Bates

Cllr. Mark Cole

Cllr. Paul Hirons

Cllr. Howard Mordue

Cllr. Mike Smith

Cllr. Robin Stuchbury

Cllr. Neil Blake – AVDC Leader

Mr. Andrew Grant – AVDC Chief Executive

Mr. Christopher Wayman Town Clerk

Cllr. Neil Blake provided background on the process up until this point, highlighted that District had made the first move towards unitary after the Bucks Business First study, but the other parties were not interested at that point. In September BCC put their business case to DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government). AVDC feel that BCC's proposal isn't the correct way of progressing and feel a smaller (area and population) would suit best. In their opinion BCC are just trying to keep going in the same mould but with a larger Council where AVDC feel a complete overhaul of services is required and a new way of doing things needs to begin with a new council. They felt that some steps were backwards including bringing in area hubs when AVDC had moved online and therefore removed the need for their centres.

Cllr. Hirons highlighted that Buckingham had few links with Aylesbury and most people used Milton Keynes, be it for shopping or work and that this option had not been looked at.

Andrew Grant said that central government wanted simple and easy building blocks and weren't looking beyond existing boundaries, but AVDC have successfully engaged with MK over the past few years. It was also made clear that AVDC's proposal would have the unitary working beyond boundaries.

Cllr. Mordue pointed out the need for face to face communications with AVDC highlighting the number of MyAccount users there now are.

Andrew Grant described how the district is going to grow by 75% and that AVDC had gone into commercialisation rather than Council Tax and that Buckingham Town Council needs to modernise.

It was pointed out the cost savings made by the Town Council over the last 6 years and the number of new things the Town Council has decided to take on due to AVDC and BCC dropping services.

Cllr. Smith asked how the new unitary would deliver services.

Neil Blake responded that they would commission Deloitte to look at how services should be run and model on existing elsewhere in the country e.g. Central Beds.

Cllr. Stuchbury queried what they thought the issues were around Children's Services and also what role the Town Council would have under the new unitary.

Cllr. Neil Blake stated that County officers had told him repeatedly about the large sums wasted there and the idea would be to start with a blank sheet of paper and redesign the services. Andrew Grant mentioned that County had seemed more

interested in fixing roads than social care and that people are already paying for personal care and that could be extended.

When pushed on children's services by Cllr. Smith Andrew Grant responded by saying that the majority of the cost was down to between 30-500 problem families and that by targeting them it could be mitigated. He also highlighted that in a 2 Unitary Council model then new homes wouldn't be pushed north in the County. Cllr. Cole raised the issue over the previous 48hours and how there was a press release issued about progressing with Unitary in a two 2 Unitary council model the morning after an AVDC Council meeting where discussion was held on Unitary and nothing in the press release was mentioned. It was also questioned how they expected stakeholders and residents to make a decision with such limited information.

Cllr. Neil Blake informed members that the Districts would be submitting their bid in before Christmas – and before the AVDC Full Council meeting on the 16th January but that this could still be altered and would be depending upon the consultation responses received.

Cllr. Mordue left the meeting

It was re-iterated that there was very little information to base a decision as there was no business case to work off. Andrew Grant said that the delay was that it took 18 months for the South [Councils] to get sorted.

After much pressing on what prospective timescales might be is that there would be some decision, probably during late Spring/Summer with a District based unitary coming into being after a shadow period in 2020 or 2021.

When asked about how they would interact with Towns and Parishes Cllr. Blake indicated that the existing twice yearly meetings would continue and that with the largest Councils there would be regular meetings which would include devolution.

Meeting finished at 11:50am.

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway Working Group 6th December 2016 at 10am in the Town Council Chamber

Present:

Cllr. Mark Cole

Cllr. Jon Harvey

Cllr. Mike Smith

Christopher Wayman – Town Clerk

At the start of the meeting Councillors discussed the issues that Cllr. Harvey had raised in email correspondence as the method for the Town Council forming an opinion on the Expressway; these were:

- The lowest price in terms of building / land purchase costs
- The least damaging to precious countryside / farming land
- The most likely to be used by traffic
- The most economic benefit to nearby conurbations
- The most sustainable in terms of building & traffic flow

Members discussed the three broad ideas on routing put forward in the initial document from the Department of Transport. The exact proposals are not known; however, the northern route comes up via Buckingham, the middle route goes via Winslow area and across while a southern route appears to go via Aylesbury. These were the broad areas talked about at the meeting.

Members discussed the possibility of a route north of Buckingham but this might bring the route too far out of the way.

The issue of whether Aylesbury would be campaigning for or against the route coming close to them was raised but it wasn't clear if they would be, having previously objected to HS2.

It was raised about the southern route going too far south to service Bicester, which is mentioned in the study as being a key area for connections and growth. However, Bicester already has a good connection to the M40 and a relatively straight run into Oxford.

It was felt that the obvious direct route would be along a line similar to the old railway track (middle route) which might be too far south to create any benefits for Buckingham.

Members discussed if the expressway would upgrade the existing routes to dual carriageway or if a separate road would be created similar to the previous stretch between Milton Keynes and Bedford, where the previous A421 is next to the new road.

It was **AGREED:**

The Town Council should support a proposal which takes through traffic out of Buckingham but won't affect Buckingham as a Destination.

A letter is sent to the Department of Transport asking them to set out the criteria they have for making a decision on which route, asking for early sight of the emerging proposals and asking for clarity on when the expressway will be linking to.

Members discussed if Winslow and Bicester should be contacted to see if there would be an opportunity to work together on a proposal. However, it was felt that the information should be sought from the Department of Transport as a first step.