

Bar Hill Post Flood Update (Number 2) – December 2014

This is the second newsletter in a series for Bar Hill residents.

Cambridgeshire County Council is classed 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. Cambridgeshire County Council is taking the lead role in co-ordinating the next steps to help residents recover from the excessive rainfall and subsequent surface water issues experienced in the village and surrounding area.

South Cambridgeshire District Council, Anglian Water, Bar Hill Parish Council, and the Environment Agency all have some responsibility for managing 'water' in the area and are all now working together with CCC to prepare a coordinated response to the flooding.

We will use these newsletters 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.

23rd October 2014 Public Meeting

Over 100 residents attended the community event hosted by Bar Hill Parish Council as well as representatives from Cambridgeshire County Council, Environment Agency, Bar Hill Parish Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Anglian Water and Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

The purpose of the event was to hear the views of residents affected by flooding in August 2014 as well as being an opportunity for the representatives of the respective agencies to communicate how they can individually and collectively contribute towards improving the situation. The message communicated was that no one measure alone will have the effect of preventing future flooding but that a range of initiatives collectively could have benefits.

The residents that attended expressed their concerns regarding future episodes of flooding and wished to know what could be done to prevent a recurrence. The relevant representatives reiterated and explained that the equivalent of three months rainfall in six hours was experienced that was equivalent to 300% of the monthly long term average rainfall for the area. The average expected rainfall for Bar Hill for the whole month of August is 46mm. The rainfall event was evaluated as being a 1:330 year event.

Updates

Bar Hill Balancing Pond (near the A14)

The County Council investigated the ownership of the balancing pond that is located southwest (Bar Hill side) of the A14 in the landscaped "island" bounded by the Bar Hill northbound slip road joining the A14 and ramp up to the B1050 / A14 over-bridge. The land registry investigation

indicates that the 'title absolute' identified the owner of the balancing pond as Bar Hill Parish Council.

The facility acts as an infiltration basin and the County Council is assisting Bar Hill Parish Council by researching further information in respect of the operation of this facility. We are also liaising with Anglian Water to gather further information in respect of their surface water drainage system and connections it makes with the infiltration basin.

The County Council has also contacted the Highways Agency to investigate the future potential for them to issue a "vesting declaration" for the compulsory purchase of the balancing pond with improvements to the A14. However, it is understood this action may be several years away and by no means an immediate solution to flooding issues at Bar Hill

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

Another element of the information required to build up a better picture of the surface water drainage at Bar Hill is related to the drainage at Tesco. Following formal correspondence with Tesco's legal departments and other relevant personnel at Tesco's headquarters, surface water drainage plans were made available to Cambridgeshire County Council. These indicate the presence of pipework that convey surface water away from the Tesco building. The County Council is currently investigating the dynamics of this system and to obtain an understanding of how it interacts with the Anglian Water system as well as maintenance programs with Tesco's. The County Council will keep the Parish Council apprised of any significant developments.

Cambridgeshire County Council Highways department

Highways have a duty to maintain the highway drainage, including road gullies, pipes, manholes and outfall. Issues such as blocked gullies, off lets and other grates that take highway water, water discharging from roads and footways need to be notified to this team using the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

Update

Cambridgeshire County Councils Highways recently commissioned surveys and cleansing of the gully connections to the Anglian Water surface water system at Bar Hill.

A small concrete bridge near Appletrees may have restricted the flow of large volume of water.

Update

The County Council manager for bridges indicates that the cost of a flood model study is being agreed with a consultancy and the capacity issues will be investigated.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

South Cambridgeshire District Council is responsible for 'awarded watercourses', however there are no 'awarded' watercourses in Bar Hill.

Update

Although South Cambridgeshire District Council does not have any assets at Bar Hill, recent works to the balancing pond located alongside Saxon Way, and the watercourse that runs adjacent to Hollytrees was arranged by South Cambridgeshire District Council. This was done to support Bar Hill Parish Council who is responsible for the maintenance of the balancing pond and ordinary watercourse. The construction of a low level weir will act to retain water in the balancing pond where it had previously flowed out too quickly. This works will not offer protection against large scale flood events, but it is anticipated with continued observation and better understanding, the parish may be able to undertake further works to improve the level of flood protection available.



Weir to the upstream balancing pond Bar Hill

Anglian Water Services

Anglian Water (AW) is responsible for the foul sewer, and designated surface water networks in Bar Hill.

Update

Anglian water explained they have checked many surface water drains in Bar Hill and all have been found to be flowing without obstruction, this includes the surface water drains that run across Tesco car park.

Anglian Water has indicated they are:

- Working with Cambridgeshire Highways in ensuring all assets that take water away from highways and properties are structurally sound and free flowing.
- Has checked on all sewers and drains that were highlighted as potential problem assets during the public meeting held at Bar Hill in October 2014. All assets were found not to have any issues and customers have been informed.
- Advises customers to contact them with any suspected problem with foul water sewers or surface water drains (**not the grills at the side of the road as these are the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council Highways**) to their 24/7 number 03457 145 145.

Anglian Water has indicated they are committed to working with local authorities to ensure any future extreme rainfall leads to reduced levels of flooding.

In the light of findings of recent surveying and maintenance work of Cambridgeshire County Council gullies that connect to the Anglian Water system at Bar Hill, a meeting with Anglian Water is planned for December 2014 to understand more about the maintenance of relevant sections of the Anglian Water system.



Contacts

Cambridgeshire County Council

Flood and Water Team 01223
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Floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Pat Matthews (Drainage department) 0345 0450063

Pat.matthews@scambs.gov.uk

Bar Hill Parish Council

Telephone: 01954 780456

bhillpc-1@btconnect.com

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.

Environment Agency

General enquiries 03708 506 509

ANC.enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

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>

To add, change or remove your contact details from this distribution list, or if you have any further questions or issues and you're not sure who to contact then, please do either ring or email Cambridgeshire County Council.