

## Severn Grove, Romilly Crescent and Severn Grove **Community Flood Plan**

### Exhibition and consultation on draft flood plan: report on responses

Date: 21/09/24 Time: 9.30am-12.30pm

Venue: Conway Road Methodist Church meeting room

#### Background and run up

The purpose of the exhibition was to raise awareness of the potential for flooding in the area, to get feedback from residents on issues and the draft flood plan and to encourage them to become volunteers.

In order to encourage people to attend the exhibition, two leaflet drops were carried out by volunteers to around 550 properties in the previous two weeks (all properties the first time and ground floor only the second time). Contacts within the area were also encouraged to attend. 25 notices of the event were placed around the three streets with a QR code to our website. In the run up one prominent notice in Severn Grove by the Coop was repeatedly removed by persons unknown. The website had been online for the previous three weeks with copies of the summary draft plan initially and then the full draft plan five days before. One response to the website was received from a resident of Severn Grove expressing interest.

#### The event

The event was held (on a dry morning) in the large basement meeting room of the church which was located fairly centrally to the area at the junction of Romilly Crescent and Conway Road. Residents from Severn Grove had further to walk. The exhibition consisted of 8 boards covering flooding issues, levels of flood risk, the proposed flood plan purpose and objectives and suggested actions for property owners and in the public realm. A hard copy of the flood plan itself was available for perusal with copies of the summary and leaflets to take away. Two boards invited feedback using post its. Individual consent forms were available for people to register their interest in being kept informed or to join the volunteer group.



The volunteer group was divided into a welcome team who also went round the streets and outside the venue encouraging people to attend, an information team who fielded questions about the display boards and exit team who encouraged feedback and managed the consent forms. The information and exit teams were slightly understaffed due to unplanned absences so some attendees were not engaged. It is possible they did not wish to be engaged.

The event was well attended. Most attendees came from within the flood plan area but a few came from outside and were interested. Councillor Kanaya Singh from South Riverside attended but no council officers came as agreed as the event was community focussed.

The headline statistics for the day are as follows:

**Table 1: The event in numbers**

Item	No.
Attendees/visitors excluding volunteers counted	<b>50</b>
Volunteers at the exhibition	<b>8</b>
Total number of contact forms completed	<b>30</b>
<b>Number of attendees offering to volunteer-</b> locations below:	17 in total
Conway Road	8
Severn Grove	1
Romilly Crescent	1
Turberville Place	3
Outside the area (2- Plasturton Avenue, 1- Kings Road, 1- Westbury Terrace)	4
<b>Number asking to be kept informed</b> (in addition to above volunteers)	9
<b>Number not ticking choices</b> but leaving names and addresses	2
<b>Number not ticking choices</b> but leaving email addresses	2

## Feedback

Useful feedback was gained through conversations and attendees were encouraged to write these down on post its. The feedback board had three structured questions and space to raise other issues, which extended to another board. All the detailed post it responses are shown on the attached photo sheet in **Appendix 2**.

A summary of the main points is set out below.

