

Aston Ingham Flood Action Group

Agenda

Thursday 24th November at 5pm in the **Committee Room** of the Village Hall

Present : CS, KS, TS, MH, JW, CH, DP, MP (Chair)

Apologies : NR, KS

We are very grateful to Nick Roberts for his input to date. Nick has had to stand down, but we are all very sorry to be losing him from the group. Chris, H and Ken will liaise where necessary as regards the Severn Trent ditch and the underground spring in Aston Bank.

1. **Deferred items from previous meetings:**

a) **Severn Trent Ditch Cowley Lane -update- NR** - No further update from Severn Trent since the pipe was installed. Surface water should drain through the Mega Ditch' into the Severn Trent ditch and into Ell Brook. CH and KS to report any further issues.

b) **Underground spring in the garden of an Aston bank property - update- NR**

The spring is still causing problems

& water is still flowing through NR's garden and drive; work is ongoing to resolve the issue for all concerned. At the height of flow the spring water finds its way onto Cowley Lane. **Action : Monitoring reports to group via CH & KS**

c) **Drainage issues (assorted) update following locality steward visit - 17/11**

JW / MP

Extensive tour with Harry Bradbury around every known problem / query in Village:

- rat holes & the blocked drain opposite Cowley Lane & collapsing walls close to culvert
- the drains which are placed kerb side on B4222 towards Aston Bank; suspected road substructure subsidence which in turn may have damaged drains beneath.
- surface water and drainage from Aston Court Farm , past The Old School House
- ditches and drainage pipes from the speed signs into pipes under Aston Court lane and through the ditch into Ell Brook
- water on road after rain at the bottom of Barrel lane
- overhanging branches on to B4222 causing a traffic hazard
- Flooding in Aston Crews - Jenny Allen aware

Comment :Our dialogue with Harry : Most of the issues above have been reported several times with little adequate action; Balfour Beatty personnel can arrive unannounced but the impact of any work done isn't seen, and problems persist. Harry Bradbury raised Enquiries / Actions and urged use of raising Enquiries via their website. **Action : In addition to General Enquiries a return Visit with technical specialist to look at the surface water flowing off the fields from Aston Court Farm. Report Visit to PC Clerk and request feedback from any Visits.**

d) **Meeting with Boddendam Flood Group 8/11 - learning points- MP**

- an inspirational group which have been operating for 8 years
- see attached powerpoint for further detail

- **Action : MP has arranged a visit to Boddenham 16th January'23 (if any member of flood group would like to join in please let MP know)**

e) [Theodolite measurements of Cowley lane culvert - can we fix a date? - MP](#)

- **Action : MP to visit Keith Sang and bring back suggested date to interested members - most people are flexible and will fit in with Keith.**

f) [Any queries/ info from the Flood EXPO charts circulated last month?](#)

- Non expressed but some Actions have arisen from the FLOOD EXPO of a potential project between Chester University and ANDEL. JW, MP and DP responded to a request to attend a Zoom meeting today. Chester University are to write a bid for £2500 and have chosen Aston Ingham as a focus for a one year Project if we can match the funding. Outline details of the Project

Stage 1 : A Community workshop with parishioners, landowners and partners to confirm issues with flooding in Aston Ingham- run by Namrata Bhattacharyamis (Senior lecturer at Chester University) and Gerbren Haaksma from ANDEL , a company specialising in Flood Defence and flood risk management

Stage 2: A visit from Namrata and Gerbren to identify ideal placement of sensors in the locality

Stage 3 : Installation of equipment

Stage 4: Monitoring and analysis of data

(Stage 5 and beyond the first year - Placement of Natural Flood Management techniques to slow the flow using evidence from sensors)

Action : MP to request matched funding from the Parish Council at the December meeting 6/12

g) [Monitoring of rain water / flooding / photos - a reminder](#)

Ahead of more sophisticated data outlined above, Group members have been out and about monitoring the impact of the recent heavy rain and taking photos as evidence.

Action : Please continue this monitoring as necessary but please ask landowner permissions if you need to access land off public footpaths

2. [Visit to Stroud Valleys to meet with Chris Uttley, Natural Flood Manager - useful learning points which could lead to significant actions- CH/JW/MP](#)

See also notes on attached powerpoint, but significantly Chris Uttley has offered to visit Aston Ingham with a colleague from the Environment Agency to advise best placement natural flood management strategies to slow the flow. Chris has extensive experience of Natural Flood Management(NFM) and is currently managing a NFM project in the Stroud Valleys

Action : Chris Uttley is sending suggestions of dates for the visit to MP

3. [Meeting with Steve Hodges & Jenny Allen at Hereford County Council 31/10 JW/DP/MP - a request for matched funding.](#)

Ahead of the latest offer from Chester University & ANDEL, we were trying to take more minor action by asking for matched funding of £750 from Herefordshire County Council. The plan was to also ask the PC to match this funding. Thanks to John Whatley and Dave Pettit for joining me in a very persuasive face to face meeting at HCC with Steve Hodges and Jenny Allen. The following day Steve asked for more details of the Project which were sent to him immediately by MP.

Action: Steve said he would be back to us with a response in approximately two weeks. (It is now just over three weeks and we await his response)

Addendum to the above item : Steve is now aware of the development with Chester University and ANDEL. DP has sent an update e-mail to Steve Hodges, seeking HCC involvement.

4. From Research to Action : Discussion. We have spent many hours researching our area and have identified potential NFM actions. Without a doubt we are more knowledgeable now than we were 11 months ago and we have a sense of what actions might be realistic and what might be unrealistic.

Research has included:

- liaison with specialist drainage officers,
- Liaison with two NFM managers in herefordshire and Gloucestershire
- a link with Chester University and ANDEL, which could support an alert system and strategic NFM actions
- Visit to Stroud 5 valleys NFM project to see NFM strategies on the ground
- Meeting with Boddenham Flood Group members
- Some communication with a local landowner to identify possibilities

Question for debate : What now needs to happen to take some practical steps forward to slow the flow and therefore alleviate flooding in Aston Ingham Village area?

Given the significant and late developments since the Agenda was written (!) the Group felt that our action needed no debate. We need to take purposeful action to slow the flow into the Village from the surrounding hills as a key priority.

The Action to seek matched funding with the Parish Council in December was agreed and MP will continue to liaise with Namrata and Gerbren as necessary. Their bid will be written in January '23. MP will circulate any further developments via e-mail to Group members in the interim.

6. AOB - No additional business

NEXT MEETING : We agreed to suspend the December meeting (29th) and meet again on **Thursday 26th January, '23 at 7pm**