

## **20/21 Flood Season Overview**

The flood season is now past, and there was virtually no flooding or water ingress reported over the whole of the period into cellars, or from overflowing wells. There were a number of Flood Alerts issued by the Environment Agency, although only two people contacted the Flood Action Group for further information after receiving the recorded messages from Floodline. We do note that the normal activity of the increase in aquifer levels commencing in October did not actually start to rise until late in December, which is over two months later than our established time frame with past history. The threat continued through to early March, which does align with historical experiences. The FAG will record and review the data from the current season for use in planning for the 2021/22 period. We would also note: the EA is not going to change the threshold figures that trigger the alerts, in spite of a number of discussions on the subject.

## **Headwall, Catchment Basin and Ditch**

Work in these areas commented on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. The tasks started with sucking-out the silt collected in the catchment basin, by a subcontractor to HCC Highways. I spoke to Luke Scott, Contract manager for Sapphire Utility Solutions, who is in charge of the overall operations. Luke reports to Paul Hancock, [[paul.hancock@sus.co.uk](mailto:paul.hancock@sus.co.uk)], Regional business Develop manager. Their contract includes clearing the catchment basin, all of the gullies (202), and clearing the ditch down to at least Hook Vinney. A significant amount of material was sucked-out and into a large rig, which he said was in excess of seven tons per tankerload, which will be taken to a licensed site for deposit near Winchester. He indicated he and his crew would be working for the whole of the current week on the catchment basin, and that portion of the work was completed, including reinstatement of the sandbag dam at the south entrance to the ditch. This creates the “basin” to catch detritus, which is about 1 m deep.

## **FAG efforts during the “off season”**

This report will be the last until we near the start of the new flood season, but there are a number of tasks that will remain in focus, including updates to documentation e.g. the Flood Action Plan, Risk Management Plan, Properties Flooding List, and maintenance of the list of volunteers, and vulnerable residences and properties. It also encompasses our normal monitoring duties of our flood defences. If there are significant changes effecting policy, or increased risk, these will be reported to the HPC. When the social distancing requirements have eased we will be holding a meeting of the FAG to start dialogue with existing and new members for improvements for our support to the village.

One important matter to consider is the re-establishment of the third reference point to enhance our knowledge of the aquifer levels on Lower West Street. This will provide more accurate information for triangulation and baselining readings from Broadhalfpenny Down and Whitedale Farm, especially in predicting the onset of flood risks. Recommendations for this task have been submitted to the Parish Council for review and approval.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jan Jarvie  
Chairman Flood Action Group