**Table 2: Summary of responses**

Question	Tell us where there are gullies/road drains or surface water that affect you.
Responses	<p><b>Conway Road-</b> four comments were made including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General blockage of gullies along the road</li> <li>• Raised road/kerb in front of The Terrace preventing flow of rainwater to the nearest gully</li> <li>• Ponding outside 4 and 6 Conway Road</li> <li>• Gully/drain outside 23 Conway Road blocked by 'tree roots' leading to all year round ponding.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Severn Grove</b>- four comments were made including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface flooding along the road with the council very slow to respond to notification of need to clear leaves</li> <li>• Ponding outside the Robin Hood</li> <li>• Ponding at the Severn Grove/Romilly Crescent Junction (two comments)</li> <li>• Ponding outside the Co-op</li> </ul> <p><b>Romilly Crescent</b>- four comments were made including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ponding outside the zebra crossing and shops</li> <li>• Flash flooding affecting whole road and pavement</li> <li>• Flooding both sides of Romilly Crescent junction with Severn Grove and Severn Road.</li> <li>• Flooding along the road seems to have got a lot worse since the development of the Laundry Quarter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Turberville Place</b>- one comment was made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small drains outside numbers 20 and 24 Turberville Place</li> </ul>
<b>Question</b>	<b>Have you any experience of flooding on your property or know of other properties flooding? If so what?</b>
<b>Responses</b>	<p>Four responses were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 87b, Severn Road flooding basement two or three times a year despite sump pump</li> <li>• Romilly Crescent basement</li> <li>• St Mary’s School (outside area) has been flooded as well as Brod’s basement</li> <li>• Flooding in 1979 spread further than thought e.g. along Mortimer Road</li> </ul>
<b>Question</b>	<b>Please let us have any comments about the draft flood plan we are proposing.</b>
<b>Responses</b>	<p><b>General qualitative comments</b> on the plan and exhibition included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent work – authoritative <u>and</u> positive. I’m most grateful for your initiative and commitment to this.</li> <li>• Good work, great detail and very good information boards</li> <li>• <u>Such</u> a good idea.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other general comments included:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The risks outlined are pre-climate change so even more awareness and responsibility should be taken by citizens e.g. more plants, no cutting down the street trees etc.</li> <li>• Everyone needs to sign up for alerts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further advice needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there anywhere we can ask for advice about replacing paved patios (backyards) with more anti-flooding surfaces?</li> <li>• It would be useful to have a forum for sharing tips for possible flood mitigation e.g. putting large planted pots on a concrete garden.</li> <li>• Where would I find information about flood products to protect my home?</li> </ul> <p><b>Gullies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the Cardiff Council App to report blocked gullies. Something we can all do- it works sometimes.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Leaves:</b>  Responses covered a spectrum from those who wished the Council to do much more to those who suggested that householders should be more proactive. A more effective partnership approach was also suggested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More responsibility for householders to sweep street outside houses like in Germany.</li> <li>• Could we organise a volunteer group to help clear leaves?</li> <li>• To dispose of leaves suggest we register with ‘Love where you live’ online. You can get pink bags to fill up and leave by council bins.</li> <li>• Residents need to sweep up leaves more regularly with collections in late autumn and the winter months.</li> <li>• Need to work with Council to have collections of February/detritus/news/seeds/soil etc as it is cleared by us.</li> <li>• Regular leaf clean on Conway Road and Severn Grove (<i>needed</i>)</li> <li>• Use of leaf blowers and road sweeper between September and December- Council to do.</li> <li>• 37 bags of leaves swept up between March and August at 78 years of age. Why don’t the council do sweeps three times a year?</li> </ul> <p><b>Tree management:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees need to be properly maintained. We need more trees but properly maintained.</li> <li>• The trees on the tree-lined streets need to be maintained. They are just left. Their roots are getting into the drains in house foundations, their branches tangled in the power lines and scraping the roofs. Their leaves are left to clog the gutters. Crowning of trees is a priority in Conway Road. (<i>Assume means crown lifting?</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Rain gardens:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love the rain gardens!</li> <li>• We need to consider turning some areas into gardens following the example of cities like Copenhagen (sponge cities).</li> <li>• Rain gardens would be great in areas of underutilised tarmac.</li> <li>• Rain garden at the junction of Romilly Crescent, Severn Road and Wyndham Crescent would be beneficial.</li> <li>• Pick litter from rain gardens to improve acceptance – use litter picking groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Question</b>	<b>Are there any other issues you want to raise?</b>
<b>Responses</b>	<p>A major dissemination event for discussing flooding in Cardiff was suggested.</p> <p><b>Other issues outside the area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plasterton Avenue- regularly over the winter our basement floods in very small amounts.</li> <li>• Drain blocked on corner of Llanfair Road and Llandaff Road causing large pools of surface water.</li> <li>• Surface water flooding at Clive Road/Romilly Road junction near the One Shop.</li> </ul>

## Conclusions

The reaction to the flood plan itself was overwhelmingly positive but also prompted more questions on what to do. The number of people interested and number of new volunteers was encouraging. Many comments on issues echoed the concerns of the group but a few additional items of information were useful. Key points are:

- Surface water flooding including standing water is the main current issue with some cellars flooding in places.
- There is strong support for retaining trees but management is needed. There is tension between their benefits and the issues of leaf litter blocking gullies/drains, raised road gutters causing ponding, low lying branches shading and physically touching buildings and possible effects of roots (to be verified).
- A better system and partnership between residents and council is needed to deal with leaf litter blocking gullies and impeding gutters.
- Badly blocked gullies need to be sucked out by the Council.
- Highway works to smooth out gutters around trees is needed to avoid ponding and allow free drainage.
- Flood gardens are strongly supported, especially around the junction of Romilly Crescent and Severn Grove.
- More advice is needed on measures to protect property from flooding and improve drainage into the ground in properties (SuDs).

