

Notes from meeting 27th February 2023 – Re Flooding/Drains in the Village.

Present

Steve Waltho - Eaton Parish Council, Mike & Kieran UU

Meeting was arranged to discuss the recent flooding incident in the village on 24th October 2022, affecting homes on Beechwood Drive and School Lane.

It is reported that the flooding involved sewage entering No 2 Beechwood Drive with the residents having to leave their home. The meeting will hopefully try to resolve why this happened and possible remedial works to prevent recurrence.

Capacity of Existing Sewers

The capacity of the existing sewers (150mm) which were installed circa 1950 are, in the opinion of UU, adequate for the additional dwellings built since then. In fact, 150mm sewers are the norm for much larger developments' than the number of homes that are in Eaton.

Possible restriction to repaired sewer at No 6 School Lane

This was discussed following an enquiry from Mr Slater. UU stated that all repairs were carried out by their authorised contractors and that any such repairs would have no effect on the sewage drainage system.

Rainwater entering the sewage pipework system.

As we are aware, flooding in the village only occurs at times of excessive and prolonged rainfall, and it has also been suggested that recent development or building modifications may have resulted in rainwater drains being connected into the sewage system.

UU stated that this may affect the flow levels in the sewers but any increase from this would be negligible.

UU Stated that there may be a surface water drain that connects rainwater from School Lane having been connected to the main sewer pipe at the rear of School Lane and Beechwood Drive properties in the vicinity of No 7 School Lane. SW stated that if this is the case then the rainfall on 24th October would have potentially caused the sewer pipe to become overloaded.

UU will investigate this with a view to removing this connection and putting it into the surface water drain at some stage in the future. However, SW said that this action would only cause the surface water drainage system, particularly the culvert below the A536, to become overloaded, and that any such action should not be taken until the capacity of the culvert is increased. UU will discuss this with CEC.

Non-Return Valves

A number of properties on School Lane already have Non-Return Valves fitted to their sewage pipework system. These operate on a pressure basis and close once the system becomes "backed up" and the pressure builds. This generally works well but can also simply push the problem further upstream. As such if this were fitted to No 2 Beechwood then No 4 may become the next problem and so on. When the Valves are closed to capacity in the individual drains to the properties is also considerably reduced.

Investigations and Monitoring

UU are to carry out CCTV Surveys of the existing sewer pipes in the village and particularly at the rear of the School Lane and Beechwood Drive to check for any restrictions and to clarify that this is operating correctly.

UU will also carry out CCTV Surveys to the main sewer and rainwater drainage system that runs down Beechwood drive, again to clarify that this is all OK.

The investigation work could also potentially identify if and where excessive rainfall could be entering the system.

UU are to install flow monitoring equipment into the sewage drains at various strategic points in the village to check flow levels. This would hopefully identify any problems particularly during excessive rainfall. During normal conditions everything appears to be operating correctly.

CCTV survey work to be carried out within 2 - 4 Weeks.

UU to install flow monitoring equipment Date TBA

UU to meet with CEC, Including Guy Metcalf (Flood Risk Officer), to discuss all the above

Steve Waltho – Eaton Parish Council