



Flooding information pack for Hanging Chadder

Flood risk (ed. 2)

6 JUNE 2021

SAVE ROYTON'S GREENBELT COMMUNITY GROUP

saveroytonsgreenbelt.com

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Background

Hanging Chadder is a Green Belt site comprising approximately 22 ha of farm land in the village of Thornham, in the Royton North ward of the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham. The site is adjacent to the Grasmere estate on its southern border and is bounded by Rochdale Road on its western flank, and Fir Lane on the east.

Residents of Grasmere Road and Firbank primary school have been plagued by surface water run-off from Hanging Chadder for years and a flood mitigation scheme was proposed in 2016. In December 2017, Unity Partnership (acting on behalf of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council) successfully applied for a grant from the Environment Agency to finance a drainage study (a copy of the grant application is provided in Appendix B). The Environment Agency agreed to commit £49,000 to the study, with United Utilities and OMBC each committing £6,000, for a total of £61,000. The purpose of the study was to investigate the surface water flooding issues with the aim of identifying flood mitigation measures, and implementing a drainage solution in 2019. As of February 2021 the study has not been completed.

Concurrent with the drainage investigation, the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) was also being developed. The GMSF was a joint development plan between the ten districts of Greater Manchester which proposed to build approximately 200,000 dwellings over a 20-year period. Hanging Chadder has been allocated for residential development in both the previous drafts of the GMSF (600 dwellings in the 2016 draft and 260 dwellings in the 2019 draft). It was also allocated in the aborted 2020 draft that failed to go out to public consultation. A concept plan for the proposed development is provided in Appendix A. Despite the known flooding issues Hanging Chadder was only subject to a strategic flood risk assessment (based on the study of flood zone maps), as opposed to a site-specific flood risk assessment.

This document is mostly a collection of documents relating to the proposed flood mitigation solution, and two problematic questions emerge for which so far there are no satisfactory answers:

- In 2018 Unity Partnership was awarded a grant of £61,000 to undertake a drainage study. This should have been completed in 2018 and the drainage solution implemented in 2019, but as of February 2021 the study has not been completed. Meanwhile, the residents of Grasmere have to endure persistent flooding issues which the grant application itself acknowledges will likely increase distress if the issue goes unchecked. The prevailing question here is what has happened to the study and the grant?
- The second question is why was the site allocated in the GMSF when, based on the known flooding issues, it was not possible to form a prima facie judgement that the site was suitable for development? There is a big difference between a strategic flood risk assessment finding that the site may be at risk of flooding, and the knowledge that flooding is occurring to such an extent that a flood mitigation solution is required. Since funds had already been sourced to undertake the study then it is not clear why it did not proceed and inform the allocation of the site.

Grasmere drainage study

Residents of Grasmere Rd. and Firbank primary school have been plagued by surface water run-off for years and a flood mitigation scheme was proposed in 2016. In December 2017, Unity Partnership (acting on behalf of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council) successfully applied for a grant from the Environment Agency to fund a drainage study. The Environment Agency agreed to commit £49,000 to the study, with United Utilities and OMBC each committing £6,000, for a total of £61,000.

The proposed study covered the following streets:

- Grasmere Road
- Hawkshead Drive
- Windermere Road
- Firlane

The aim of the study is to investigate surface water flooding issues at Grasmere Road, and to identify flood mitigation measures. The investigation would undertake a topographical survey, a survey of the existing drainage, a ground survey, and hydrological modelling to confirm the scale of surface water flows and to assess the extent of proposed remedial works. The grant was awarded to fund the initial outline investigation and prepare a Short Form Business Case.

The project was scheduled to take place during 2018 and 2019:

01/01/2018–01/07/2018: Study and Short Form Business Case (£61,000);

01/10/2018–01/04/2019: Design of scheme;

01/04/2019–01/07/2019: Procurement of works and tendering of contracts;

01/07/2019–01/01/2020: Construction

In the event that nothing is done in the study area, the grant application makes the following observations:

- 65 properties would still be at risk of surface water flooding for up to a 1 in a 100 year return period rainfall event.
- The social vulnerability in the area and distress to residents caused by recent flooding events is very likely to increase.
- Grasmere would still be at risk of surface water flooding.

The goal of the project is to “significantly reduce surface water flooding risk to residents of Grasmere”.

In February 2021, Unity Partnership confirmed to Save Royton’s Greenbelt that the study had not been completed.

The grant application was obtained by a Freedom of Information request to the Environment Agency (https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/drainage_study_for_the_grasmere) and a copy is provided in Appendix B.

A Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for Hanging Chadder was undertaken for the GMSF, which assessed the flood risk based on the site's proximity to flood zones. This phase did not involve any site-specific work and was based solely on the study of maps. This stage found that Hanging Chadder was in Flood Zone 1, with 2.98 percent of the site at low risk of surface water flooding, 1.38 percent at risk of medium flooding, and 0.51% at high risk (*GM SFRA Level 1 Appendix B Sites Assessment Part 1 – Oldham*). Because the assessment concluded that the flood risk was "not considered significant", the strategic recommendation was that development could be permitted subject to a site-specific FRA (*Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Greater Manchester – Oldham BC Sites Assessment*, February 2019; p. 20). According to a Freedom of Information request to Oldham Council (via Noel Mahon; https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/drainage_flood_mitigation_hangin), Vicky Davies of OMBC stated in her response (22 January 2021) that the "GM Level 1 SFRA meets the evidence base requirements to support the strategic allocations in the GMSF".

