

Copythorne Parish Council Meeting 9th March 2021

Item 14 – Updating Report on Flooding Advisory Committee activities

As mentioned by the Clerk in his report to Council last month, approximately 250 Riparian Responsibilities Letters have been sent out by HCC Flood & Water Management Team. It thanks those residents who keep their ditches, pipes and gullies clear and reminds those that don't of their riparian responsibilities.

The FAC continues to monitor several surface water flooding hotspots in the parish.

Of particular note is The Parade area of Cadnam, where as part of an ongoing programme of work HCC Highways have recently cleared an overgrown ditch. Incidentally this ditch clearance is a good example of how to go about such work and Highways should be congratulated on their efforts. As a result, the FAC will consider adding guidance notes to any future letters sent to residents concerning ditch and pipe clearance work.



Figure 1. Parade Ditch Clearance Work

During the investigative work in late January 2021 (as previously reported by the Clerk), unfortunately Highways were unable to clear the pipes to allow a camera to be inserted. Thus, at the time of writing a previously suspected blockage in Southampton Road has yet to be cleared. Apparently before this can happen a HCC Highways Civil Engineering gang is needed to free up and lift a seized inspection cover further down the road!

The Clerk recently wrote to The White Hart about blocked ditches and pipes at the entrances to the pub. Can I just say a big thank you to the White Hart for their quick response in clearing the blockages.



Figure 2. White Hart Ditch & Drain Clearance Work

HCC Highways have cleared the ditches and pipes at the top of New Inn Road and the surface water now flows under the road by The Haywain and on down Southampton Road. However as is evidenced by the water in the adjacent ditch not draining away, there continues to be an ongoing problem with the pipe under Rockram Close.

Together with our Clerk, I had an on-site meeting with representatives from HCC Highways and the National Trust about the Surface Water Flooding issues in Kewlake Lane on 25th February. Time was taken to examine the maps brought by myself and the Clerk and compare them to what was actually visible on the ground. It was a most successful meeting, as the NT Ranger came armed with a shovel and a bag of rods.

The Ranger was able as you can see from the photo, to clear the pipes under the road from the pond and the pipe in the roadside ditch, which links to the ditch in the field. So big a vote of thanks to the Ranger for his excellent work. This is a very good example of what can be done, when three different organisations come together in the spirit of cooperation.

For the Parish's part the Clerk will arrange for the Lengthsman to clear the brambles from the roadside railings next to the pond and in due course get them repainted. I'm also happy if time permits, to give a more detailed verbal update on what happened when we meet on the 9th March.



Figure 3. Kewlake Lane Unblocked Pipes and Ditches

The FAC is presently working on an update to the online version Parish Flood Plan 2020 edition.

Cllr. John Goodwin is continuing his investigations into the power poles blocking drainage in Pollards Moor Road. I don't want to steal his thunder, but suffice to say that when he met on site with engineers from Scottish and Southern Electric on 24th February 2021, the survey that was done on the day, revealed something rather surprising!

Cllr. Graham Chillcott