Flood Alert Information 21-10-13

 Please see the attached emails from the Met Office.

* **Severe Weather Warning for High Winds** - A developing storm is expected to reach the UK later on Sunday. This is expected to run northeastwards, probably across England and Wales, with very strong winds on its southern and western flanks. There is the potential for gusts of 60-80 mph quite widely and locally over 80 mph, especially on exposed coasts, both in southwesterly winds ahead of the low centre and west to northwesterly winds behind it.
* **Flood Guidance Statement – YELLOW: Surface Water, Rivers** - Late on Sunday persistent heavy rain, accompanied by very strong winds, moves into south-west England and south Wales before spreading across the whole of England and Wales on Monday morning. There is a LOW flood risk from surface water flooding in all areas coloured yellow on Sunday and Monday in the maps above. Furthermore there is a LOW flood risk from river flooding in Devon, Cornwall and South Wales on Sunday and Monday and in parts of the central, north-east and northwest England on Monday. There is the potential to escalate the flood risk on Monday as confidence increases in the rainfall detail.

**Summary from the Met Office Advisor (Civil Contingencies):**

*“Met Office is expecting a very active storm system to affect southern parts of the UK on Monday – currently it looks like it will be the most damaging storm we’ve had for a number of years in southern Britain and it has the potential to be a high impact event.*

*We have issued an Amber warning (attached) to include much of England (and Wales) and this means there is an increasing likelihood that we shall see severe impacts due to the wind across Gloucestershire, Staffordshire,  Warwickshire, West Mercia and West Midlands Police Force/LRF areas.  That warning  will appear on our website very shortly – and we will be communicating it strongly through the media.*

*On current evidence it looks as if it will give winds gusting to 60-80mph over a wide area – at those sorts of wind speeds we can expect to see trees, branches and overhead cables blown down, damage to roofs and poorly secured buildings, and possibility of high sided vehicles/caravans being blown over.*

*The warning on our website is valid from early hours of Monday morning, right through to 2100 on Monday evening, although for the West Midlands area as a whole it’s likely that the early morning period will be the time of greatest risk.*

*In addition to the very windy conditions – there’ll be plenty of rain too – the rain will be enough to give some minor flooding – and no doubt this will exacerbated by fresh leaf-fall in drains – but all in all it has the potential to give some dreadful conditions for those attempting to travel.*

*Obviously as an Agency we are monitoring very carefully the development of the storm system  - it is still more than 2 days before it is due to affect us, so there is still some uncertainty and it’s possible we will see some changes in the areas at risk, but at the moment it is worth all agencies with interests in the Amber warning area to be prepared for a difficult and busy time on Monday.In the mean time, across the weekend, we’ll all get to see some more wind and rain – especially on Saturday night – and for a time on Sunday – but they are really just the precursor to Monday”.*