As the strategic recommendation goes to pains to stress, it does not take account of local circumstances, only that part of the site falls within a flood zone. The recommendation itself is contingent on the risk of surface water flooding not being considered "significant". Here lies the rub: in its grant application to the Environment Agency, Unity Partnership concluded that Grasmere would still be at risk of surface water flooding and the distress to residents caused by recent flooding events would likely increase, if the situation were not addressed. It is not only reasonable to conclude that there is a risk of surface water flooding, there is actual documented evidence of such events. Therefore the assessment that the risk of surface water flooding is not considered significant is demonstrably incorrect, and the strategic recommendation should have been rejected on this basis.

There is a question of propriety regarding OMBC's decision. Why did it accept the strategic recommendation for Hanging Chadder on the basis that the risk was not considered significant, when it had been awarded a grant to undertake a study and produce a business case to "significantly reduce surface water flooding risk to residents of Grasmere"? Did OMBC misrepresent the risk of flooding during the GMSF consultation or did it misrepresent the severity of the flooding to the Environment Agency?

Appendix A – Concept plan for Hanging Chadder allocation



Form FCERM 7: Application for approval of studies and strategies

Application for approval of studies and strategies

Risk management authority (RMA)

**Environment
Agency**

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Please read through this form and write clearly in the spaces provided.

Please send a signed copy of this form to the Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager for approval.

Their contact details are on our website:
www.environment-agency.gov.uk.**Contents**

Part A Study or strategy details
 Part B Type of funding
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 Part L Spending profile
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 Part N Contact us

Part A Study or strategy details**A1 Title of study or strategy**

Grasmere, Royton

A2 Name of your authority

Oldham Borough Council

A3 Start date (DD/MM/YYYY)

01/01/2018

A4 End date (DD/MM/YYYY)

01/07/2018

A5 National project number (Capital Investment Plan reference number)**A6 Environment Agency region, Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and area**

North West

A7 Which type of risk management is your study or strategy for?For example, river flooding, surface-water management
Surface water management**Part A Study or strategy details, continued****A8 Role or job title****Project manager****Name**

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Other)

First name

Last name

Signature

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

07/12/2017

Project executive**Name**

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Other)

First name

Last name

Signature

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

07/12/2017

Part B Type of funding**B1 Details for the types of funding**

Type	Amount (£ thousands)	Percentage (%)
Flood and coastal erosion risk management grant in aid (FCERM GiA)	61	100
Local levy		
Own revenue	6/13/18 6	
External contribution	6/13/18 6	
Total contribution	61	100

B2 Confirmation

I confirm that I have attached all necessary supporting documents to this form and that the application meets the conditions set out in the grant memorandum. ☐

Signature _____

Name of authorised officer _____

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Other) _____

First name _____

Last name _____

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

07/12/2017

B2 Confirmation, continued

Contact name (for queries)

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Other) _____

First name _____

Last name _____

Contact numbers, including the area code

Phone _____

Fax _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

Part C Value of study or strategy

Value of study or strategy	Amount (£ thousands)
Total costs of study or strategy	61
Less administrative and legislative costs that are not eligible for a grant	
Study or strategy costs (for approval)	
Less contributions	12
Less contingency identified in the Outline Business Case	
Net amount of grant applied for	49

Part D Environmental impact assessment (EIA)**D1 Level of environmental impact assessment (EIA) required**

Does not apply ☒

Low ☐

Medium ☐

High ☐

Part E Background

Take from your project mandate or executive summary.

Briefly explain what needs to be studied, including the geographical area and how the study links to agreed plans, strategies and programmes.

The study area is a site at Grasmere Road, Royton, Oldham. The study area consists of the following streets; Grasmere Road, Hawkshead Drive, Windermere Road, and Fir Lane. The study area is an urban area, consisting of residential properties. To the north and south east of the site is agricultural land.

This study links with:

- the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Oldham Council ,
- the Greater Manchester Surface Water Management Plan (January 2013) which states that in the Oldham area there are 321 residential properties, 78 non-residential, and 37 critical infrastructure properties that are at risk of flooding from surcharged manholes during a 1 in 30 year rainfall event.
- the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (Oldham Council, June 2011) states, based on the EA's FMFSW (1 in 200-year rainfall) that within Oldham Council administrative area approximately 8,000 properties are at risk of flooding to a depth above of 0.3m for 1 in 200 year rainfall event.

Part F Objectives

State clearly what the study is trying to achieve.

The aim of the study is to investigate surface water flooding issues at Grasmere, and to identify flood mitigation measures to progress to detailed design and construction stages. The outcome of the project will be to significantly reduce surface water flooding risk to the residents of Grasmere.

This Application includes a request for the fees to undertake the initial outline investigation and prepare a Short Form Business Case.

This will be carried out in accordance with the EA FCERM guidance to determine the feasibility of flood mitigation measures and recommend a preferred solution to address and significantly reduce surface water flooding following technical, financial, environmental and social appraisals. The preferred solution will then be taken to detailed design and construction stages.

Part G Consulting stakeholders

Briefly outline who you are going to consult and their interests.

The stakeholders who are to be consulted include:

- Local residents at Grasmere
- Various departments of Oldham Council (highways, planning, emergency services, environment)
- Environment Agency
- United Utilities

Various discussions have already taken place since the beginning of 2015 between the Council and affected residents (various departments of Oldham Council - highways, planning, emergency services, and environment).

