

Cabinet Member for City Services

13 September 2023

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Transportation, Highways and Sustainability

**Ward affected:**

Woodlands

**Title:**

Petition E7/23 – Broad Lane, Upper Eastern Green

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

A petition with 140 signatures was received requesting the Council pursue negotiations with partner authorities and stakeholders to resolve the matters relating to flooding of the Upper Brookstray.

In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to flooding are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member has considered the petition prior to this meeting and requested that the petition be dealt with a formal report being submitted to this meeting.

It has been determined that the Council will continue to work with the Environment Agency and Severn Trent in an effort to reduce the risk of flooding at the Brookstray, Upper Eastern Green.

**Recommendations:**

Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

- 1) Note the petitioners' concerns;
- 2) Endorse the action to support the continued work with the Environment Agency and Severn Trent in an effort to reduce the risk of flooding at the Brookstray, Upper Eastern Green.

**List of Appendices included:**

Appendix A – Upstream Area Draining to Brookstray at Broad lane / Banner Lane Junction.  
Appendix B – Example Property Flood Resilience Measures.  
Appendix C – Example Natural Flood Management Measures.

**Background Papers:**

None

**Other useful documents:**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel, or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

## Report title: Petition E7/23 – Broad Lane, Upper Eastern Green

### 1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 A petition with 140 signatures was received requesting the Council pursue negotiations with partner authorities and stakeholders to resolve the matters relating to flooding of the Upper Brookstray. The Petition was sponsored by Councillor Ridley
- 1.2 The petition reads as follows:

“We the undersigned petition the Council, as Lead Local Flood authority to pursue vigorously negotiations with partner authorities and other stakeholders to resolve matters relating to persistent flooding from the upper Brookstray that affects parts of Woodlands Ward.
- 1.3 Extreme rainfall was known to have occurred in June 2023 and the flooding that occurred on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June is being investigated by the Council, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent.
- 1.4 To help reduce risk of flooding to date, the Council as Highway Authority has carried out drainage improvements to the traffic island at the junction of Banner Lane with Broad Lane. Additionally as part of this, the Council raised the level of the road resulting in less overland flow risk to the homes at Goldthorn Close.
- 1.5 The Council as Lead Local Flood Authority has carried out improvements to the drainage arrangements at Hockley Lane to reduce risk of flooding to homes and also at the junction of Hockley Lane and Broad Lane.
- 1.6 Seven Trent have installed depth monitors in the foul sewers and surface water sewers in the area on Hockley Lane and at the junction of Broad Lane / Hockley Lane. The monitors measure the depth of flow in the sewer network to increase understanding of performance of the sewers, aid ongoing hydraulic modelling of the sewers and to provide advance notice of any blockages building up.
- 1.7 Severn Trent Water regularly clean their drainage at Broad Lane and removed large items of debris in August 2021 from the large diameter pipework at the Banner Lane junction with Broad Lane. Further camera surveys of the drainage are being a planned as a part of their investigation into the flooding.
- 1.8 The Environment Agency clean the trash screen at the junction of Banner Lane with Board Lane to reduce risk of pipework blockage and also continuously monitor the depth of water in the river.
- 1.9 The Council has been working in collaboration with the Environment Agency as they have been considering options to reduce the risk of flooding at this location. Land surveys of 77 properties have been carried out together with surveying drainage channels to inform their hydraulic modelling.
- 1.10 Following the first stage modelling, the Environment Agency concluded that the flood risk is a combination for river flows (EA), surface water (LLFA) and sewer flooding (ST). Because of this, closer working of the Environment Agency with Severn Trent and the Council is occurring.

- 1.11 The Environment Agency ruled out a 23000 cubic metre water storage option upstream to reduce flood risk because this did not adequately protect the number of homes needed.
- 1.12 Building on the success of the flood reduction measures at Allesley and with the agreement of upstream land-owners outside Coventry, a means of slowing the flow into the river are being installed. 20 measures have been installed so far and more are planned in upstream land (see Appendix A to the report). These measures are being rolled out nationally and are proving to be successful.
- 1.13 Officers recommend supporting the Environment Agency in their business case to reduce flood risk. Based the success of the measures rolled out at Allesley the most economical options would be Property Flood Resilience in combination with the Natural Flood Management (see Appendices B and C to the report).

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 The recommended actions in response to the issues raised are set out in paragraph 1.12 of the report.

## **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken.

## **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1 The agreed actions will be undertaken during the current financial year.

## **5. Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (section 151 Officer) and the Chief Legal Officer**

### **5.1 Financial implications**

There are no direct financial implications relating to the recommendations in this report.

The cost of introducing flood risk reduction measures is funded from a mixture of sources, Flood Defence Grant in Aid, Local Levy and Highways Maintenance Capital Programme budget.

