

## **NOTE OF A MEETING WITH FIRE BRIGADE/POLICE – FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2017 - 3.00P.M.**

Present: Patrick Golbourne – Fire Brigade Commander Islington  
Debbie Pierson, Walt Mutch – Islington Police  
Councillors – Richard Greening, Clare Jeapes, Rowena Champion,  
O'Halloran  
Kevin O'Leary and Dan Lawson – L.B.Islington Environment and Regeneration

During discussion the following main points were made –

- The first call to LFB had been made at 05:01:29 to the LFB control room and at 05:03:05 a crew was despatched to the verified address
- The first crew arrived on scene at 05:06:54 and Thames Water were contacted at 05:07:49 with an estimated time of arrival within 2 hours, which is their standard response time. At 05:20:23 a request was made to the Police and TfL for road closures and at 05:34:33 a request was made to the Council for 120 sandbags
- At 05:40:04 the Watch Manager reported that a burst water main of unknown size had burst and there was flooding to a depth of 0.5 metres affecting an area of 100 metres and operational support unit was requested to control the flow of water
- Information was received that the pipe is a 36" mains pipe and LFB provides pumps and a Fire Rescue unit with one boat. Properties in Charlton Terrace flooded to depth of 8 feet
- 05:51:53 message received from Thames Water to say technician on way and sending 150 sandbags and LALO requested for rehousing of tenants
- At 06:03:20 an offensive tactical mode has been adopted and all FRU's must carry boats due to flooding and LUL informed of close proximity to tunnels
- At 06:30:35 flooding has spread to an area of 460 metres by 150 metres flooding multiple residential and commercial properties and basements in Charlton Terrace flooded to a depth of 2 metres People evacuated to Steam Passage Public House
- At 06:48:17 LFB request attendance of electrical authority as substation at Shalford Court is flooded to depth of 300 ml. Thames and Local Authority to increase supply of sandbags from 150 to 500. At 07:21:05 received notification that first sandbags en route from Slough with an eta of 1hr 30 mins and second lorry being loaded and departing 40 mins with total delivery of 700 sandbags
- At 08:26:28 reported that multiple properties now flooded. A multi-agency tactical meeting had been held at 07:45 and no casualties had been identified, evacuation to Steam Passage and that Thames operative be on site to establish water valve location at 08:45 and next tactical co-ordination group meeting scheduled for 09:00. Now been declared a major incident
- At 09:45:44 attendance of structural engineer requested
- At 09:54:48 flooding now approximately 600 metres by 300 metres in Devonia Road, Duncan Terrace, Colebrooke Row and Charlton Place, affecting 80 residential and commercial properties flooded to various depths up to a maximum of 3 metres. Pumping operations and systematic search of premises in progress. Approximately 50 residents evacuated to rest centre
- At 11:23:47 systematic search of all premises completed and pumping operations continuing in Devonia Road and Colebrooke Row and lightweight pumps, submersible pumps, dry suits and PFD's in used

- At 12:32:51 progress made in pumping out properties and water levels subsiding and next tactical co-ordination group meeting scheduled for 1:30 and phase moved into tactical mode
- At 12:13:13 LFB Commander report that 36" water main had burst and outlined situation that had occurred. Water supply now isolated and electricity supply isolated to approximately 601 properties by UK power networks and 20 properties pumped out by Fire Brigade. One elderly female resident rescued and carried to safety. Approx 100 residents evacuate under care of Local Authority. Major incident had been declared by Police
- At 16:37:35 co- ordination group meeting concluded and no further Fire Brigade presence required. Duty of care left with Thames Water
- It was noted that at present LFB did not have responsibility for the statutory Flood response and that they were lobbying the Government on this matter
- In response to a question it was stated that there is a need for sandbags to be more readily available and that the Local Authority were making arrangements in this regard
- Discussion took place as to the first report of the leak, which was at 03:57 by a bus driver and at this stage it was a very small leak. Just after 04:00 a.m. this was reported to TfL to contact Thames Water but it is unclear if this happened. It was noted that it was felt that TfL could have acted more speedily in the situation and
- Reference was made to the local knowledge of Fire Brigade crews and that this is valuable when dealing with a situation like the flood at Upper Street as they were aware where the fire hydrants were
- Discussion took place as to whether Thames were able to share their plans of the locations with LFB and the Local Authority and it was stated that there were security implications with this but this is being looked at
- The view was expressed that whilst 17 calls had been received from the Fire Brigade in respect of the flood given the magnitude of the flooding there needs to be a communications message to the Public that they should report any leak immediately
- Members were informed that it would be useful if the public utility companies were involved in the tactical emergency planning meetings that took place with the Local Authority, Fire Brigade and the Police
- It was noted that the Fire Brigade had an excellent relationship with the Emergency Planning team at the Local Authority
- It was noted that discussion of provision of sandbags could be discussed at the London wide Directors of Environment meeting to see if a system of sandbag distribution on a shared basis is possible or whether other new technology systems are available