Part H Options considered

Briefly describe the cost and risk implications of the extent and depth of the study and the courses of action you have considered – including doing nothing – and the reasons for the preferred scale of study.

If nothing is undertaken in the study area, then;

- 65 properties would still be at risk of surface water flooding for up to a 1 in 100 year return period rainfall event.
- The social vulnerability in the area and distress to the residents/home owners caused by recent flooding events is very likely to increase.
- Grasmere would still be at risk of surface water flooding.

Do something options may consist of the following;

- Construction of a new surface water sewer in Grasmere.
- Construction of a SUDs drainage system in the fields north of Grasmere connecting to the new surface water sewer.

We therefore propose to carry out an initial study to confirm the cause of surface water flooding and to evaluate appropriate flood alleviation measures. The preferred flood alleviation measure will be presented in a Short Form Business Case to seek necessary funding to progress to detailed design and construction stages. The initial study will include for a C2 statutory services enquiry, topographical survey, drainage survey of the existing drainage, ground investigations and a ground penetrating survey of the existing statutory services. Budget 61k.

The risks of the study are low as initial investigations and consultation with stakeholders have already taken place.

A risk register will be put in place and monitored by the Council during the implementation of the study. Also, regular updates will be provided to the EA representatives and AGMA.

Part I Study plan

Briefly set out the methods you will use to achieve the objectives of the study (for example, site surveys, photographs, physical or mathematical modelling), and any potential problems or risks.

The elements of the proposed study are as follows

1. Data collection and liaising with key stakeholders.
2. C2 statutory services enquiry, topographical survey, drainage survey of the existing drainage, ground investigations and a ground penetrating survey of the existing statutory services.
3. Hydrological modelling to confirm the scale of surface water flows and assess the extent of proposed remedial works.
4. Agreeing with key stakeholders the preferred flood mitigation measure.
5. Draft and final Short Form Business Case.

UU is to contribute £6k and Oldham Council £6k.

Part J Schedule of work

Briefly describe the project milestones.

Description of milestone	Estimated start date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Estimated end date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Budget (£ thousands)
1. Data collection and liaising with key stakeholders. 2. C2 statutory services enquiry, topographical survey, drainage survey of the existing drainage, ground investigations and a ground penetrating survey of the existing statutory services. 3. Hydrological modelling to confirm the scale of surface water flows and assess the extent of proposed remedial works. 4. Agreeing with key stakeholders the preferred flood mitigation measure. 5. Draft and final Short Form Business Case.	01/01/2018	01/07/2018	61
Detailed design of the scheme	01/10/2018	01/04/2019	TBC
Procurement of the works including preparation of tender and contract documents	01/04/2019	01/07/2019	TBC
Capital works including mobilisation, construction, and site supervision	01/07/2019	01/01/2020	TBC

Part K Product description

Briefly set out what your project will deliver and what quality standards you will put in place and how they will be monitored, for example by a client group or independent reviewer.

Product	Quality standards	Quality review method
1 Short Form Business Case Report according to the EA FCERM guidance.	EA FCERM guidance.	Internal and Client group (including EA representative).
2		
3		
4		

Part L Spending profile

Set out the breakdown of the study's estimated costs and the profile of planned spending (cash).

Cost of study	Spending profile			
	Year 2018 (£ thousands)	Year <input type="text"/> (£ thousands)	Year <input type="text"/> (£ thousands)	Year <input type="text"/> (£ thousands)
Short Form Business Case	61			

Part M The Data Protection Act 1998

We, the Environment Agency, will process the information you provide so that we can deal with your application, make sure

you keep to the conditions of the licence, permit or registration, and process renewals.

We may also process or release the information to:

- offer you documents or services relating to environmental matters;
- consult the public, public organisations and other organisations (for example, the Health and Safety Executive, local authorities, the emergency services, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) on environmental issues;
- carry out research and development work on environmental issues;
- provide information from the public register to anyone who asks;
- prevent anyone from breaking environmental law, investigate cases where environmental law may have been broken, and take any action that is needed;
- assess whether customers are satisfied with our service, and to improve our service; and
- respond to requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (if the Data Protection Act allows).

We may pass the information on to our agents or representatives to do these things for us.

Part N Contact us

If you need help filling in this form, please contact the person who sent you it or contact us as shown below.

Grant Administration Team
Environment Agency
Manley House
Kestrel Way
Exeter
EX2 7LQ

Telephone: 02030 252221

Email: laiddfinance@environment-agency.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/flood-and-coastal-defence-funding-for-risk-management-authorities>

Please tell us if you need information in a different language or format (for example, in large print) so we can keep in touch with you more easily.



For Environment Agency use only

Note to AFCRM: Please send this FCERM7 to the grant administration team for approval.