### **5.2 Legal implications**

Acting as a 'risk management authority' in respect of highway drainage for the purposes of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

## **6. Other implications**

### **6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?**

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>

By reducing flood risk, the agreed actions will contribute to all six priorities of the One Coventry Plan.

**6.2 How is risk being managed?**

Delivery risks relating to the agreed scope of works will be managed through established contractual and supervisory processes of the Environment Agency with steer from Project Board.

**6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

None.

**6.4 Equalities / EIA**

The agreed actions will be of particular benefit to local residents, including children and young people live in the community.

**6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment**

The Natural Flood Management approach is a nationally recognised as means of reducing the impact of climate change and increasing Ecology and Biodiversity. The Property Flood Resilience approach is a nationally recognised as means of reducing the impact of climate change and enhancing sustainable living.

**6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

By reducing the rainfall flows into the sewers and river this will reduce the maintenance Burden on Severn Trent water and the Environment Agency.

**Report author:**

**Name and job title:**

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**Service Area:**

Transportation, Highways and Sustainability

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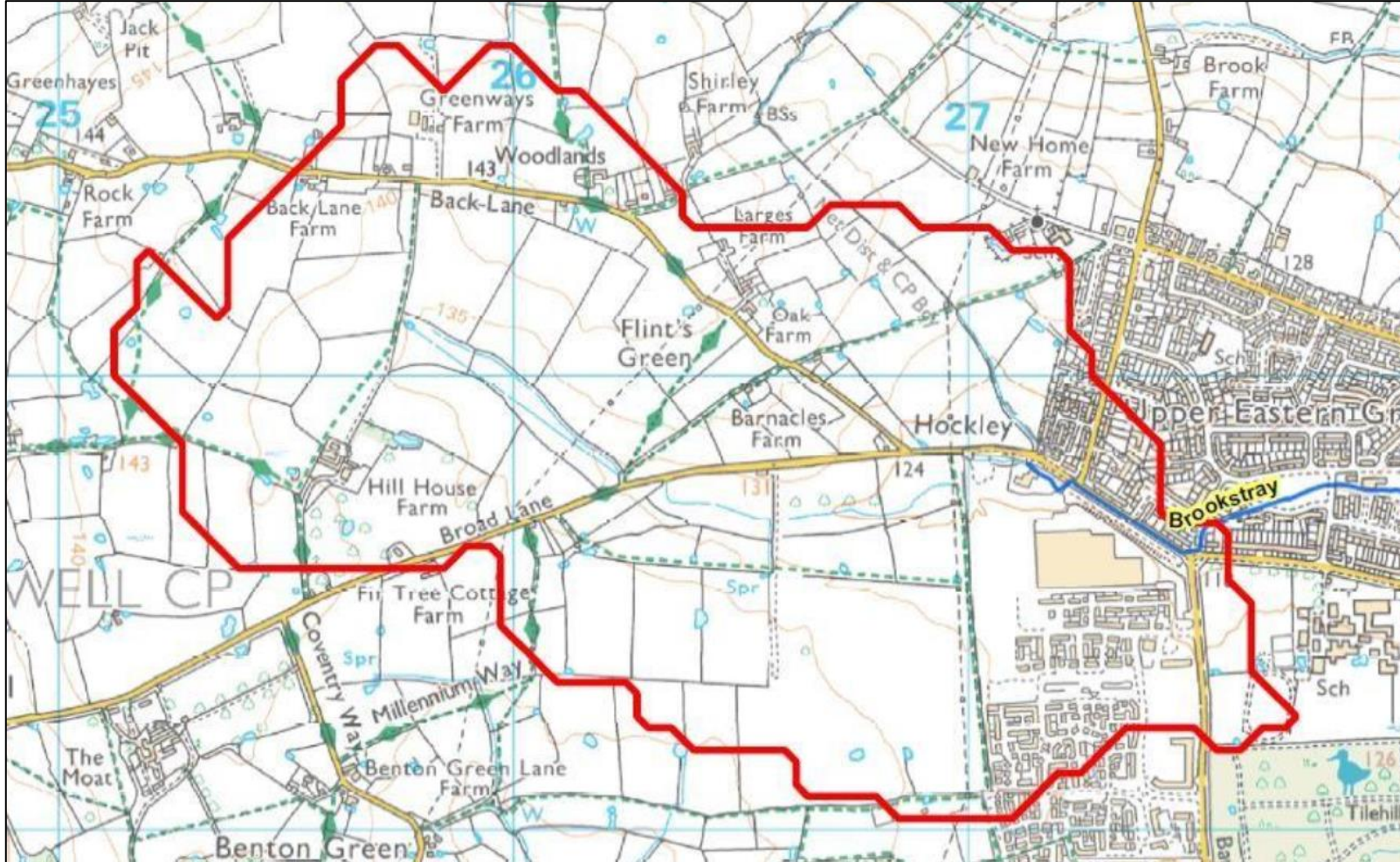
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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

