

Briefing - Flooding incidents and issues from 23rd December 2020

Scrutiny Committee

27th January 2021



Coastal / tidal flooding

- Key factors: Low lying land, proximity to coast, size of exposed population
- Tidal locking – highest levels will follow surface water events
- Particularly evident alongside River Waveney from Bungay to Beccles
- 2013 tidal surge into Norwich was highest ever recorded at Carrow Bridge but didn't lead to major impacts on population



River flooding

- Caused by water overflowing from river channels
- Influenced by volume of rainfall and capacity of the ground and river systems to absorb and transport the resulting water
- In South Norfolk – rivers Waveney, Tas and other feeder rivers
- These are addressed specifically in Part 2 of the countywide Tactical Flood Plan and in Environment Agency flood warning plans
- Environment Agency provide Flood Alerts & Warnings to residents, businesses and responders

Surface water flooding

- Usually occurs quickly, without warning, and is difficult to predict
- Can be very localised and doesn't always reflect weather forecasts
- Happens when natural and man-made drainage systems have insufficient capacity to deal with the volume of rainfall
- Maintenance of land drains by riparian owners, and of public systems, is the key
- Little scope for emergency planning, focus is on response when it happens
- When there are reports of property flooding, the agencies will consider meeting as a coordinating group
- Primary responsibility for preparing rests with landowners / occupiers

Flooding - Who does what?

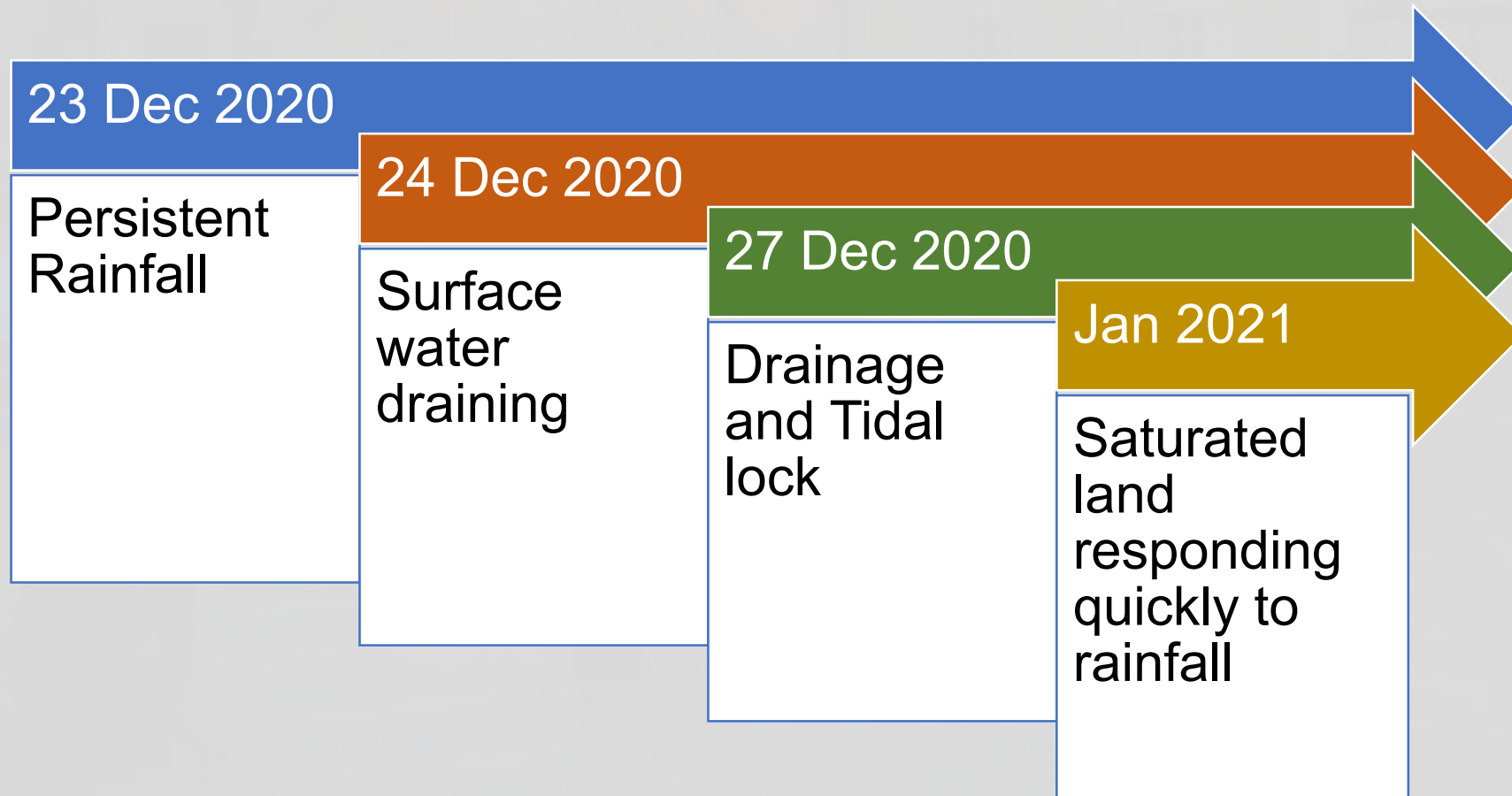
- **Environment Agency** – flood warning and informing, main river flood risks and impacts, river flood defences and alleviation measures
- **Internal drainage boards** – oversee riparian maintenance of land drainage & watercourses feeding into main rivers (about 20% of S. Norfolk area)
- Norfolk County Council, **lead local flood authority** – regulates non-IDB maintenance of riparian land drainage. Statutory consultee (major apps)
- Norfolk County Council, **highways authority** – maintains highway drainage systems, responds to flooding of roads under its control
- **Anglian Water** – manages and maintains public drainage systems, regulates private sewers. Deals with impacts arising from its systems

