

FAG Report to the Hambledon Parish Council 28/06/21

The Flood Action Group is Currently working on updates to our documentation set, along with early preparation for planning prior to the flooding season to ensure we can react quickly to any major changes brought about by sudden climate change. We are also working with a number of new residents with the supply of information with respect to flooding and weather resiliency.

1) Hartridge's Borehole – We commenced regular dipping of the borehole on 27th June 2021, using the water level device purchased by the HPC. The reading taken was the same as the information collected in January of this year (9.8 m), even with greater changes to the data from Whitedale Farm. A message was sent to our contact at the Environment Agency (EA) confirming the availability of scheduled readings, which will be provided over periods of flooding in the village, or as required. We are aware of the provision of the readings taken at the same location by the brewery over a number of years, and have also requested access to this historical data, if available from the EA. Additionally, we are asking for the elevation distance above the top of the borehole (AOD), as it should have been officially recorded at some point. This would validate continuation of our measurement process, and help to correlate the “official” figures with the Whitedale readings available from the internet (Shoothill).

2) Noisy Manhole Covers – members of the FAG have been receiving a number of complaints from people in the village over an extended period of time with regard to the constant nuisance of loud noises emanating from manhole covers. The sound level is particularly bad on upper East street, where the noise echoes from the narrow roadway at the junction of Back Lane. There are issues, however, surrounding the “ownership” of the offending covers, e.g. Big Pipe highway drain or Southern Water Sewerage System. People in these areas have indicated that complaints to both have not yielded a satisfactory result, even with continuous contact with representatives from each. We believe a stronger message needs to be conveyed by the HPC requiring further discussion.

3) Headwall and Ditch below the Tea Room – There is an expected large build-up of vegetation in the ditch, causing restrictions of flow out of the Big Pipe. We were given assurances by HCC Highways, and from their contractors in March, that we would be receiving regular scheduling updates associated with ditch clearing and gully maintenance, but none have been forthcoming since that time. We will be requesting a response this week.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jan Jarvie
Chairman, Flood Action Group