

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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APPRAISAL OF FLOOD RISK IN KINGS BROMLEY

Kings Bromley sits within the wide natural flood plain of the River Trent which flows west to east just north of the village. A significant number of tributary streams, brooks and small water courses drain the area and flow in to it. The nearby River Blithe, flows out from Blithfield Reservoir about 5 miles north west of the village and joins the River Trent at Nethertown upstream and north west of the village. South of the village, Crawley Brook and Bourne Brook flow west to east and join the River Trent near Orgreave about 1 mile to the east.

The importance of upstream catchment management is highlighted by an event in 2000 whereby a failure of management control at the upstream Blithfield Reservoir (opening of a control valve in error) resulted in excess flows in the River Trent and Manor Park lakes which lead to localised flooding in Manor Park in the area of the Nursing Home. This was not a 'natural' flooding event and as a result an additional earth bank was privately constructed by parties present at the time in order to provide additional protection to properties. Events such as this cannot be foreseen, however highlight the reliance the Council has to make on third-parties to effectively manage infrastructure upstream of the village.

Due to the low lying nature of agricultural land lying close to the river, periodic flooding is not uncommon, as the Environment Agency flood map indicates (see <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>). As the centre of Kings Bromley was built on ground higher than the surrounding farmland, there has been no reported natural flooding within the village centre during, at least, the last 40 years.

Flooding when it does take place is limited to the low lying farmland of the areas immediately surrounding the village. Given the close proximity of the River Trent and its tributaries to the village and the complex patterns of surface drainage and groundwater flow (hydrology and hydrogeology); future built development in the parish needs to be considered with care, be sympathetic and cognisant of the issues that influence water and flood risk management and be designed to minimise the risk and impacts of flooding events on the community.

Water courses and drainage ditches are usually under riparian ownership (local landowners) and therefore are maintained and managed outside of the remit of local and national government (e.g. The Environment Agency or district council). Riparian Landowners have the legal responsibility for maintaining all waterways on their land. In specific circumstances, the Local Authority and Environment Agency are authorised to exercise their powers to undertake works on the landowners behalf, for example in the event of risk of internal flooding to properties. As such, the Parish Council recognises it

must work with such stakeholders to ensure the ongoing management of drainage infrastructure and flood risk is done holistically. These partners include, but are not limited to:

- The Environment Agency (River Trent);
- Heidelberg Materials, the owners of Manor Park Quarry (formerly known as Hanson);
- Local Landowners (local drainage and riparian waterways such as Crawley and Bourne brooks);
- County Highways officials (in relation to surrounding roads and associated infrastructure).

The village is surrounded by agricultural land, which under normal circumstance will help absorb natural rainfall etc. However, in periods of high or prolonged rainfall the land can become completely saturated. Groundwater levels (which are always shallow in the river flood plain) can quickly rise to the surface. Flooding may therefore arise both from the river and water courses bursting their banks or as direct runoff from saturated land and built over areas as there is nowhere for excess water to drain to.

The lakes on the western edge of the village (previously Manor Park sand and gravel quarry) act to store additional waters flowing in from the River Trent - attenuating the high flows and helping to reduce the frequency of downstream flooding as the river passes the village. Heidelberg have stated they have no plans to change this.

Due to the predicted consequences of climate change, weather patterns are forecast to change resulting in more frequent and intense temperature and rainfall events. As a result of more frequent intense rainfall, excess flood water may flow off the fields and impact wider areas which have been less commonly flooded in the recent past.

At the time of writing, the most frequently observed occurrences of flood waters impacting village infrastructure and services are:

1. To the south west of the village: Kings Bromley / Handsacre Road where water runs off the fields on to the A513 and then further on to the A515;
2. To the north: Yoxall Road, where the A515 runs alongside and close to the path of the River Trent;
3. To the east: Alrewas Road (A513) between Kings Bromley and Orgreave, where local tributary streams and excess groundwater run off the fields and on to the carriageway.
4. Crawley Lane in the vicinity of Crawley Lodge where water flows off the fields on to Crawley Lane. This flooding can lead to those either working or living around the Woodgate area having to undertake major detours to get to or from work / home.

As scientific models indicate that the UK will experience greater frequencies, intensities, and extent of flooding now and in the future, development proposals in and around the parish should be considered against these scenarios. The Parish Council expects regulators such as the Environment Agency to undertake the necessary monitoring and

flood risk assessment of the River Trent and its tributaries and provide the community with appropriate advice when required.

It is recognised that if frequency or extent of flooding increase significantly, the attractiveness of the parish to current and future residents could be reduced - impacting the ongoing viability of the parish community.

Increased flooding through changing weather patterns and future development may lead to:

- a lack of available insurance for property and assets.
- prohibitively expensive insurance costs meaning insurance is not taken out and damages have to be covered by other financial means (savings, reserves, etc) or leading to total loss; and,
- costs of additional flood protection measures at the parish and/ or property level to adequately reduce damages caused by flooding.

The Parish Council will therefore continue to liaise with stakeholders, regulators, and land developers to help ensure that appropriate assessment of drainage and flood risk issues are given the correct level of consideration in deciding development land policy, when assessing and designing individual developments and when determining planning applications.

As a result of the above assessment, Kings Bromley Parish Council will:

1. Continue to work with the stakeholders identified and others as appropriate in relation to the management of flood risk in the parish
2. Have due regard to the risk and impact of flooding when considering it's responses to relevant planning applications and highlight relevant concerns to the planning authorities
3. Monitor the instances, scale and impact of flooding events within the parish to identify trends and patterns which may need to be considered further in future
4. Review the level of risk and impact of flooding on the parish at 3-yearly intervals

Distribution List

Staffordshire County Council - Flooding Team
Staffordshire County Council - Highways Department
Staffordshire Council Council - Minerals Planning Team
Staffordshire Council Council - Local County Councillor
Lichfield District Council - Planning Department
Lichfield District Council - Local District Councillors
The Environment Agency Flood Risk Management department
Heidelberg Materials