South Norfolk council roles

- Local **planning policies and development control** permissions
- **Building control** permissions
- Provides **flooding advice and visits, Community Emergency Plans**
- **Flooding advice** to residents and businesses
- Replenishing **sandbag stocks** at pre-arranged locations
- Vulnerable people **help and support** by Help Hub services
- **Temporary accommodation** meeting local people's unmet needs
- **Emergency planning** and business continuity planning
- **Category 1 Responder** providing the council's services, pre-planned resources and knowledge during emergency incidents to assist responses

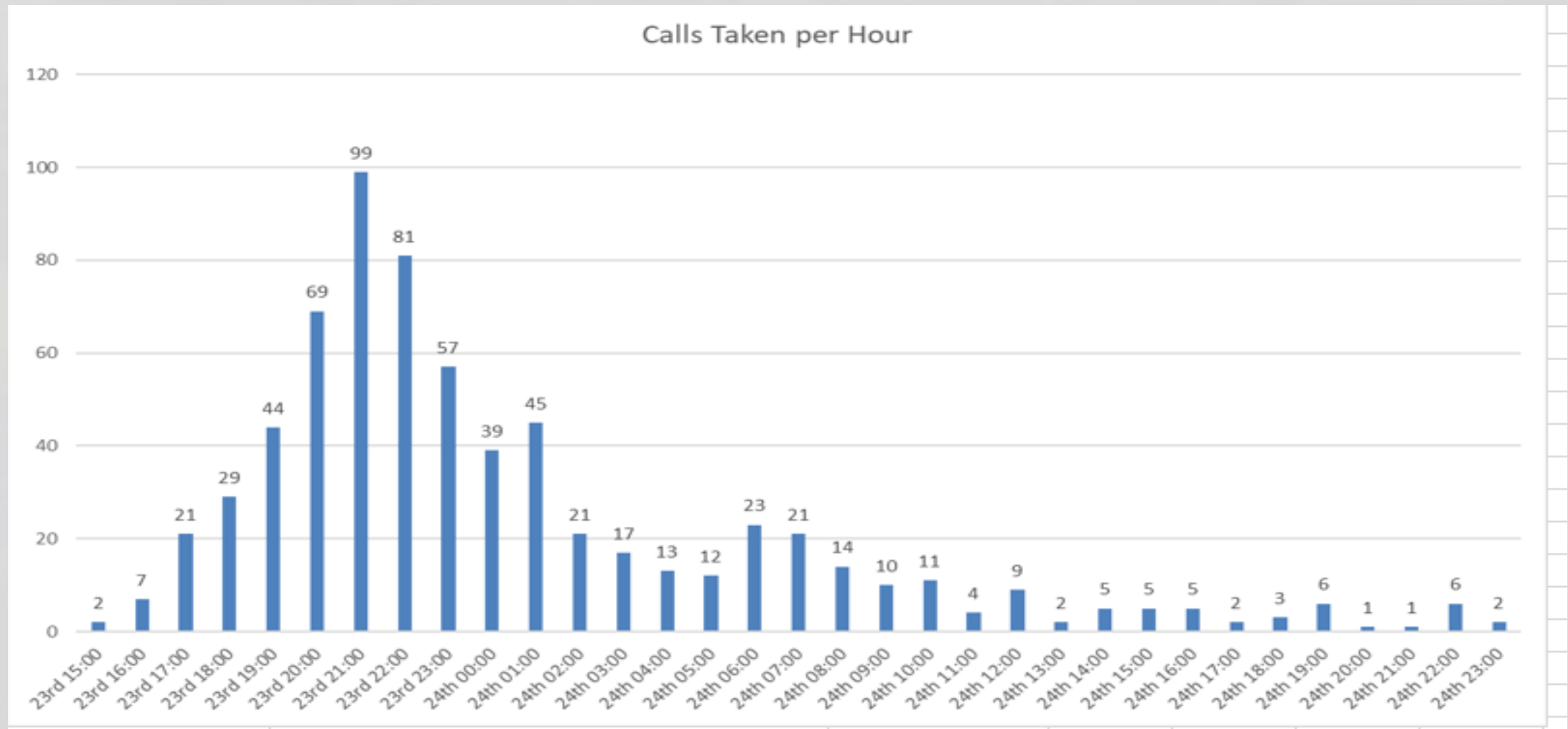


The incidents

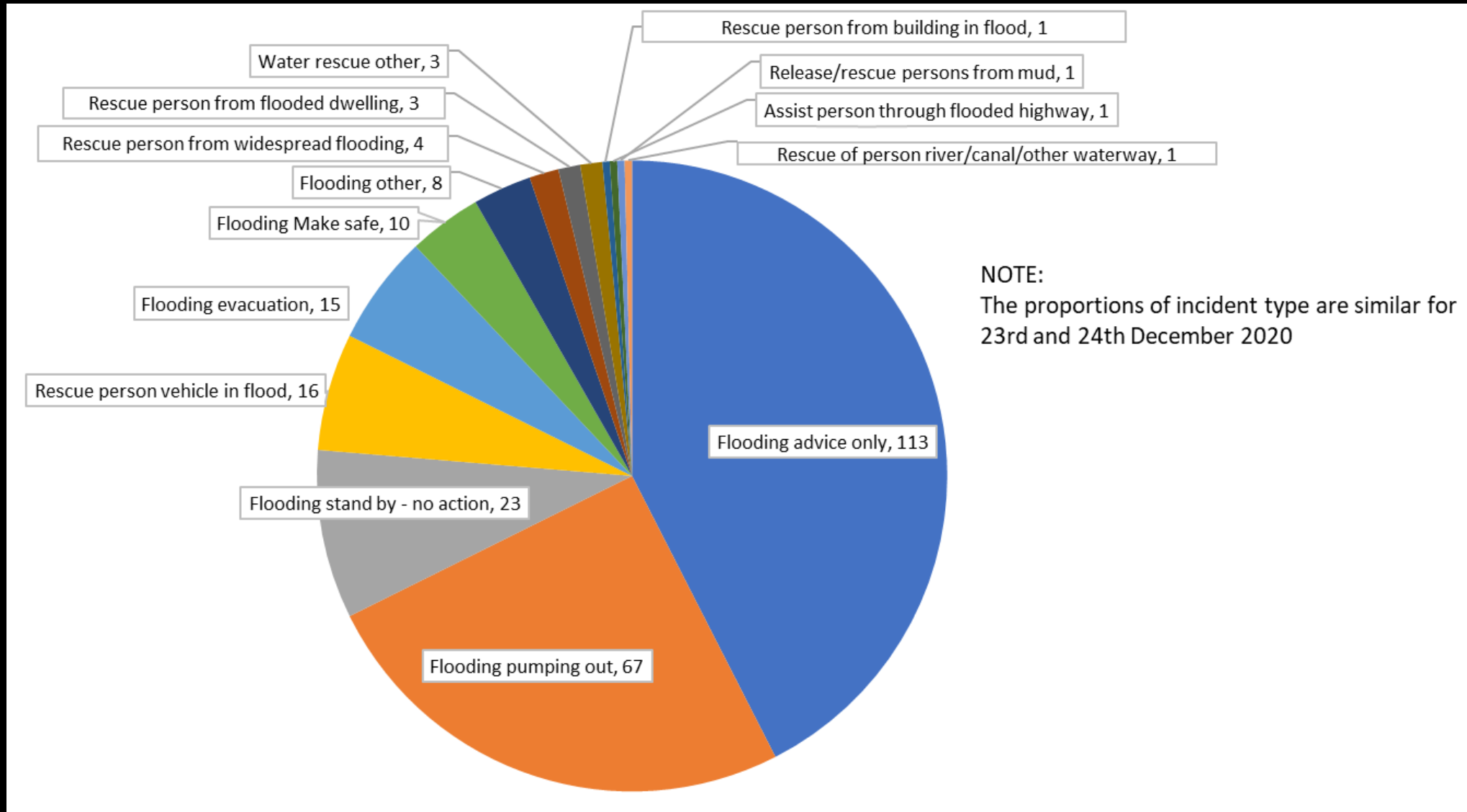




Fire & Rescue Service calls 23-24 Dec 2020



NFRS – Types of incidents attended 23-26 December 2020



Emergency incident response

- Received emergency planning system out-of-hours calls
- Participated in local coordinating group
- Responded to sandbag requests
- Placed rest centre on standby