Name of Area Flood and Coastal Risk Manager

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Other) [redacted]

First name [redacted]

Last name [redacted]

Job title [redacted]

Signature [redacted]

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)
7/3/18

Grant administration team

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Other) [redacted]

First name [redacted]

Last name [redacted]

Job title [redacted]

Signature [redacted]

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)
[redacted]

Risk management authority

Strategy or study project report

Project title [redacted]

Name of authority [redacted]

Name of chair of National Project Assurance Service or the Large Project Review Group

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Other) [redacted]

First name [redacted]

Last name [redacted]

Job title [redacted]

Signature [redacted]

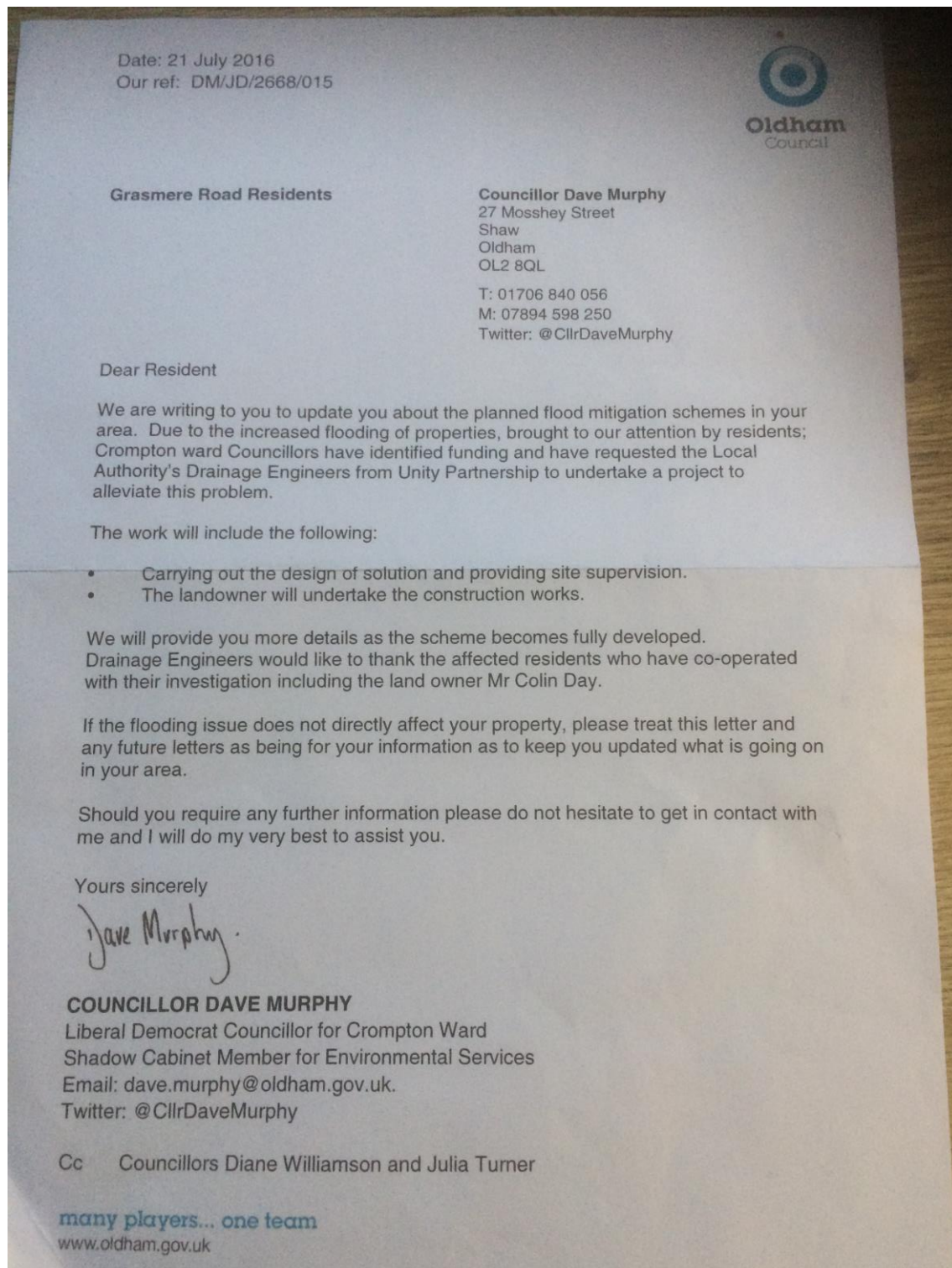
Date (DD/MM/YYYY)
[redacted]

Form FCERM 7: Application for approval of studies and strategies

National project number (Capital Investment Plan reference number)

Authority project reference number

Appendix C – Correspondence with residents



Date: 19 February 2017
Our ref: DM/LF/003



Councillor Dave Murphy
27 Mosshey Street
Shaw
Oldham
OL2 8QL

T: 01706 840 056
M: 07894 598 250
Twitter: @CllrDaveMurphy

Dear Residents

Re: Flood Mitigation Scheme

I would like to invite you to a residents' update meeting regarding the flood mitigation scheme proposed around the areas of Fir Lane, Eskdale Avenue and Grasmere Road.

This is a follow up meeting to the one held last year when we discussed our proposal for a flood mitigation scheme.

This next meeting is an opportunity for us to update you on our progress and for you to ask questions.

The meeting will take place on **Wednesday 14th March 6pm at Royton Town Hall.**

If you work for an insurance company please could you contact me ASAP to discuss your participation in the meeting.

I look forward to meeting you.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Murphy".

COUNCILLOR DAVE MURPHY
Liberal Democrat Councillor for Crompton Ward
Shadow Cabinet Member for Environmental Services
Email: dave.murphy@oldham.gov.uk
Twitter: @CllrDaveMurphy
Cc: Councillors D Williamson, J Turner

many players... one team
www.oldham.gov.uk

Date: 06 March 2017
Our ref: DM/JD/DW/JT

Councillor Dave Murphy
27 Mosshey Street
Shaw
Oldham
OL2 8QL
T: 01706 840 056
M: 07894 598 250
Twitter: @CllrDaveMurphy



Dear Resident

Re Flood mitigation scheme works

I would like to apologise for not keeping you up to date as much as I would of like to, but the weather has played a big part with this project so it has been difficult to tell you anything concrete and be able to stick to any deadlines.

