

Uplyme Flood Working Party - July 2013

It is now a year since the disastrous floods of 7th July 2012, and there have been other floods since then. The current position is:

Political

1. **Devon County Council Flood Unit.** Uplyme has been listed as one of the 17 most urgent flooding problems in Devon. The Head of Unit, Mr Martin Hutchings, has said that he was looking at obtaining Pathfinder/Resilience monies towards consultancy fees. However the monies for the construction of an overall scheme would have to come from government sources, such as Defra.
2. **Mr Keith Steel, Senior Engineer at EDDC** agreed to carry out survey work prior to appointing consultants at the January meeting, attended by Mr Neil Parish MP. Requests had been made to Mr Steel last month for a report, but nothing had been received. Both our County Councillor and our District Councillor had promised to chase this up with either Mr Steel or the head of his department, and results of their actions are awaited. (*See below **)

Practical

1. **Venlake.** The insurers for Mr & Mrs Kidson have installed protection to the east side of the stream running down by FP 10. Guinness Heritage have accepted liability for the culvert running under the entrance their car park, but are not apparently going to do any cleaning thereof unless the remainder of the stream channel is cleared. Any flooding here would probably be to their properties or to Councillor Pratt's house. No arrangements to prevent the blocking of the culvert across Venlake by debris have been made
2. **Cuckoo Lane.** No progress
3. **Culverts under the B3165.** These two ancient stone culverts had been overwhelmed several times and their replacement must be part of the overall flood scheme. In the absence of the EDDC survey, it is not clear whether any works downstream of the most southerly of these two culverts are required or not.
4. **Cooks Mead culverts.** These are EDDC/DCC responsibility and have been agreed as being completely undersized. No further work has been done, either on improving the culverts or preventing debris coming down from the Caswell Farm area. The adjacent properties have been flooded several times and are always at risk.
5. **KG V.** It is understood that the use of blockwork to protect the tennis court, in place of the timber boarding used to date, (and which has

failed several times), has been considered by KG V. They have a flood diversion channel scheme approved by the Environment Agency, with a piped entrance section running alongside the B3165 to discharge into the River Lim.

6. **Village Hall.** Although this came within an inch of being flooded last July, no flood measures, such as stop planks at entrances, have been installed (except one barrier at the back of the extension). Details of the availability of such measures were passed to the Village Hall Committee or are available from the Environment Agency. No steps had been taken either to remove the dam caused by the telephone cables and ducts, or provide a bypass for floodwater, or any measures taken to prevent floodwaters overtopping the bank.
7. **Post Office.** Although flooded last July, again it appears that no protective measures have been installed. However the stream running past the Post Office has been widened and blockwork protective walls and a concrete invert installed.

*** Update from Keith Steel, 26/6:**

The latest regarding the flooding at Uplyme is that on Friday I am meeting Ralph Oakley of the EDDC Housing Dept to discuss the way forward. On Tuesday 2 July Esther and I will finish off the survey around and above Cooks Mead and then decide how to go about installing gravel traps.

We are also sorting out the ownership of the stream coming down to Venlake and will be talking to the owners about the vegetation and possible weirs to slow down gravel movement.