

Operational Flood Working Group – South virtual meeting held on 18th August 2021

Andrew Davis	Chair, Cllr Warminster East
Danny Everett	Principal Drainage Engineer
Robert Yuill	Amesbury
Chris Sanky	Pitton & Farley
Sandra Harry	Tisbury
Graham Axtell	Highway Engineer
Stuart Mariner	Pitton & Farley
Bob Primer	Wilton Town Council
Stuart Legg	Warminster
Rachel Ashton Brown	Waterditchampton
Sue Fraser	Warminster
Mike Ash	Bishopstone
James Shephard	Aldbourne
Charles McGrath	Salisbury
Steve Malpass	Environment Agency
Charlotte	Wessex Water
Renate Malton	Flood Resilience Officer

Parish Update

Wilton

- Still investigations being carried out on Wishford Road

Waterditchampton

- concerns remaining re vegetation, have taken this up with Wilton Estate
- Danny advises the site is a triple SSI, Wilton Estate have permission from EA to undertake clearance, 1/3rd per year over a 3-year programme and then restart. Wilts Council ecologist has visited the site and discussed issues pertaining to flora and fauna.
- With regards to vegetation, during a heavy flow most of this will be pushed down and the actual channel is fine. Unless the water is actually being dammed there should be no cause for concerns.

Amesbury

- Their website has been updated to enable residents to report issues
- Still two groups representing flooding for the town, these being the town council and the resident's association. The association has not been in touch. Meeting of the emergency coordinators group scheduled for next week.

Tisbury

- Concerned about a planning application for a care home and 86 homes at Station Road. The current proposal is to use one of the bridge arches for pedestrians and cyclist with the remaining arch for cars, managed by traffic signals. The road floods at this point and cars often have used the 2nd arch to get through, this occurs roughly for around 6 weeks in any one year. Town council asking for advice as the application has not been submitted yet.

Danny advised that it would be down to the developer to submit how they would deal with this issue which we would then either accept or refuse.

- Steve is aware of volume of flooding in the area and advises it would require a huge amount of money to stop the flooding if at all. Advised the parish council should review whether using the 2nd archway as a pedestrian and cycleway should be undertaken.
- This can be discussed during the advisory meeting, ensure there are photographs and dates to show the frequency of the floods.

Waterditchampton

- Ditch discussed at the last meeting did not in fact belong to the riding stables but to another local landowner. Luckily not has had much rainfall as had been expected. Many thanks to Wiltshire Council for cleaning the gullies, it was great to receive the letters in advance and ensure the road was clear of cars to enable all the gullies to be cleaned – well done.

Bishopstone

- Requesting an update on Faulstone Lane. Richard back in the office and is going out to do an inspection and start writing to landowners. He can meet Mike on site if needed.
- The grips have disappeared, and if not done before the rains come will cause issues.
- Steve advised he will chase up the tree in the river with colleagues.

Pitton & Farley

- JBA have come up with a scheme of minor works that could be used to deliver marginal improvements with a cost to benefit ratio. The flood group are struggling to understand how it has been costed as the end result is £30,000 and feel that some of the costs are hopelessly overpriced. However they are trying to be practical and hope that it will not be the actual cost and need to ask how these costs were arrived at. The consulting fees and admin fees are outweighing the cost of the scheme.
- Danny has yet to see this report, but Stuart advised it was very draft and would not be shared with the parish council. Danny raised concerns that as the Lead Local Flood Authority for Wiltshire none of this is being shared with the council and the communication between Romsey and Wiltshire Council need to be improved. Stuart will keep Danny updated.
- Steve is not aware of the report either and advised that any schemes presented to Defra needs to have a cost to benefit ratio and risk built in.
- Stuart advising if properties were to flood this has the potential to cost in £200,000.

Aldbourn

- Ground water is fairly low at the moment.
- Main issue for the community is the catchpit which is completely filled with silt. They have discussed this with Martin Cook who advised it is not feasible currently. There was a lot of rain recently in Aldbourn and residents got out to help sweep away the debris, but concerns raised that if more rain occurs the catch pit will overflow and the residents in The Darlings will flood as there

as there is a direct route down the hill into their properties. Danny advised he will talk to Chris Clarke, Head of Highways to see if any funds can be released.

