

## **Notes from the Operational Flood Working Group South hybrid meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022**

Nic requested if Andrew could attend the meeting of the South West Regional Flood Defence meeting on his behalf, details to be emailed

Nic asking if town and parishes had received letter from him regarding attending the OFWG meeting reminding them why it is important they attend this meeting. A quick round robin of attendees appeared to show the clerks had not passed the message onto councillors or flood wardens

### **Update from agencies.**

Drainage team

- The top five area works team are out and about in the county with a programme of work for the work throughout the year. These were issues highlighted by the Highway Engineers mostly on safety grounds and risk level. They are spread across the county.
- Atkins running CCTV survey ahead of major maintenance, checking the system and arrange for repairs prior to maintenance works starting.

Environment agency

The weather has been very kind, so nothing on the emergency incidents. Few showers coming in tomorrow and the weekend. Reminder that rainfall on hard ground could cause surface water flooding.

Property level protection (PLP) scheme continuing and the Salisbury flood attenuation scheme progressing, although costs have risen due to inflation.

The Salisbury development of the site aims to provide a green corridor through the city and improve the flood risk management of this part of Salisbury. There is a lot of information on the website about the scheme. Although it will only cover part of Salisbury, other areas will be looked at to see what can be done with regards to flood alleviation or installing PLP to individual properties.

Surface water project Amesbury & Salisbury

Jack Francis gave an update on the surface water project which has identified 13 areas in Salisbury and 2 in Amesbury. Phase 1 has been completed and Phase 2 is looking at enhanced models of these sites and options and solutions to solve the issues.

There is some excellent information on the Website and the main focus is to improve the area economically as well as reducing the flood risk.

Amesbury central area has been highlighted as high risk for surface water.

Richard Crook advised a drain on Stonehenge Road has a lot of tarmac around it causing a hazard to traffic, in particular to cyclists. Rhiannon advised she is out that way on Friday and will take a look.

Wessex water

Very quiet currently.

Reminder any instances of sewer or mains flooding must be reported even if you are prepared to clean it up yourselves. If Wessex Water do not know about it, they cannot improve their infrastructure. Reported issues are what contributes to new schemes.

As a company Wessex Water will restore your land/property back to standard if there has been flooding due to their infrastructure. Repeated incidents are studied to see if mitigation works can be undertaken.

## **Parish updates**

Salisbury

- Now has a team of some 15 wardens who have been trained in FORT (the EA flood reporting system) and hoping to organise a wider training session as well as a tour of the flood zones in Salisbury in September. Ongoing. River park progressing which is very good.
- Mark Read undertook an audit of all the equipment to ensure everything is in date and all together as well as being accessible in case of flooding.
- Milford Mill area raised as an area of concern as there may be some damage in the area. CCTV system being surveyed to see what is happening which may be a capacity issue or failure of assets, once known actions will be taken.

Pitton & Farley

- Sadly, no progress re the response from the EA re a possible low-cost improvement scheme, low-cost improvement. Romsey commissioned a report last August identifying areas where work could be undertaken. Following a review of the cost benefit analysis the group requested a meeting to discuss - nothing has happened, despite repeated requests. The draft report had a number of good ideas the parish do not understand why Romsey are not responding. Steve was going to chase this up for them. The parish council have written to John Glen back in April and despite this there has been no response from the EA. Steve Malpass advised he had rung and left messages and will continue to chase on behalf of the parish.
- The parish council is refusing to cover the insurance for the flood group or to take any formal responsibility and the group are asking if Nic can assist.
- Nic requesting they email him, and he will endeavour to find out more. Comments from the parishes attending this group advised all their parishes cover any work undertaken by volunteers, including flood wardens.

Great Bedwyn

- Flood plan is still being updated which will then be approved by the drainage team. Advised if any outstanding queries to contact drainage team.

## Aldbourne

- Groundwater levels are low for this time of year and The Bourne has stopped flowing.
- Drains cleared in the spring and Thames Water are continuing with inspections of their water pipes due to infiltration of their assets.
- A lot of remedial work has been undertaken but having issues with clearing silt at Goddards Lane & Lottage Road. Martin is aware of this; Richard will follow this up with him when he gets back.
- Flood plan is currently being revised and updated and should be reissued within the next few weeks.

## Warminster

- Wessex water advised they would be producing a schedule of updating their system but as yet the town council have heard nothing
- They are updating the flood plan and hope to be arranging a desk top exercise.
- The town council had also been advised by Malcolm Holm that funds had been made available to start planning for the future needs of the town. This was supplemented by an additional 75,000 but to date no update has been received. Concerned the money has been lost. A letter has been sent to the EA in respect of this would welcome clarification.
- Wessex Water are also planning additional storm overflow storage and the town council would like to know how are they going to achieve this.
- Steve is aware that a modelling exercises are taking place and that Warminster is near or on top of the list, he will however chase his up.
- With regard to the scheme currently being progressed by Wessex Water they are waiting for approval from EA once this has been given costings can be made, however decisions are unlikely to be made prior to Christmas,
- Shopkeeper concerned about flooding to their property. The owner has been advised the system has been cleaned and there are no plans for any improvement works in the area currently. Information has been sent regarding property protections measures available and checking with neighbouring owners regarding flooding issues and to bring it to the attention of the town council if the situation deteriorates
- Richard updated highways agency about the balancing ponds and their contact details and response passed over o the town council.