However, I am pleased to advise you that the planned flood mitigation scheme works in your area have now been completed; we do still have an issue in one particular area, which we are treating as a priority and it will be addressed as soon as possible.

It would be helpful if you could let me know if you are experiencing any further problems or the flooding situation has not improved. If I do not hear from you I will assume that everything is satisfactory and you are happy with the works.

I would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank the affected residents who have been extremely patient and have co-operated with our investigations, including the land owner Mr Colin Day.

If the flooding issue does not directly affect your property, please treat this letter as being just for your information and to keep you updated about what is going on in your area.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to get in contact with me and I will do my very best to assist you.

For your further reference please find on the reverse of this letter a list of contact details for my Crompton colleagues, some useful telephone numbers and a list of when our future ward surgeries are being held, which you may also find helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Murphy".

COUNCILLOR DAVE MURPHY
Liberal Democrat Councillor for Crompton Ward
Shadow Cabinet Member for Environmental Services
Email: dave.murphy@oldham.gov.uk.

Residents

Councillor Dave Murphy
27 Mosshey Street
Shaw
Oldham
OL2 8QL

T: 01706 840 056
M: 07894 598 250
Twitter: @CllrDaveMurphy

Dear Resident

I have been contacted by concerned residents in the area with regards to obtaining sandbags to safeguard their properties from water which is running off the farm land nearby. Although work is underway to resolve this issue it is being held up by the bad weather we have been experiencing recently.

Unfortunately Oldham Council has a policy which does not allow residents to be provided with sandbags free of charge.

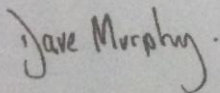
My colleagues Councillors Julia Turner, Diane Williamson and I have agreed to fund a number of sandbags from our own budget to provide for those residents in need on Fir Lane, Grasmere Road and Eskdale Avenue.

If you require sandbags please could you contact the District Team on 0161 770 8172 to advise how many you require along with your contact details?

I will then arrange for our Highways Department to deliver these to the affected properties as soon as possible.

If the District Team have not heard from you by Tuesday 4th April they will assume that you do not require any sandbags providing.

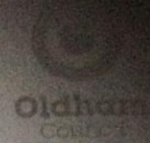
Best regards



COUNCILLOR DAVE MURPHY
Liberal Democrat Councillor for Crompton Ward
Shadow Cabinet Member for Environmental Services
Email: dave.murphy@oldham.gov.uk.
Twitter: @CllrDaveMurphy

Cc Councillors H Sykes, R Blyth and C Gloster

Date: 24 July 2017
Our ref: DM/JD/034



Councillor Dave Murphy
27 Mosshey Street
Shaw
Oldham
OL2 8QL

T: 01706 840 056
M: 07894 598 250
Twitter: @CllrDaveMurphy

Dear Residents

Re: Meet the team

I would like to invite you to a residents' meeting to discuss the ongoing issue of flooding around the areas of Fir Lane, Eskdale Avenue and Grasmere Road.

Unfortunately the minor works which were recently carried out in the area have not been as successful as we had hoped. So I would like to discuss what will be happening next when this area becomes part of the Environment Agency's major flood defence scheme.

This meeting will also give you the opportunity to meet Crompton ward Councillors, and officers from Oldham Council who have been involved in the recent Council scheme.

The meeting will take place on **Wednesday 9th August at 6pm at Royton Town Hall** – if this matter does not affect you please treat this letter as for your information, letting you know what is going on in your area.

For your further reference please find attached a list of contact details for my Crompton ward colleagues and also a list of when our advice centres are being held in the future which you may also find helpful.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Murphy".

COUNCILLOR DAVE MURPHY
Liberal Democrat Councillor for Crompton Ward
Shadow Cabinet Member for Environmental Services
Email: dave.murphy@oldham.gov.uk
Twitter: @CllrDaveMurphy
Cc: Councillors D Williamson, J Turner

Minutes

Grasmere Partnership Meeting Notes

Wednesday 14th March 2018

Royton Town Hall

6:00pm 7:30pm

Present:	Councillor Dave Murphy (DM) Chair	Crompton Ward Councillor (OMBC)
	Councillor Clint Pythian (CP)	Royton North Ward Councillor (OMBC)
	Councillor Diane Williamson (DW)	Crompton Ward Councillor (OMBC)
	Antony Bhunu (AB)	Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)
	Gordon Anderson (GA)	Head of Highways & Engineering Unity Partnership
	Stephanie Young (SY)	PSO Flood Risk management Officer
	Amy Lomas (AL)	Environment Agency (EA)
	Peter Costello (PC)	Flood Resilience Officer, Environment Agency (EA)
	John Kinsella (JK)	PSO Team Leader Environment Agency (EA)
	Rebecca Hughes (RH)	Flood Resilience Officer Environment Agency (EA)
	Steve Kirkland (SK)	United Utilities (UU)
	9 Residents signed in (more attended)	Firbank School
	Jill Holden (JH)	Residents
	Eve Edwards (EE)	Greater Manchester Combined Authorities (GMCA)
		Royton, Shaw & Crompton District Team (OMBC)
Apologies:	Councillor H Roberts	Royton North Ward Councillor (OMBC)
	Councillor J Larkin	Royton North Ward Councillor (OMBC)
	Councillor J Turner	Crompton Ward Councillor (OMBC)

1 Welcome and Introductions

DM welcomed everyone to the meeting, informed of housekeeping and introductions were made. DM highlighted the importance of Residents, Environment Agency, United Utilities and OMBC all working together in true partnership in order to progress and achieve best possible outcomes. DM advised the meeting of the running order and thanked the Royton, Shaw & Crompton District Team for their support.

