



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

### **MEADOW FLOOD DEFENCES DEPLOYED**

Wednesday, 5 April saw another step forward in protecting Meadow and Catteshall Road in Godalming from flooding with the test deployment of temporary flood defence barriers along Hell Ditch.

After the disastrous floods over Christmas and New Year of 2012/13, Godalming Town Council has been working closely with the Environment Agency, Surrey County Council, Waverley Borough Council, Thames Water, Scottish & Southern Electricity, Godalming Flood Group and the Farncombe & District Allotment Association to drive forward the Godalming Flood Alleviation Scheme. Having agreed to donate the bulk of the land required for the permanent defences to be built upon, Godalming Town Council has also agreed to provide ongoing maintenance of the defences once constructed. However, with construction not due to commence until spring 2018, all those involved were determined to provide as high a degree of protection as possible as soon as possible.

Working with the Environment Agency and the Farncombe & District Allotment Association a huge amount of ground work to provide a cleared zone along the Town Council's land adjacent to Hells Ditch was undertaken during the autumn of 2016. The cleared zone will enable the deployment of temporary flood defences in Godalming. This work means that the Meadow and Catteshall Road areas have had protection from potential flooding since the start of last winter and will continue to have this protection until the scheme is complete. In November, Godalming was at risk of flooding and the Environment Agency was ready to deploy the defences, thankfully this was not needed.

Godalming Town Mayor, Cllr David Hunter said "Although the temporary flood defences were available to be deployed if needed over the winter, the test deployment on Wednesday gives added confidence and I can't thank enough the allotment holders on Catteshall allotments, who have worked tirelessly over many months to prepare the ground. The work of the allotment association has saved many thousands of pounds and ensured that everything was ready on time. I would also like to thank everyone involved in pushing this scheme forward, especially the team from Godalming Town Council, who despite being the smallest organisation involved have punched well above their weight for the benefit of our community".

Ends

In case of query please contact:

**Andy Jeffery – Acting Town Clerk**  
**[townclerk@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@godalming-tc.gov.uk)**  
Release Date: 10 April 2017