## Wilton

- Flood group reinvigorated and enthusiastic.
- Wishes to know when the EA will be completing the modelling. Steve cannot give a date but will make enquiries and get back.
- A36 (National Highways) have 5 sections that are cleaned 2 x per annum and 1 section 4 x per annum. If there are particular issues, they should log them

with the National Highways. A site meeting was requested by members of the town council, Richard to follow this up.

- Problems with detritus on the A36 which ends up with a large intervention to clean the road. Concern that the detritus is ending up in the drains which in turn causes issues of flooding for local residents whose properties about the road.
- An application has been made to SSEN for a grant, to strengthen our flood response team in
- Parishes are advised to report issues via the Wilts App in the first instance.

The criteria for intervention are: -

- High speed road (60 mph)
- Internal property flooding
- Low speed road under (40mph)
- Gardens
- Agricultural land
- Problems need to be reported as these are collated and inform the council of areas where additional intervention may be needed. Parish council's who wish to report blocked gullies that are not covered by the above intervention levels can request the discretionary gully tanker service

#### Donhead St Mary

- Concern was raised re trees causing an issue, this has now been dealt with and 2 additional trees have been dealt with.
- There is still an issue with gravel on the road and Dave has requested additional information regarding the site and ask the parish steward to have a look. The area only has access to a JBC which is normally booked up with ditch cleaning. If there is the possibility of an ad hoc visit Dave will include this when it visits the area.
- Issues around Ludwell Hill, water tends to accumulate at the bottom of the hill and cannot get away. The site has been vactored recently and silt was reported as having built up in the culvert below the road causing delay in the water draining away.

#### Tisbury

- Thank you to the EA re assistance with trees in the river Nadder some of which were the responsibility of the parish council, but a larger number belonged to a neighbouring landowner. The EA have been requested to come and look at the issue as residents are concerned about repeated flooding. The town warden will be available to accompany the EA if required.
- Many thanks for the work undertaken and a reminder that they have yet to receive the Section 19 report. Advised this is still in progress and additional information is needed and he will be in touch.

#### Sutton Veny

- The lie of the land and its geology affect flooding around the community. Biggest issue currently is surface water run-off and the last episode saw flood water creeping up to door step levels.
- Drains have been unblocked, managing system well. Richard advised that the system was investigated, and work done on removing roots which had ingressed into the pipes. These have been removed which should assist in future events.

#### Broad Chalke

- Many thanks to Dave Button and his team in dealing with standing water in the community and talking to the landowner has ensured they are clear of water.
- Submitted an SSEN grant funding application and currently working on emergency plans and flood wardens.
- Mike aware that Richard had sent a letter to Foulston Estate regarding the ditches, but nothing has been done to date. Richard advised there is ongoing liaison with the estate.

#### Woodford valley –

- Currently updating the emergency plan and will send to Renate once completed. Need to add vulnerable gullies to the plan.
- Richard advised that Highway systems are not designed to take the volume of water generated by the current storms we are experiencing currently and there is no obligation on councils to change them. As new estates are being constructed the drainage designs are built to cope with more rainfall. There is no duty to upsize systems. The criteria and procedure for reporting drainage issues should be followed.
- Owners of watercourses, ditches, channels, gully, or culvert on or crossing their land
- Dave reiterated that all enquires re blocked gullies should in the first instance be reported via the Wiltshire App, subject to the criteria mentioned above. The discretionary gully tanker is available for parishes to book for all other gullies. The gully tanker used by the highway engineers are not reactive but if time allows can be used for ad hoc days they do not have the capacity to deal with them via telephone/emails, so please use the app in the first instance.

#### Berwick St James

- River is currently very low with lots of weed growing.
- Many thanks to the parish steward who has been unstinting in keeping the gullies clear.

#### Amesbury

- Town council reported that a considerable number of roundabout are collecting significant amounts of gravel around them and they are unsure of where it is coming from. Rhiannon advised reporting these issues via the

Wiltshire App. Alice is very good at putting things on there. cleared of debris, Alice very good at passing stuff on the app and we can look at it being swept. We need it on the app for our records to enable proper locations to be entered.

- Concerns about a recent estate which is now mostly adopted that builder's debris was swept into the gullies on the estate.
- Have noticed that Wessex water are adding capacity to a water recycling facility and asking is this because there is deficiency in the system or in anticipation of future development. Some additional 1200 properties and even more on the A345. Advised that the company will try to be proactive rather than reactive.

A.O.B

Requested Steve keep a record of when he is calling the EA in Romsey and email Renate end July.

Richard several flood plans in potential they are very useful if and when bad weather happens. Currently recognise it is difficult to speak about flooding when it is so hot, however summer storms can be very intense overwhelming drainage systems very quickly. Keep the drainage team updated if this happens.

If there are critical ditches in your parish have a chat with the landowner to get them cleared during August, September, as town and parish councils you have access to the ditch letters on the OFWG webpages. If you have followed the instructions, sent letters and there has been no response then do contact the drainage team. It makes a difference in our ability to take a landowner to court if we have done everything we can which includes your actions – it does help.

Currently some councillors are trying to obtain additional funding for the drainage team to concentrate on those sites that are an issue, are perennially on the list but never make the top five. We will keep you updated on their progress.

We appreciate any feedback regarding these meetings, in particular whether we continue with hybrid or revert back to in person – please let us know your thoughts.

Date of next meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup> 10 am. start Hybrid Meeting

In person: -  
Warminster Town Council Civic Centre  
Sambourne Road  
Warminster

MS Teams Link :-

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