

Report from Flood Action Group, 2nd December 2019

Summary

Maintenance of the Big Pipe – We can confirm that Simon Cramp has made it clear that the project has now been officially handed over to Hampshire Highways, who will take over as our main point of contact for all elements of the system. We have a meeting scheduled for 10:00 Thursday 5th December at the Village Hall to meet the new representatives and to learn more about future plans for BP maintenance and resiliency matters.

We have not seen the agenda for the meeting or other documentation to date, and focusing on our own list of open items will be put forward for discussion. A summary of the meeting and any follow-up documentation will be made available to the Hambledon Parish Council, and we will be tracking and reporting on progress.

Current list of open items:

- 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 (Complete at this time, but will be an on-going maintenance requirement)
- 4) Clearing of ditch leading down to Hook Vinney
- 5) Design and installation of the 1.2 M pipe grate at the headwall (Installation completed 28/11/19 – see photographs)
- 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
- 9) Designation of footpath/green verge on West side of B 2150 (pedestrian safety)
- 10) Confirmation of future primary contacts at Hampshire Highways

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

Current Forecast

We are now well-into the season where flooding issues could start to materialise. We are currently following our established Flood Action Group procedures, as set-out in the Action Plan (FAP), along with monitoring of the status of the village resiliency measures as the weather conditions dictate. This includes frequent

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monitoring of the aquifer levels at the Broadhalfpenny Down and Whitedale Farm boreholes, and comparison of the readings from 2017/18 tracking data to record trending. At present the levels are about 10 m higher above the datum than in 2018, as recorded from 12th through 29th November this year. These figures while a bit worrying, are still below the trigger points for possible cellar/well flooding by 10 m at BHD, and 14.02 m at Whitedale.

Coordination with the Environment Agency – The groundwater **trends** were discussed with Charlotte Creswell at some length on 28/11/19. She explained there are no warnings in place at this time, and has stated an update report will be forthcoming in the next two weeks with the rate of increase in aquifer levels. She again extended the EA forecast for the next 6 to 8 weeks, which should take us past the Christmas period, with little chance of cellar flooding, unless we have significant heavy and sustained rainfall, i.e. more than 75 mm over a short period of time. As per normal practice with the EA, there is usually a caveat for sudden changes in weather patterns that are difficult to predict with world climate transformation. We will continue to maintain frequent contact with Charlotte to stay informed in addition to other relevant information sources available to us.

FAG Action Items

- 1) Article on predicted weather conditions and preparation for Hambletonian. (Complete – will appear in December issue)
- 2) email to all Properties Flooding (79) on current situation and preparations during flooding season. (Currently in-work)
- 3) email to all current members of the FAG to confirm willingness to carry-on for this weather season, and for possible new members. (Due by 6th December)
- 4) Continue to liaise with property owners who are new to the village, and have not experienced flooding (14).
- 5) Follow-up issue with installation of a culvert at the entrance to Business Park at the top of East Street

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jan Jarvie
Chairman, Flood Action Group