- Provided skips
- Arranged temporary accommodation
- Visited flood affected businesses
- Assisted with flooding advice

Emergency incident response

- Received emergency out-of-hours calls
 - Norse out-of-hours call reception
 - Emergency planning officer
 - Participated in local coordinating group
 - Responded to sandbag requests
 - Placed rest centre on standby
 - Provided skips
 - Arranged temporary accommodation
 - Visited flood affected businesses
 - Assisted with flooding advice
- + Strengthen emergency out-of-hours call taking
 - + Provide a suitably equipped incident officer to be on-location
 - Highly visible local presence
 - Eyes-on coordination with partners
 - Hazard spotting and problem solving
 - Facilitate the community response
 - Coordinate with council services
 - Offer on-scene support to affected people
 - + Review policy and resourcing on sandbags

Parishes with 5 or more properties flooded *

• Ashwellthorpe	5	• Gissing	8
• Brockdish	16	• Harleston & Redenhall	12
• Bunwell	13	• Long Stratton	14
• Dickleburgh	5	• The Pulhams	8
• Diss	7	• Shelfanger	8
• Forncett	5	• Shimpling	6
• Framingham Earl	10	• Starston	5
		• Winfarthing	7
		• Wymondham	7

associated with groundwater flooding

Property impacts

- 283 individual properties subject to reports up to yesterday
- Around 200 reports indicate water within the property
- Number of businesses impacted in Long Stratton – clean-up, stock damage or business interruption
- 10 households were provided with temporary accommodation
- More households went to alternative accommodation
- Remainder of reports are about outdoor areas / concerns about highways and drainage systems

Help & support

- Help hub operating each day throughout Christmas period to offer support
- Contacted by/spoken to/advice given by housing standards: 12 households
- Housing register applications completed/long terms options being progressed for flood victims: so far 5 households
- As of 22.01.21 – 3 households still in Temporary Accommodation
- Skips issued: 31