

# Report from Flood Action Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

## **Overview**

We are now officially into the flooding season, and are stepping-up preparations for the winter weather conditions in the village. There was a significant amount of rain during the month of October, over 200% of the normal amount for this time of year, with a good deal more in the forecast for the coming days, accompanied by heavy winds. One of the important messages we're sending out is the availability of the sources of online information, updates and warnings that are available. We maintain continual dialogue with the Environment Agency, however, they are reluctant to provide any detailed predictions with the constantly changing jet stream patterns and unsettled conditions. The aquifer levels will begin to rise at a faster rate in the next few weeks, which will be a regular aspect of our monitoring activities. The main risk during high groundwater extremes remains the prospect of sewerage inundation that has yet to be addressed by Southern Water, which is always a major problem during the events.

## **Gully Cleaning**

The drains (202-off) were sucked-out on 22/23 October by Hampshire County Council (HCC). It looked like a thorough job, which was greatly supported by villagers who shifted their cars off the roadways to provide a clear access to the fittings. There was concern, however, that the streets themselves had not been swept prior to drain clearance, which left a large amount of leaves collecting in the gutters that will now find their way into the gullies. It was explained by the clearing crew who work for Winchester City Council, that they received a contract from HCC to clear the drains, without mention of sweeping the streets.

## **Ditch & Catchment Basin**

The catchment basin has not been cleared of silt and vegetation to date, and remains an impediment to smooth flow, and requires ongoing maintenance. The ditch was cleared of the heavy growth four-weeks ago, and is now starting to get cluttered by debris coming from the Big Pipe. There are more signs of sloughing of the east bank, and hedging continues to slip away from the remaining earth on the field side of the verge.

## **Communication**

As per our established procedures, the FAG will roll-out updated information on resiliency matters, and maintain contact with all interested parties throughout the Hambledon Flooding Season. We have prepared an article for the next Hambledonian on winter weather preparations, which will appear by late November. The FAG is also maintaining contact with new residents, or those have been in the village for a period of time, but have not experienced cellar flooding. There are also properties that have been, or are in the process of being sold, that we also track to provide information on the activities of the FAG, and get them in the communication loop. The FAG is also welcoming a new member, Ian Hall, who resides on Cams Hill, who will be looking after the properties on Lower West Street and Green Lane.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Jan Jarvie  
Chairman, Flood Action Group

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