2 Actions from meeting held 9th August 2017

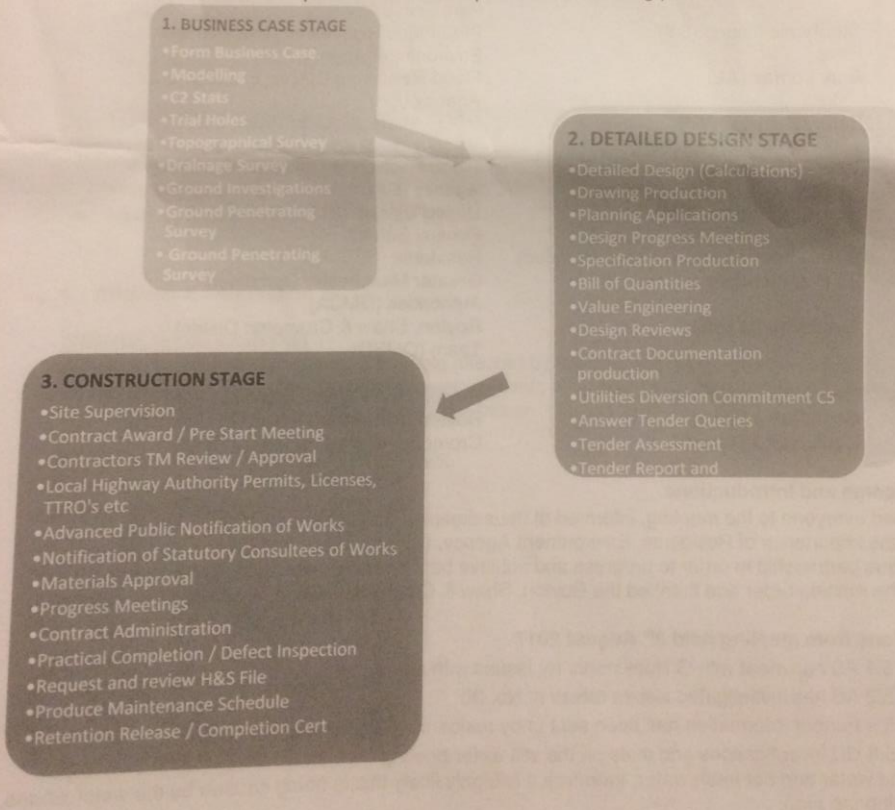
- Item 5.1 AB has meet with G Hopkinson; re: issues with pipes
- Item 5.2 AB has investigated issues raised at No. 30
- Item 5.5 Further information has been sent in by residents, DM thanked residents
- Item 5.6 UU investigations and tests on the still water pooling (No. 22 on drive) has shown to be ground water and not fresh water; therefore it is highly likely this is being caused by the wider issues affecting the area.

3 Presentation; Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)

3.1 AB welcomed the meeting and introduced GA. GA informed the meeting of LLFA status, and what this means to Grasmere, the Borough and nationally highlighting the following points;

- In 2010 the Government made the decision to delegate flooding responsibilities to Local Authorities this includes; identifying, coordinating, leading, facilitating, managing flood risks and securing funding
- No financial support came from the government to support the shift of responsibilities
- Due the above point it is imperative Oldham Council; along with all local Authorities nationally, work in partnership with the EA, UU and anyone who may be impacted by floods / potential floods to secure funding and to solve problems
- Oldham Council is a Cooperative Council which welcomes partnership working with a good reputation for securing funding and delivering projects with a true Cooperative approach

3.2 AB continued the presentation and explained the following process;



- The issues affecting Grasmere is Oldham Council's priority flooding project/scheme.
- £61,000 is required for the Business Case Stage.
- Each partner agency has multiple approval processes which must by law be adhered to in order for a decision on funding to be made.
- With EA, all applications nationally go through the same approval process. No solutions will be reached quickly; it will take time.
- We are progressing through the systems and processes this is an opportunity to ensure the best possible case presented.

Current Status

- The project is currently at Business Case Stage, which requires £61,000 funding to be undertaken.
- The £61k has been secured, 10% Oldham Council, 10% UU and 80% Grant-in-Aid bid through Environmental Agency. This is to undertake a deep site investigation, which will inform options to remedy the issues and support Grasmere's case for funding.
- Approval for Grant in Aid funding for the investigative works was received in March 2018. Final approval for this funding from EA's finance team is being awaited.

Next steps

- As soon as the business case funding is confirmed undertake the investigative works to confirm the scale and costs after identifying a viable project.
- It is envisioned that the Business Case report will be submitted in summer/autumn depending on when the final approval is received from EA's team.

If the business case meets required criteria

- Wait for allocation of funding from partners
- Undertake the Detailed Design Stage, followed by the Construction stage.

