

Uplyme Parish Council Nov 2012 Flood Report

Since the last meeting, there has been a meeting with DCC Flood Prevention (Richard Rainbow), at which KG V and VH were represented. This concentrated on the problems south of the Post Office.

We looked at the proposed emergency channel from the entrance to the southern DCC culvert, past the tennis courts and playground, to the River Lim. UPC queried the requirement to have the initial section piped, both on engineering grounds and because of the considerable costs thereby incurred, now the pipes had to be anchored. DCC could see no objection to UPC proposal to have just an open spillway from the start of the section, and no pipes. The channel size should be that of the spillway, plus an allowance of say 6" for surge and debris.

DCC said EA would require works at the entrance to the Lim on both banks, such as gabions or a gabion mattress and DCC would discuss these measures with EA. A possible alternative route for the channel through the playground could reduce the amount of excavation required and works along the B3164, but would mean moving of playground equipment.

The need for expensive fencing was also queried by UPC and needed reconsideration, but depended on the route of the channel. KG V offered to arrange for levels to be taken so that a scheme could be finalised. These levels should also include the drainage between the DCC culvert and the River Lim to the east of the B3165, where the obstructing tree had been removed.

The question of the BT cable obstruction was also discussed between VH and DCC Flood Prevention.

DCC Highways have jetted the north culvert and cleared out the existing stream between the two culverts by an excavator working from the B3165, including to the entrance to the culvert near the Post Office, although some debris is already again settling there. Removal of a tree and enlarging the debris trap had been considered but would need works to shear up the adjacent gardens, and has therefore been shelved.. This could be the subject of a separate scheme and proposal to DCC as part of the long-term scheme.

UPC also discussed the principle with DCC Flood Unit of the whole stream being made a permanent diversion along the route of and instead of the route of the emergency channel down to the River Lim, on the east side of the B3165, and in place of replacing the DCC Highways south culvert under the B3165 and other works eastwards. This would give an open channel, to be maintained by DCC Highways, but would go through KG V land.

DCC seemed happy with this scheme in principle. A letter proposing this solution was prepared to send to DCC Highways, also with a request to our MP, Neil Parish, for the financial help that he had indicated he would help with during his visit in July. As this proposal involved the use of KG V land, this draft letter was sent to KG V for their agreement. However, the initial reaction from KG V has been that any such

agreement was unlikely to be agreed to by either the KG V Trustees or National Playing Fields (Fields in Trust).

We have had no further information about the land ownership disagreement between DCC and KG V, although if there are problems with the stability of the B3165, DCC will act and pass the bill to whoever they consider liable.

Venlake stream has been cleared by Highways, although 6" - 8" cobbles are still being washed through the culvert, which Highways have verbally said they will do nothing about replacing. Preventative maintenance is therefore vital, either by DCC or by a village lengthsmen. Residents at Cuckoo Lane have queried what, if anything is happening for them, but the same response is likely from DCC as at Venlake.

The recent floods in New York have again emphasised the costs of flooding, and where the final bill is estimated at four times the original estimates; or the costs of permanent preventative measures. The preliminary estimate for our total scheme was in the order of £250,000. What would have been the cost to Uplyme if the July floods had been worse? We already had several houses flooded, several more were nearly flooded. The Post Office had minor flooding.

Although the Village Hall is insured, the cost of it being flooded would be very high, and, like property in Venlake, it could be closed for six months, which would be a disaster for the Village, and especially the school. Add to that a Post Office and Petrol station being out of action and the B3165 closed, and the need for a permanent scheme is very obvious, but in the present financial climate, unlikely.

The Emergency Committee should again look at its scenarios, and meanwhile, UPC WP will try to get progress, in the short term preferably on a permanent stream diversion down to the Lim, but, if not, the emergency channel,