

Report from Flood Action Group, November 2019

Summary

Over the past weeks increased pressure has been placed on various councillors, members of Hampshire County Council, and other interested parties, to react to urgent overdue issues on weather resilience matters ahead of the flooding season, now on top of us. The big question and headline in this regard is: who has the full ownership over the long term!

In the last three days, significant progress has been made! Since Friday the 25th, there has been email correspondence suggesting the whole of the resilience matters have now been turned over to Hampshire Highways, "Operation Resilience" as an entity. However, there has not been any sign of an official hand-over from Simon Cramp, or anyone familiar to us from the Big Pipe Project to date. Seeking clarification or confirmation, I emailed Simon, and suggested a telephone call to discuss. On the evening of 28th of October, he and I had a long conversation on the current state of play, and the new organisation. He did make it clear that the project will now be handed over to Hampshire Highways, who will take over as our main point of contact for all elements of the system. They are planning a meeting with us, which will include Richard Bastow who will be the new focal point, and Paula Edwards, Highways Manager – Asset Plan Delivery, sometime after the 11th of November to go through the new application of effort. He underscored the importance of giving us assurances that no-one is walking away. Simon will be continuing in a similar job working on flood matters in Romsey and Basingstoke from now on.

Given the change of ownership and the firm mandate stated, the list of open action items should be easier to address, especially as one of the people in the new team is Darren Lewis (HCC), who was deeply involved at the beginning of the B/P Project.

The following items will be raised at the meeting with Highways, and tracked through to conclusion by the FAG:

- 1) Long Term Maintenance Plan for B/P and its attached inputs/outlets
- 2) Clearing the B/P down to the tearoom and Jetting to ensure free flow
- 3) Clearing of the catchment basin
- 4) Clearing of ditch leading down to Hook Vinney
- 5) Design and installation of the 1.2 M pipe grate at the headwall
- 6) Clearing (sucking-out) of 200 gullies, and the possible disruption to gain access to each location, East, West and Green Lane roadways (could be significant disruption)
- 7) Confirmation of connection of four gullies along East wall along B 2150 adjacent to the Tearoom leading into the big pipe (suspected issue requiring excavation)
- 8) Further work requiring partial closing of B 2150 at the intersection

Report from Flood Action Group, November 2019

- 9) Designation of footpath/green verge on West side of B 2150 (pedestrian safety)

There could be additional issues raised over the coming months during remedial activities, which will be monitored and reported upon by the FAG.

Current Forecast – Charlotte Creswell, EA 30/11/19

No warnings in place at this time. At the moment we're experiencing 3 to 4 days of dry weather, followed by slight rains for a similar amount of time. We are not overly concerned about cellar flooding, and not expecting prolonged periods of "wet", but will see a rise in groundwater levels. There is a pretty low chance of significant increases in the next 6 to 8 weeks at the present rate. If there is an acceleration, she will get back to me with further information.

Current Aquifer Levels

Readings are taken at regular intervals and analysed against 2017 and 2018 levels, and compared against recent rain fall measurements by the FAG. As of 30/11/19, Broadhalfpenny Down at 44.330 AOD is slightly above 17/18 by 1 m, and Whitedale Farm at 34.163 AOD is slightly above 17/18 by .82 m. The trigger levels are 59.9 m at BHD, and 54 m at Whitedale.

Update – Properties at Risk From Flooding (Data from 2014)

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Properties in the Flood Zone | 311 |
| Properties with cellars or wells | 79 |
| Cellars Flooded | 67 |
| Properties that actually pump | 62 |
| No of Pumps engaged | 187 |
| New property owners | 15 |

FAG Action Items

- 1) Article on predicted weather conditions and preparation for Hambletonian.
- 2) email to all Properties Flooding (79) on current situation and preparations during flooding season.
- 3) email to all current members of the FAG to confirm willingness to carry on for this flooding season.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jan Jarvie
Chairman, Flood Action Group