PC spoke to the meeting to give assurances from the EA explaining the decision making process, the following noted;

Confirmed Oldham Council does have a good reputation and does a good job in presenting cases, securing funding and delivering projects alongside partners.

In relation to the bid process it was explained that each year the Environment Agency invite flood risk management authorities to submit details of proposed and ongoing flood and coastal erosion flood management works (FCRM) which require central government funding (FCRM GiA). The EA administer this FCRM GiA on behalf of the government.

Preparing a bid for GiA funding; Securing contributions and navigating the assurance process is a complicated process however it is necessary to have all the assurances required which ensure projects allocated funding are viable.

4 Questions from the audience

- 4.1 Anne Newman 34 Grasmere Road resident asked for clarification regarding the presentation stating £61k has been secured for investigation on the land but the minutes from the previous meeting stating was to be made in September 2017 of allocation of £500,000. In addition she stated they had not had received any updates since Aug/Sept.

Response:
DM apologised for the misleading information in the minutes advising this was what we would like to see not definitive decision. AB acknowledged communication should have been better, assuring the group that a lot of work has been going on to progress this project. DM assured residents he would get better at keeping in touch and will ensure information sent out is up to date, clear and correct. DM & AB stated that residents will receive important information as and when matters arise; however there will aim to provide updates issued quarterly.

4.2 Question

Rosemary Hamer asked what is the time scale for the investigation works?

Response:
AB advised Unity Partnership will undertake the investigation and survey works, and their anticipated completion is late summer or early autumn 2018. It was noted that detailed design and construction timescales are relatively unknown at this stage and will only be known once the business case has met the criteria. At that stage there will be clarity not only on timescales but also on project costs, scale of the project and its viability.

- 4.3 Question John Mellor (JM) 36 Grasmere Road questioned why the investigation process would be so long and why experts already working on this matter have not picked up the issues?

In addition, JM stated when the temporary works were undertaken by the farmer approx. 18 months ago no stone was used to fill the hole dug. A number of residents around the room also confirmed they did not see any stone being used

Response:
AB responded that detailed costly investigations were required in order to ensure that all issues are captured at the Business Case stage, reiterating the need for the right solution not a quick solution, which will end up being more expensive than envisaged. This information is also needed for supporting the business case report which is being produced.

DM explained that a land drainage filter drain was required on the farm land as a short term solution. Due to funding pressures, the Council agreed with the farmer that they would provide materials and the farmer would undertake the works using his own labour. This impacted areas differently for some; it has worked, unfortunately some made worse others areas it has made no difference. AB confirmed that a

specification was issued to the farmer who undertook most of the works during the weekends or bank holidays.

If there was an error in the fitting of the pipe, this will be investigated.

AB to visit the farm and JM's property to ensure that the farmer installs a bund which should direct surface water away from the houses towards the brook as previously intended. DM highlighted the farmer has been very helpful and in no way obstructive in trying to find a solution.

DM discussed another issue with water pooling on Windermere Road and stated that short term options are being assessed in line with available funding. Proposed solution will be confirmed within a week from this meeting date. In addition a long term solution would be done as part of the Grasmere scheme.

4.4 A resident asked if there is a possibility that funding will not be received and the scheme may not go ahead.

Response:

PC explained that grant in aid funding is limited and that all project bids are considered nationally and are prioritised based on the projects expected outcomes, benefits and costs. It was explained that at this stage it could not be guaranteed that the project would be allocated funding and if it were to be, in what year the funds would be allocated. With that in mind the focus is now on developing a business case (which will be subject to further approval further down the line) that presents the strongest case for the project.

4.5 Discussion in the room another property stated they also required a visit EE asked for the property number, this was confirmed as No.38

Discussion around the room ensued, the following noted;

- DM & AB made commitment improve communication and share information as it is received
- £500k referred to in previous minutes was an assumption, until all investigation works take place we have no way of knowing what may or may not be required.
- There is always a risk that this funding application will not be accepted as all projects bids are considered nationwide and grant in aid funding is limited. With that in mind the focus is on developing a business case that presents the strongest case for the project. AB partners, so the strongest possible case is presented
- The Government run a 6 year program we are all working to ensure this project is recognized at this level; to be a government priority as well as a local one.
- Timescales will vary depending on the investigations which can make coming up with a definitive date very difficult to predict add in the approval processes from local to Government level with competition nationally and the Timescales become almost impossible to predict .
- Councillors and AB to continue to address local issues and push the project through the systems
- GMSF highlighted the field area as a place they could build, it was highlighted as not a definitive list and any developers would need to include drainage/flooding risks assessment reports. The proposed development will have to go through a planning application process which will require comments from the LLFA, therefore it is unlikely it will be built without a solution being identified to the ongoing flooding. In addition the flood risk has been highlighted in many arenas, however it may be that the developer could come up with a solution.

4.6 Drawing discussions and meeting to a close DM thanked everyone for attending and invited the audience to meet with all the agencies for 1-1 discussions and highlight any further individual issues in which a resident communicated with Environmental Agency with regards to a flooding issue and this has now been raised to AB.

5 AOB

- Next update will be early summer.

