

Winchester District Councillor March 2020

Report from Councillor Weston (Independent)

Flooding information:

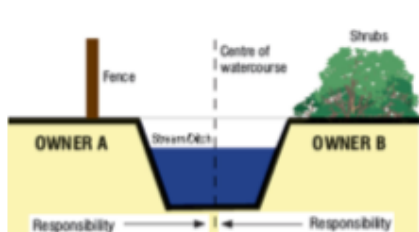
- HCC are the lead authority for flood prevention and major incidents
- Southern Water are responsible for water infiltrating the mains sewage system and are therefore should be responsible for providing temp toilets if their system fails.
- HCC or private land owners are responsible for the ditches/pipes
- HCC are responsible for the highways.
- Residents are responsible for their own properties and private sewage systems. They can purchase flood prevention measures like sandbags and pumps from appropriate suppliers.
- EA manage the main rivers and provide flood advice.

Ditches and your responsibility at a riparian owner

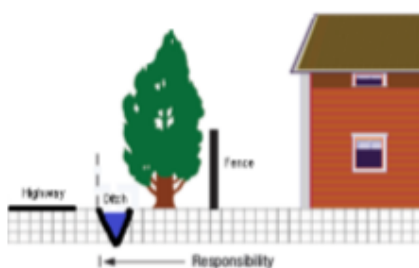
As a riparian owner, you have responsibilities in relation to the watercourse flowing through or adjacent to your property. These are set out in law in the Public Health Act 1936, the Land Drainage Acts of 1991 & 1994, the Water Resources Act 1991 and some local Land Drainage Bylaws.

What is a watercourse?

Figure 1



Under common law you are the riparian owner of any watercourse both within and adjacent to the boundaries of your property.



Where a watercourse is between two or more property boundaries each owner may be equally responsible.

In the Figure 1 even if the Title Deeds for Owner A's property

show the boundary to be the fence, they have riparian rights and responsibilities to the centre of the watercourse. If your property is adjacent to a highway, in most circumstances you are responsible for the whole watercourse.

You have the right to protect your property against flooding from the watercourse and also to prevent erosion of the watercourse banks or any structures.

Watercourses are any natural or artificial channel above or below ground through which water flows. Watercourses are classified as either 'Ordinary Watercourse' or 'Main River'.

Ordinary Watercourses are watercourses that are not part of a main river and include streams, ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dykes, sluices, sewers (other than public sewers) and passages, through which water flows. Riparian landowners are responsible for maintaining ordinary watercourses.

Main Rivers are typically larger streams and rivers, but some are smaller watercourses of local significance. Main rivers are nationally managed by the Environment Agency (EA). To identify whether your watercourse is a main river visit the EA's website and view their flood maps. A point to be aware of is that if you do not carry out your responsibilities, you could face legal action and may be liable for any damage which occurs as a result of your failure to maintain the watercourse.

Winchester City Council News

The Liberal Democrats financial plans for 2020/201 were adopted despite opposition, so Council tax will be put up three percent, parking charges also will increase by 3% or to the closest 10p, residents will be charged for garden waste as they are introducing wheelie bins for garden waste. This was despite a total of £4.5m from recent years annual savings in this year's budget left by the previous administration who had not increased Winchester City Council's part of the council tax for a number of years helping to support residents and indeed were accused of avoiding making hard decisions because they had not increased your council tax yet managed to deliver a surplus of £4.5m. Unfortunately, there are not enough to vote down the majority.

The council has declared that it will commit £750,000 to support ambitious plans to become a carbon neutral council by 2024 and a carbon neutral district by 2030. This will include installing additional solar panels on council owned sites (Not sure if this includes a maintenance budget) developing a council-led flagship ultra-low energy 'Passivhaus'(type of standard) housing scheme and investing an additional £1m per year on energy and water efficiency measures to council housing stock.

You should have all received your **About Winchester** publication, and again there is a lot of on the Climate Emergency but the budget lacked any concrete plans on how this is going to be achieved in the wider district, other than keeping rural visitors out of Winchester City with the increased parking charges, all our Bin Lorries going greener being replaced with Euro 6 compliant vehicles and planting trees. There are plans to introduce 32 new electric car charge points for the district 2 in Wickham ,2 in Bishops Waltham and 1 in Denmead. This is a start to help service the 100,000 electric cars expected to be on UK roads by 2021 with all petrol and diesel cars phased out by 2035! The promise of an added doorstep collection for small electrical items collected at your doorstep which will help to increase recycling rates for the council.

Draft Plans to be aware of:

- **Biodiversity and the Biodiversity Action Plan 2020** – WCC's response to delivering the biodiversity aspects of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan.
- **Draft Local Enforcement Plan 2020 -comments by 28th March 2020. (Winchester District Only) SDNP have their own Enforcement Guide accessed via this link -** <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SDNPA-Enforcement-Guide-Amended-Sep-2018.pdf>

COUNCIL'S CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

To view the Council's current consultations, follow this link

<https://winchester.citizenspace.com/>

WHAT'S ON ACROSS THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT

For information regarding future events across the district, including festivals, please follow these links:

<https://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/whats-on/>

<https://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/whats-on/festivals/>

Contact your councillors:

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