

## REACT – DECEMBER 2012 UPDATE

**Risks:** During the wet periods this year (Summer and November) we have seen some surface flooding in places like the Tilling Green Estate. The Marley Road pump remains faulty; Southern Water has fitted a temporary bypass pumping system to handle the excess water. REACT is working with professional partners - S Water and ESCC Highways - to achieve a long term solution. REACT continues to monitor other risks, such as industrial and animal disease.

**Planning Applications:** During the last period, there have been no planning applications, which might give rise to increased risks.

**Maintenance of Drains, Sea and Water Defences:** The Environment Agency has contractors (Jacksons) who are repairing the Brede Sluice, scheduled for completion in March 2013. Initial work to survey the Old Brickyard blocked drain has been completed, but the project is ongoing. There are no developments at the Monkbretton Bridge scour, but REACT continues to monitor. REACT has visited Valley Park and discussed the long term maintenance of the SUDS system, which in the future will be the responsibility of the Park's Management Company.

**Contingencies and Exercises:** During the period, Chair REACT has met with the outgoing Rother DC Emergency Planning Officers to debate issues including proposals for a local exercise in Rye and an update of the Rye Bay Flood Plan. Because Rother DC will be without Emergency Planning Officers until into 2013, the exercise has been postponed. Rother DC has pledged to involve REACT with future resilience work. Chair REACT attended a Sussex wide seminar on flood risk in Uckfield which has been reported separately. Recently there has been a nonsense whereby some residents in Rye were issued with Potassium Iodate tablets (a radiation counter measure) by EDF Dungeness. This was an error and there is no change to the current plans, including the 2.4km Emergency Planning Zone around Dungeness in which special counter measures, such as tablet issues, apply.

**Future Agenda:** A key issue is the ongoing debate between the ABI and the Government over an insurance deal (desirably - affordable and universal) to cover high risk homes ( around 1000 in Rye). The present deal expires in 2013 and new arrangements are urgently required. We are watching to see what comes. REACT intends to remain in close contact with professional partners - including Rother DC, ESCC, Internal Drainage Board, Defend Our Coasts (DOC) and the Environment Agency - to work to reduce risks and engage with the Community.

Anthony Kimber PhD

Chair REACT

December 2012

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rye-Emergency-Action-Community-Team-REACT/221629524635319?ref=hl>