## Next steps

The core exhibition content will be put on the website for general consumption. The volunteer group will consider the feedback from the event. This will include how to manage and integrate the people who have stated an interest in volunteering. The comments made on public realm and private property flooding will be fed into the plan and associated proposed actions. Further engagement to address queries will also be considered. Ongoing contacts with others in adjoining areas will be continued to support other flood initiatives.

## ***Thanks and acknowledgements***

*We would like to thank Gaunt Francis Architects for free use of their printing facilities and paper to produce the exhibition boards. Also thanks to the volunteers who contributed to the run up to the event including exhibition production and leafletting and contributing on the day itself.*

## APPENDIX 1: Responses in detail





## Severn Grove, Romilly Crescent & Conway Road Community Flood Plan

Please use a post it to tell us where there are gullies/road drains or surface water ponding that affects you

**Conway Road**  
In front of The Terrace, raised road/kerb preventing flow of rain water to nearest gully.  
Right outside our house number 23 Conway Rd there is a drain that is wholly blocked by tree roots. The water sits there most of the year, freezing regularly, blocking and generally causing issues. We have had to have it dug out. It has never happened.

**General blockage of gullies Conway Rd.**

**Severn Grove outside the Robin Hood**

**Severn Grove/Romilly Grove Junction**

**Surface flooding Severn Road Regularly - Cardiff Council is slow to respond to notification & need to clear leaves**

**Tree roots leading to ponding at certain locations (eg. outside 46 Conway Rd)**

**Romilly Crescent**  
- outside zebra crossing/shops  
- flash flooding affecting whole road - pavements

**in family area**  
Flooding seems to have got a lot worse since the development of the Laundry Quarter

**Flooding/ponding both sides of Romilly Crescent at junction with Severn Grove where Rd.**

**Ponding outside Coop Severn Rd**

**Small Grove where outside N's 20 24 Torberville Place**

Have you any experience of flooding on your property or know of other properties flooding? If so, what?

**St Marys school has flooded + Brods basement**

**Romilly Cres basement**

**87b Severn Road Flooding of basement 2 or 3 times a year despite sump pump.**

**Flooding in 1979 spread further than thought - eg. along Maritime Rd.**

Please let us have any comments about the draft flood plan we are proposing

**Excellent work - authoritative and positive. I'm not grateful for your initiative and commitment - this!**

**Such a good idea! Could we organize a volunteer group to help clear leaves?**

**Rain garden at junction of Wyndham Crescent, Severn Rd & Romilly Crescent would be beneficial**

**Great work! Rain Gardens/SUDS would be great in areas of unutilised space.**

**Use Cardiff City Council APP to report blocked gullies. Something we can all do. It works sometimes!**

**To dispose of leaves suggest register with 'LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE' - you can get pink bags to fill & leave by council bins**

**Love the rain gardens! Happy to help maintain**

**Great work! The gullies and drainage on Conway Road are a chief concern. Trees need to be properly maintained. We need more trees but properly maintained. We need to consider how**

**Good work Great detail Very good information boards**

**Great work - everyone needs to sign up for alerts + residents need to sweep up leaves more regularly - question is which month? has autumn**

**Risks autumn are pre climate change so some more awareness + responsibility should be taken by citizens eg. more plants no cutting down of street trees**

Are there any other issues you want to raise?

**Regular leaf clean Conway Rd/Severn Grove.**

**Use of leaf blowers & road sweeper between Sept/Dec - Council to do.**

**37 bags of leaves Swept up March/Apr**

**18 years ago! Why don't the Council do Swoops 2+ times a year**

**Need to work with Council to have collections of debris/debris leaves/seeds/soil etc. as it is cleared by us.**

**CROWNING OF TREES A PRIORITY IN CONWAY RD.**

**The trees on the tree-lined streets (Conway Rd etc) need to be maintained. They are just left. Their roots are getting into the drains & have foundations their branches tangled in the pavement & causing the potholes. Their leaves are left to dog gates.**

**Pick litter from rain garden - to improve acceptance - like pink signs**

**Where would I find information about flood products to protect my home?**

**It would be useful to have a forum for sharing tips for possible flood mitigation, e.g. putting large plastic pots on a concrete garden.**

**Is there anyone we can ask for advice about affixing paved patios (backyards) with water flooding surfaces?**

**Oliver Road/Romilly Rd Trench - near One Stop**

**Regularly over the winter in our basements (v.s wall mounts) partition are.**

**Chain blocked on corner of Hartford Rd and Landaff Rd causing large pools of surface water.**