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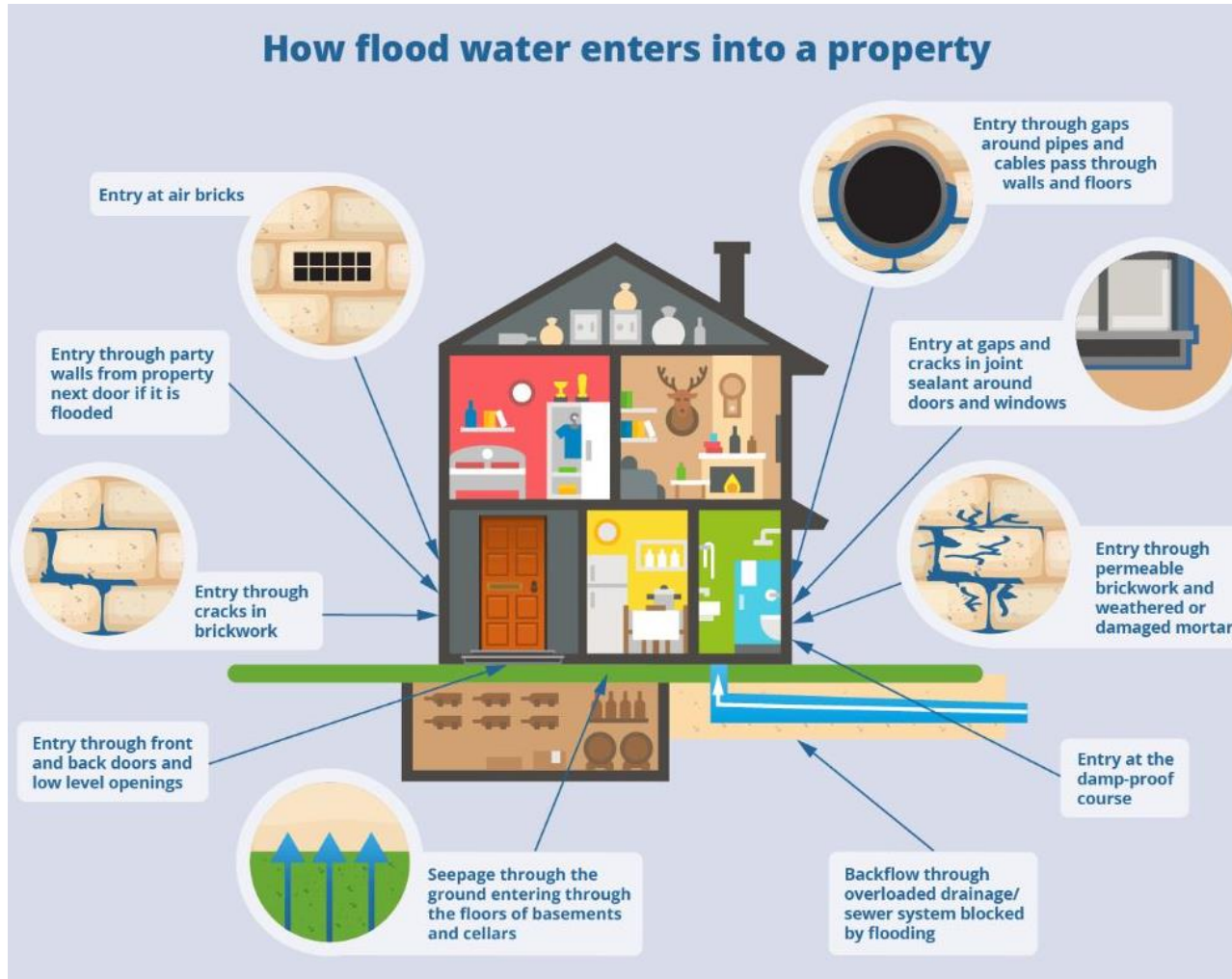
Appendix A – Upstream Area Draining to Brookstray at Broad Lane / Banner Lane Junction.



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## Appendix B – Example Property Flood Resistance Measures





## Appendix C – Example Natural Flood Management Measures

### Offline Storage Areas

Areas which have been adapted to store and then release flood waters in a controlled manner, reducing peak flow



### Woody Debris

Can reduce flood risk by slowing river flow and encouraging storage of water in the flood plain



### Catchment and Floodplain Woodlands

Can intercept, slow, store and filter water. This can help reduce flood peaks, flood flows and flood frequency