- New housing is being proposed for Lottage Road and concerns raised that the sewage system cannot cope with the current volume and how will it deal with an additional possible 40 houses.
- Thames Water is not attending the OFWG meetings currently and are proving difficult to engage. Danny to pass on his contact to James
- A noisy manhole is causing an issue, it's on the main road through the village and causing a constant noise. Advised raising it with streetworks.

Warminster

- Major flood in Portway and the gully tanker was deployed to clean out the drains, hopefully this has sorted out the issue.
- The town council has noted that the EA have published online the new flood mapping for Warminster which has raised a number of issues. The mapping shows a higher level of risk in some areas, which came about from a greater understanding of conditions on the group. Concerns being raised by residents and businesses affected and the town council are requesting the EA and Wessex Water engage with them and show they are doing their best to improve and reduce the risk.
- Concerns raised about who is responsible for maintaining the balancing pond to ensure it doesn't overflow down into the town centre.
- Steve advised that Warminster is an extremely complicated system and would be happy to engage in any meetings and will discuss with Mike Holm about organising a public event later in the year.
- Flood plan needs reviewing in light of new mapping Stuart to arrange a meeting to include Lisa Milton (EA). Renate suggested some engagement with businesses could be carried similar to that undertaken in Salisbury as part of updating the plan.
- (Date arranged for 16th September)
- Robert asked about balancing ponds and that he has never seen them with water in and do they work. Danny advised they are designed to catch the big events and water will collect in them allowing the pipes to decant the water in a measured way.
- Stuart asked Danny to pass on their thanks to the area team for the work carried out by the gully tankers.

Wiltshire Council

- The council has identified 2 areas which are of the highest significant risk of surface water flooding within Wiltshire. These being communities in Amesbury & Salisbury. We have obtained some funding from the EA to look further into these areas to assess the risk. What is the actual risk and where does it come from? The project will take around 6 – 12 months to complete and identify if any schemes can be carried out to reduce the risk to these communities. The work is currently being undertaken by the Major Highways Project Team. Carli and Jack are available to discuss the project in more detail if required.

- Robert expressed surprise that Railey Crescent was identified and would be interested in the results of further investigation. The town centre was also identified as having properties of risk of surface water flooding.

Wessex Water

- Most of the issues recently have been in the north of the county. She reminded attendees to ensure the message is passed onto residents that they should report any sewage flooding to Wessex Water and not assume someone else is doing it. If Wessex Water don't know about it, they can't fix it.
- Concerns were raised about levels of discharge into the Wyllye from the sewage plant. Andrew to find out more information.

EA

- Nothing to add as issues raised dealt with as they came up.
- Reminder that the flood warning service operates a 24/7 service

A.O.B

Reminder

Update flood plans

Ensure contacts up to date

Supplies are in order and useable and if you need any more gel sacs, contact Nicola.mundy@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Check that any equipment is in working order e.g. pumps

Be ready for winter.

Concerns raised about builder's rubbish pushed down drains in new developments. If the council is adopting the roads under Section 38, they should be clear, please report any that are not we have more powers to enforce before we adopt. The council tend to only adopt the "main" route through an estate the remainder of the roads are controlled by a management company and any complaints should be put through to them as they are collectively owned by the residents.

Dates for your diary

Wiltshire Prepared Event 27th & 28th October 2021

Many different agencies across Wiltshire and Swindon have been busily working with a variety of communities encouraging them to engage in Community Resilience. So far, we have groups all across the county with a wide variety of plans in place, but we believe coming out of Covid this is a great chance to move forward.

So join us on the 27th & 28th and check the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Resilience Forum, more information about the event will be posted on their website.

<https://wiltshireandswindonprepared.org.uk/>

Operational Flood Working Group South – 22nd October 2021 link below:-

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+44 1225 694894,,692198945#](#) United Kingdom, Bath

Phone Conference ID: 692 198 945#

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