Actions:	
• Improve Communications	OMBC
• Visit JM 36 and 38 Grasmere	AB
• Investigate pipe fitting determine if refitting is required	AB
• Follow up concerns re: pipes discussions prior to meeting	AB & DM
• Visit 38 Grasmere	AB

• Additional Information

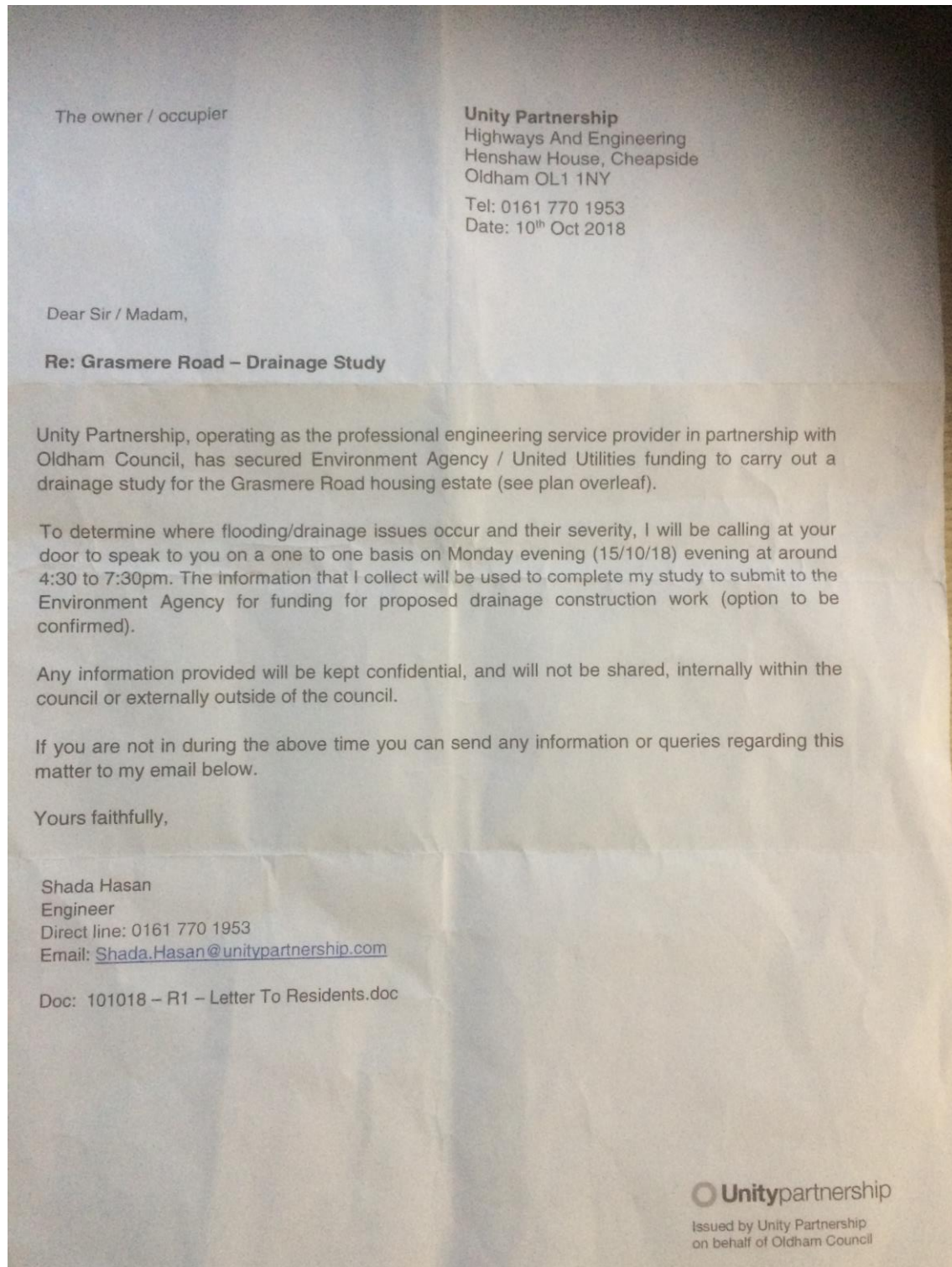
National Flood Forum (NFF) -

NFF is a charity working to support people affected by flooding and an excellent resource for advice and information. They may be able to assist residents in relation to insurance, property level protection, forming a flood group etc. Contact details are below

Website: <https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>

Telephone number: 01299 403 055

Email: info@floodforum.org.uk



Subject: RE: Drainage study for Grasmere housing estate
From: Jason Denniston <Jason.Denniston@unitypartnership.com>
Date: 03/03/2021, 13:16
To: [REDACTED]

Good afternoon Matthew.
I can confirm that I did receive your request on the 16th Feb 2021.
Sorry for the time taken to reply.
As this document / study has not been completed we are unable to provide you with the information that you have requested.
Jason

-----Original Message-----
From: Matthew Broadbent [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 February 2021 15:05
To: Unity Enquiries <Unity.Enquiries@oldham.gov.uk>
Subject: Drainage study for Grasmere housing estate

Dear Sir,

On the 15th February I wrote to Unity Partnership enquiring about the drainage study for Grasmere estate, undertaken in October 2018, by Shada Hasan (Doc: 101018 - R1 - Letter to residents.doc). I have not had a response from your organization. Will you please confirm that you received my enquiry and let me know if you are able to provide me with a copy. Thankyou.

Best regards,

Matthew Broadbent

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It is intended solely for the addressee. Access to this email by anyone else is unauthorised. If you have received it in error, please notify us immediately by replying to this e-mail and then delete it from your system.

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