

Summary of PACE Meeting 5 March 2024

Water in a Changing Climate

42 people met in The Crown for an excellent presentation by Lucy Shepherd, Lead Local Flood Authority Manager for Essex County Council. Lucy has been with ECC for 14 years as part of the 25 strong Climate Mitigation & Adaptation Team. Her expertise relates to the risk of surface water flooding to properties. This does not include Highway flooding which is dealt with by a separate team. We will circulate Lucy's slides from her talk by Email.

Flood Risk Maps – these show the risk of coastal flooding and the risk of flooding from surface water. About 36,000 properties in Essex are at risk. You can check on-line for the risk of flooding at any location.

The Flood Water Management Act 2010 requires ECC to:

- Carry out flood investigations- variable number each year, 17 in 2021, over 1000 in 2013
- Deal with Water Course Regulations – relates to any obstruction of a water course.
- Comment on Planning Applications – all properties must plan for a 1 in 100 year flood.

Properties which are flooded can apply for a Property Flood Resilience Grant – up to £8,000.

Water Strategy for Essex

This is due to be launched on 20 March 2024. The aim is to provide a detailed understanding of the issues and risks to communities and businesses. Essex has significant challenges and climate change is increasing these risks. Climate predictions show that we are set for drier summers and wetter winters, so the risk of flooding is getting more severe.

Total rainfall in Essex is low (less than Jerusalem) so water supply is limited both for domestic supplies and for agriculture. Therefore, the water companies have to make provision for more reservoirs or bringing water in from outside to meet domestic demand. Farmers may have licences to pump from rivers or form their own reservoirs. First desalination plant is being considered at Holland on Sea.

Currently average daily use is about 155litres per person, which is higher than UK average; predictions are that we will have a deficit in Essex of 147.5 million litres per day by 2050. So, more water storage reservoirs are being planned as are increased metering, improved leakage control etc.

The Strategy will be here: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/running-council/plans-and-strategies>

Questions:

Q. Can there be a One-Stop-Shop for enquiries?

There is not, but a list of responsibilities is given at the end of these notes.

Q. Are grass verges important on edge of roads to absorb rainwater.

Yes, this is part of the Greening Strategy where ECC works with District Councils.

Q. Is flooding more likely because of intensive agriculture and degradation of arable land?

Perhaps a question for the next speaker who is a farmer in the Tendring Farm Cluster and they are looking at the new Environmental Land Management Scheme ELMS.

Q. Is flooding considered carefully for new developments.

All parts of ECC are consulted over new planning for new developments partic over 10 households- Highways, Coastal defence, Riverine flooding, Environment Agency etc.

Q. Once developments have been built is there a check that SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage) has been built correctly?
Not at present, but with new legislation ECC will become the Approving Body with new staff.

Q. Is there support for rainwater storage at domestic properties?
Rainwater butts are recommended by ECC.

Q. What is the position with Water Company leakage loss from distribution network?
Target is for water companies to reduce leakage by 50%.

Q. What can PACE do?
Encourage people to 'Check your flood risk'
Encourage households to use 20% less water than the baseline of 155l per person per day.

Update on a few other PACE Initiatives:

Manningtree Mermaids and designation of Bathing Water status for Manningtree Beach
DEFRA have announced their intention to designate the River Stour at Manningtree Beach as a Bathing Water – subject to a consultation which ends on 10 March 2024. If confirmed this will mean that the Environment Agency are legally bound to measure water quality at least once each month and publish the results. This would be good for all water users of the Stour. Please respond to the consultation: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/consultation-on-designation-of-27-sites-as-bathing/consultation/intro/>

Wildlife Gardens Open Day, Saturday 8 June 2024.

PACE is organising this Open Day – similar to previous years which were very successful with about 12 Gardens and 400 visitors – we have a small PACE Team of volunteers who are organising which needs a few more members. This year we will have gardens in a different area and have the Venture Centre to provide Parking, Toilets, Displays and Reception. (Sharon Barker and Sarah Harrison agreed to join the team – Thank you.) And we will need volunteers on 8 June so that there is at least one in each Garden (Trudi Needham, Bob Rowles, Sue Muskett, Sharon Barker and Sarah Harrison offered – Thank you).

