

Bar Hill Post Flood Update (Number 3) – June 2015

Cambridgeshire County Council is designated under legislation as a Lead Local Flood Authority for Cambridgeshire and as such has responsibility for investigating the causes of the surface water flooding in Bar Hill in 2014. Cambridgeshire County Council is taking the lead role in co-ordinating the next steps to help residents understand and recover from, the excessive rainfall on 8th August 2014 and subsequent surface water issues experienced in the village and surrounding area. South Cambridgeshire District Council, Anglian Water Services and Bar Hill Parish Council, all have some responsibility for managing 'water' in the area and continue to work together with Cambridgeshire County Council to prepare a co-ordinated response to the flooding.

Through these newsletters, we aim to keep you informed of our work to understand the factors which contributed to the flooding and what we intend to do to help communities to prevent future flooding.

Please contact us using the details below under 'contact us' to add, change or remove your contact details from this distribution list.

Background information

The average expected rainfall for Bar Hill for the whole month of August is 46mm. The 1 in 330 year event of August 2014 that caused the equivalent of three months rainfall in six hours, equal to 300% of the monthly long term average rainfall for the area, caused local flooding. This type of event has a 0.3% chance of occurring in any given year – so it was an unusual event. An investigation is on-going and a public meeting was held in October 2014 and several actions arising from this have and are currently being progressed.

Updates

Bar Hill Stream

Bar Hill Parish Council are responsible for the maintenance of the streams (Ordinary watercourses) flowing through Bar Hill and the balancing pond near Saxon Way. These are indicated on the map below. During January – March this year there has been extensive work taking place, cutting back all the overgrown trees, bramble and vegetation that have grown up there. Stumps have been left on the banks as the roots of trees then make the banks stable. The Parish Council are ensuring that work on the banks will continue. Advice is being taken from the Ecological Officer and drainage specialists. The Parish Council has expressed concern that debris in this stream may have been deliberately placed there and they are encouraging residents to be vigilant and report any debris that would adversely affect the drainage system in the area.

Map indicating the Ordinary Watercourses that are the responsibility of Bar Hill Parish Council.



Bar Hill Balancing Pond – A14 end

Cambridgeshire County Council have undertaken extensive research into this balancing pond and the Parish Council has been made aware that it is responsible for the maintenance of the balancing pond that is located southwest (Bar Hill side) of the A14.

In December 2014 the County Council wrote to Bar Hill Parish Council to advise them of their responsibility for the maintenance of this balancing pond near the A14 that takes water from a drain, which comes through a ditch at Saxon Way near the Domino site. This information will be discussed by the Parish Council at its meeting in June 2015. Regardless of any future compulsory purchase of the balancing pond, by Highways England, the County Council has advised the Parish Council that it must undertake emergency maintenance work to the balancing pond to reduce current flood risk. There are two separate sections of ditches in the area that are important elements of the local surface water drainage infrastructure. Silt and vegetation has built up over time due to a lack of maintenance and work is scheduled to be undertaken by the Parish Council to clear this. The Flood and Water team as well as representatives from Anglian Water and South Cambridgeshire District Council recently met with the Parish Council and their appointed ground works contractors who have been asked to quote for the maintenance works.

The ecology officer at South Cambridgeshire District Council is also assisting the Parish Council towards assessing the likely impact of the work on any wildlife and habitats in the vicinity of the area where the work is planned. On completion of the ecological assessment it is expected that a date for the commencement of the works can be agreed.

The County Council and the Parish Council are also awaiting information from Highways England (formerly the Highways Agency), regarding a time scale for the compulsory purchase of the area of land, near the A14, the Balancing Pond, at Bar Hill. This could have implications for drainage in the area as Highways England may wish to utilise this facility as part of the future A14 improvement.

Tesco

Concerns were raised about the drainage at Tesco Car Park. It was felt that this may have contributed to homes and the school being flooded.

Update

It was established that the surface water drainage arrangements at Tesco, Bar Hill appear to be adequate.

Cambridgeshire County Council Highways department

Cambridgeshire County Council Highways have a duty to maintain the highway drainage, including road gullies, pipes, manholes and outfalls. If residents have any issues such as blocked gullies, off lets and other grates that take water from the highway or water discharging from roads and footway, these matters need to be notified to the County Council's Highways team using the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

Update

Cambridgeshire County Council's contractors carried out surveys of the highways drainage infrastructure and this indicated that sections of Anglian Water's network were blocked. These sections have now been cleansed by Anglian Water.

Bridges along the stream

Atkins Ltd is currently undertaking a detailed hydraulic modelling assessment for Cambridgeshire County Council to investigate any capacity issues and the flooding mechanisms from this watercourse. This information will be used to see if any improvements need to be made.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Update

South Cambridgeshire District Council's ecology officer is currently assisting the Parish Council by providing an ecological assessment of the areas of the balancing pond, Saxon Way and the stream prior to any works taking place as well as offering professional advice and assistance in respect of these works from the ecological perspective.

Anglian Water Services

Update

Following a meeting between Cambridgeshire County Council's contractors and Anglian Water in December 2014, Anglian Water arranged the inspection and cleansing of the relevant sections of their surface water sewer. It was during the course of carrying out these investigations that a

deficiency to the balancing pond and the other locations were identified and these are now being assessed by contractors working on behalf of the Parish Council.

Contacts

Cambridgeshire County Council

Flood and Water Team
01223 699155

Floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Anglian Water

Tel: 03457 145 145 to report the problem. Anglian Water lines are open 24/7, and customers should receive a reference number, which they can then quote in any future correspondence with Anglian Water.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Pat Matthews (Drainage department) 0345 0450063

pat.matthews@scambs.gov.uk

Environment Agency

General enquiries 03708 506 509

ANC.enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Bar Hill Parish Council

Telephone: 01954 780456

bhillpc-1@btconnect.com

Cambridgeshire County Council Highways

Telephone No: 0345 045 5212

Flooding caused by overflowing drains or gullies within the highway network are managed by the County Council's highways department. Any such flooding should be reported using the highways fault reporting service by the link below.

<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/HighwaysReports/Highways/ReportProblem1.aspx>