

UPC Flood Report for Dec 2012 Meeting

History Nov – Dec.

Heavy rain on Sunday 18th Nov caused flooding in Cooks Mead, which had to be closed, due to sheer volume of water and the culvert being unable to cope. Cricket pitch and tennis court were flooded for a while, (tennis court and children's playground covered in silt) but not from the breach of the wall by the south culvert. Secretary KG V rang PW to inform UPC of tennis court flooding, and asked when emergency channel would be put in. She was informed we were still waiting for levels and an approved scheme from them, per our recent letter. Venlake culvert east brim full, with some debris, channel downstream running, with 1 foot to spare at Venlake Meadows. Venlake West 2/3 full. Photos of Cooks Mead area taken on 19th Nov and 7th Dec to be added to UPC website.

21st Nov, Photos of DCC Highways cleaning ditches adjacent to Village Hall given to UPC Village Hall Committee representative.

Further heavy rain evening of 22nd Nov (Planning Committee Meeting at Village Hall, discussing outline planning application for school, et al)

Sat 24th Nov, heavy rain from 0700 till midnight. Venlake culvert east has debris at entrance, not blocking flow (12.00 p.m.) but which should be moved. Culvert overtopped during the night and ran across the road. Debris to be moved, both upstream (Mrs Kidson said James Booth was coming to do it) and downstream. Debris upstream moved by Mr Kidson, email sent to Guinness (Ben Cane) regarding cleaning channel. Cricket pitch not flooding by next morning,

More heavy rain evening of 25th Nov.

Highways came to do work at Cooks Mead on Monday 26th (?) but causing more damage than good according to Cllr Ostler. No one in charge on site and after 5.00 p.m. nobody in authority available from Highways to talk to.

WP inspection 7th December, together with Cllr Ostler. Further photos taken. Cllr Turner has asked that copies of correspondence with all the local authorities concerned be sent to Neil Parish, MP. Flood reports have all been copied to DCC Flood Prevention, but nothing back from them. David Cameron apparently promised funds to Devon and Cornwall during his recent visit. Environmental Agency have said that there are various pots of money available, and will advise.

Actions

Check who received flood warnings from EA (or EDDC as Drainage Authority). Self-help info has been issued verbally to both Post Office and Village Hall. No volunteers for site works (as asked for in October UPC meeting), now also needed for clearing children's playground (previously £240 spent clearing silt), Offers to wash down the playground (before moss grows) by Jamie McNeil but bulk silt removal first would reduce cost to Council. Request for volunteers to be repeated in December meeting.

Update of sandbags requirements needed (200 with KK understood to have been returned). Cllr Frost's stock is running low. CP needs a further bag of sand.

Road closed signs, cones or plastic barriers, tape etc., needed at Cooks Mead, where they could be stored in a locked box in Cemetery, together with shovels. Cllr Ostler's digger will not always be available, and comments have been made about unofficial action.

Present situations

Venlake. Copy email to Guinness to WP. Reply from Ben Cane that it had been passed to their surveyor, but nothing further. Letter sent summarising situation to DCC Highways and Flood Risk Prevention on 21/11, no reply to date, and no substantive replies to other correspondence has been received.

Cuckoo Lane. Included in Venlake letter

Lyme Road south culvert to River Lim. Levels still needed. KG V say Highways have refused to jet culvert, and there may be a blockage (?tree) therein (?cctv?) but was flowing on 7th December. There may still be material to be moved from the channel here affecting water flow to river, as it appears to be at least a foot higher than the bottom of the culvert in spite of removal of tree downstream; but this is private land and riparian owner has said there is nothing to be done. Bridge over River Lim was under water during recent floods, Environment Agency are probably unaware of this. Clearance of further tree and widening stream can but help, but cannot be done until the weather improves.

KG V. (1) No levels from Mr Edwards. KG V Secretary unclear as to what levels had been asked for from David Gear. (2) No emergency channel location or design. Environment Agency have again said that the design of both the emergency channel and any permanent channel must be approved by them (approval needed from DDC Flood Risk (and EA), KG V, and UPC (quotation) (3) No reply from KG V re proposal for permanent channel straight to river, in place of emergency channel, but indications given by them that such approval would be unlikely. KG V hinted this had already been considered by them and a figure of £80,000 mentioned, but no mention of any such proposals or talks made at KG V/UPC meeting. (4) Nothing further on legal situation on riparian rights between KG V and Highways (Land Registry problems)

Erosion at exit to car park culvert has been reported to Brain Hoare of DCC Highways, but is getting worse. Now undercutting grass verge and up to traffic sign.

Village Hall section. See above re photos to Cllr C Pratt as UPC rep. Erosion at exit to pipe under car park getting worse and reported to Highways by Clerk as becoming danger to B3165. No news on legal discussions between Village Hall and Highways.

Cooks Mead to B3165 culvert north. Inspected by WP on 7th Dec. This is now becoming the most urgent section for actual proposals to be made.

Situation is:

Cooks Mead properties on south side have sandbags across their entrances to prevent further flooding and water continues to flow across the road due to a blocked and undersized DCC culvert.

Entry to DCC Culvert off Pound Lane, on private land belonging to Mr Mansfield. Considerable amount of debris has been moved by Cllr Ostler, but more has been brought down and is nearly blocking the culvert entrance, although water is getting through, A large debris trap is needed at the entrance to the culvert and access for a digger by lowering the hedge to allow it to excavate and fill road lorries on Pound Lane, as access from the field is currently impossible.

This DCC concrete pipe culvert then enters an open ditch on the opposite side of the road belonging to EDDC, from where it is still flowing across the road, because the subsequent DCC culvert across Cooks Mead, from the EDDC channel, is blocked, and the DCC jetting tool jammed therein as at 7th December, following works by DCC this week. Both of these DCC culverts are of totally inadequate size.

The larger culvert (DCC Highways?) across from the cemetery is flowing and appears to be picking up the road drainage.

The open channel behind the Post Office is flowing and has a reasonable gradient.

Peter Whiting

Chairman, Flood Working Party.