PACE involvement with Tendring Show Saturday 13 July 2024

John and Halford have met with the Show Directors who are keen to have PACE involvement in particular areas where we can help “green” the Show. This first year we will be careful to pick a few areas where we have sufficient volunteer support to do it well.

Encouraging Greener Transport to the Show: We are proposing Discounts or Vouchers which encourage Show visitors to Car Share, come by Train and Bus Shuttle, Cycle or Walk (Andrew Whitefield, Bob Rowles, Chris Bowden, offered to help – Thank you).

Supporting Recycling of Rubbish. At present all rubbish goes into the same bins, is therefore contaminated and goes to landfill. We are looking at easy wins such as separating Plastic Bottles, Drinks Cans, Clean Paper/Card – but would need volunteers to encourage this. (Sharon Barker and Caroline Hall offered to help – thank you).

Green Rosettes or Show Cup: We are proposing to award Rosettes to those Stall Holders who score the highest on our sustainability Score Card – we need volunteers to develop the scheme and do the judging. (Rosemary Smith, Jan Armstrong and John Hall offered – thanks)

We will now hunt for more volunteers and only run those areas where we have enough.

Next PACE Supporters Meeting will be “Future of Farming” Tues 2 April 7.30pm The Crown.

Source of Flooding	Lead Authority
Sea defences and coastal flooding	<p>The Environment Agency is responsible for managing flood risk from rivers and the sea, they provide a 24-hour Floodline where you can listen to recorded flood warning information for your area or speak to an operator for advice and information.</p> <p>Floodline service 0345 988 1188 National Customer Contact Centre 03708 506 506</p> <p>The Environment Agency's website includes maps of flood warning areas, national summaries of warnings in force, sources of information and advice. This website is available 24 hours a day and is updated every 15 minutes: www.gov.uk/environment-agency</p> <p>Check you flood risk at: https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/postcode</p>
Main River flooding (most 'named' rivers – can be checked here)	Environment Agency - as above
Roadside drains, gullies	Any highways specific flooding - blocked gullies, ditches flooding onto highway, or from highway onto private property - should be reported on the Essex Highways online reporting tool - https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us
Other smaller watercourses (streams, ditches, piped variants)	<p>Privately owned/maintained unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Landowners have responsibility to maintain watercourses and ditches on adjacent land under the Land Drainage Act 1991 – further advice at https://flood.essex.gov.uk/. Obstruction to flows can be enforced (permissive powers) by Essex County Council Floods Team. Please use the online reporting tool to submit photos and details at https://flood.essex.gov.uk/</p>
Public sewers (foul), storm drains	<p>Four water companies are responsible for the supply of clean drinking water, and for the removal and treatment of wastewater across Essex. Unusual heavy rainfall can overwhelm drainage systems and cause flooding.</p> <p>The water company (see list below) who provides the sewer service is responsible for any section of pipe that lies outside the boundary of the property and any shared pipes within the boundary of the property.</p> <p>Anglian Water (supply and wastewater) 0345 791 9155 Thames Water (supply and wastewater) 0800 316 9800 Affinity Water (supply only) 0345 357 2407 Essex and Suffolk Water (supply only) 0345 782 0999</p>
Flood and water concerns caused by new development/housing	<p>Customer should contact the relevant Local Planning Authority (Tendring District Council for Manningtree) in the first instance.</p> <p>Essex standards for new development drainage can be viewed in the Essex SUDS Design Guide. Developers are encouraged to use our SuDS Planning Advice service.</p>
Other useful links and support	<p>National Flood Forum Supporting Communities — The National Flood Forum exists to support individuals & communities at risk of flooding. We care about putting people first to ensure they are aware of their flood risk. Advice & Guidance.</p> <p>Flood Hub - https://thefloodhub.co.uk/</p>

