

## **Notes from meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Re Flooding/Drains in the Village.**

Present

Guy Metcalf – CEC Flood Investigation Officer, Andy Simpson CEC Senior Highways Officer & Steve Walther - Eaton parish Council

Meeting was arranged to discuss the recent flooding incident in the village on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022, affecting homes on Beechwood Drive and School Lane, and possible future measures to be taken to minimise the future risk of recurrence.

### **Culvert Below A536**

It was discussed and accepted by all that the culvert that passes below the A536 and onward through the garden of No 3 Brookside cottages has a considerably reduced capacity when compared to the main culvert running through the garden of No 6 School Lane. This, in the view of the residents has been in the past, and is still is a critical factor when it comes to flooding issues in the village.

Although CEC accepted that this has been a problem for a number of years, and following previous flooding issues in the village, a subsequent design was produced to install a new 900mm Diameter pipe from the rear of No 6 School Lane across the A536 and into the brook at the rear of No 3 Brookside Cottages. For various reasons including cost and access issues this did not happen.

Andy and Guy agreed to carry out yet further surveys of the culvert and the drains in the area to determine where the issues are and what can be done to mitigate this. This is unlikely to be carried out until the next financial year i.e., after April 2023.

Steve will endeavour to obtain the photographs and video of the existing culvert to hopefully speed up and assist with the survey work.

The cost of providing a new enlarged pipe across the road would obviously be substantial, and may still prove to be a real stumbling block in seeing this long standing problem being resolved.

Guy did suggest that to help mitigate this issue in the short term would be to try and reduce the flow of water getting to the culvert. One of the ways this could be achieved would possibly be by excavating new catchment ponds and ditches in the surrounding fields. This would obviously need to be carried out in conjunction and agreement with the landowners (Antrobus Estate), land agents (Fisher German) and the tenant farmer (Barry Worth). Who would ultimately be responsible for the cost of such work is debatable!

If this is the agreed action required Guy will attempt to contact the agents to discuss, and help to identify suitable positions for such ponds and ditches.

Steve will have an informal conversation with the tenant farmer to obtain his views on this and how receptive they may be to have this work carried out.

### **Roadside Gulley's**

Andy and Guy did say that the roadside gulley's are cleared twice a year on a pre-planned basis.

At certain times of year, particularly late autumn when leaves accumulate and block the grids this can become a real problem and may well contribute the flooding issues.

Steve is aware that this is ultimately the responsibility of CEC but suggests that to help the situation residents who are able, and if it safe to do, could maybe clear leaves from the gulley's when affected. Parish Council to review this policy and advise residents accordingly.

Residents have informed Steve that the gulley's on the A536 are either blocked or that water is simply bypassing these and causing flooding issues on the A536 Adjacent to Brookside Cottages.

Andy to investigate this and hopefully rectify.

The gulley's on the pavement along School Lane are to be reviewed, and work to the pavement is to be carried out to hopefully prevent excess rainwater on School Lane from entering the properties.

#### **Hydrant issue on Beechwood Drive.**

It is thought by many that the water that gushes from the hydrant is caused by run-off water from the fields at the rear of Beechwood Drive. There is however a main rainwater drain that runs almost directly below this point, and as such as part of the survey work discussed earlier CEC will carry out an inspection of these drains to make sure that they are performing as designed. If not CEC will deal with it. However, if it proves that the problem is indeed the surrounding fields then mitigation measures discussed earlier (Ponds etc) would look to be carried out.

As has been suggested previously, simply improving land drainage to the surround fields may put additional pressure on the existing drainage system within the village and attenuation ponds and ditches would be a preferable action to take.

#### **Sewage System**

Following discussions with the residents of No 2 Beechwood Drive, who are of the opinion that the flooding on the 24<sup>th</sup> October was caused by predominantly sewage water and not necessarily surface rain water, it was decided that this would certainly be an issue for UU to investigate and rectify.

Guy and Steve will both try to contact UU to carry out the necessary investigation and any subsequent repairs.

UU had previously reported that all their systems in the village were functioning as they should. How can this be the case if sewage ended up in the property of No 2 Beechwood Drive?

There have been reports from a resident in the village that the cause of this could be that recent developments both on Beechwood Drive and School Lane may have connected rainwater drainage pipes directly into the sewage system and not the surface water drainage system. As such at times of heavy rainfall the sewage pipes are unable to cope with the additional demand and subsequently back up possibly causing the flooding to No 2 Beechwood on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Steve will discuss this further with the residents of No 2 Beechwood Drive to try and clarify that this is the case, and if possible, try to obtain a report from the fire service who attended to the problem.

Steve Walther – Eaton Parish Council