Weston Colville Community Flood Plan

Appendix – Outstanding actions and associated responsibilities to mitigate flooding as of 5 March 2021.

1. Work at Church End to prevent flooding of New Cottages near the junction of Mill Hill and Brinkley Road. (Area 1.)

This area has been problematic for many years as water cascades down the north side of Mill Hill, flows into Brinkley Road and floods some of the properties known as New Terrace.

The Cambridgeshire Highways Authority are very aware of the problem and attempted to remedy the situation in 2019 by installing a new gully and pot in the road just before New Cottages. This has proved to be an inadequate action and, indeed, something more substantial had been agreed with the Highways Agency such as installing a much wider grid and drainage system to take water from the road and into the ditch beside New Cottages. This remains an outstanding action and The Parish Council are awaiting further developments by the Highways Authority in this critical area.

Action required. This work has been agreed with the Highways Agency of Cambridgeshire County Council and has been outstanding for over 12 months. No date has been fixed for the work, but it is always scheduled for the next financial year beginning April 2021. The Highways Agency are regularly reminded that this work is outstanding.

1. Work on Common Road to mitigate flooding on the road (Area 4)
   1. Between Dove Cottage up to the area between No. 72 and Thoresby. This has been alleviated by work further down the Stour Brook, but the grips need to be recut once the Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Agency have worked out how to avoid the electricity cable underground in the area.
   2. From Fox Hall to Applerose Cottage. This flooding occurs in part when the Stour water level rises above the height of the roadside bank. There are grips cut there but they have the reverse of the desired effect. Highways Dept are aware but have yet to come up with a solution.

Action Required: The Highways Agency of Cambridgeshire County Council are responsible for this work, but no date has been given for completion. Reminders are issued at regular intervals and the work should be completed in the next financial year – beginning April 2021.

1. Work at the Horseshoe Lane/Clamps Lane Ford (Area 5)

Work has recently (January 2021) been completed to relocate the bridge at the ford at Clamps Lane to the opposite side of the Lane, i.e., from the north to the south side. This will enable a faster flow of water round the bend in the river at the ford and alleviate flooding upstream in the Stour Brook. Regular clearance/maintenance of the brook both upstream and downstream from the ford is part of the long-term solution to prevent flooding of the Stour Brook.

Note that there is a bottleneck in the stream that flows by the side of the recreation ground and joins the Stour Brook at the Clamps Lane Ford. This is the twin pipes that go under the road in front of The Three Horseshoes to join the brook at the ford. These pipes are frequently observed to be overloaded during heavy rainfall events which can lead to flood risk upstream. No action yet but major engineering required to expand flow capacity of these pipes.

Action required: The position of the bridge at the Clamps Lane Ford has been moved by the Highways Agency in January 2021. Ongoing clearance of the stream downstream and upstream from the ford is the responsibility of the riparian owner, the D’Abo Estate.

The bottleneck associated with the twin pipes under the road is identified widely as a problem, but no action has been taken – this would require major engineering works to install a more substantial pipe/culvert under the road in front of the Three Horseshoes house.

The Stour Brook tributary running from the Reading Room, beside the Recreation Ground and joining the main brook at the ford was cleared of vegetation by a group of volunteers in 2020. Whilst this task should be the responsibility of the riparian owners (The D’Abo Estate and the Reading Room Trust) it will most likely be carried out in the future by volunteers and should be done at least on an annual basis. Due Autumn 2021.

1. Gullies and pots on Mill Hill (Affecting Areas 1 & 2)

The gullies and pots on both sides of Mill Hill from Church End to the Reading Room need regular clearance and maintenance. Some work was carried out during 2021 on the north side (Church End) but many gullies remain badly blocked and are preventing flow of any water running down the hills. Action to remedy these blocked gullies has been requested many times over the past few year, most recently on 31 January 2021. Action remains outstanding.

Action required: Action to clear gullies, pots and drains is the responsibility of the Highways Agency of Cambridgeshire County Council. There are outstanding requests to clear the systems on both sides of Mill Hill, but no date has been fixed for the work – presumably in the next financial year i.e., from April 2021.

1. Work on Chapel Road (Area 3)

The grips to the west of the Chapel on Chapel Road need regular clearance and maintenance to allow water running in an eastwardly direction down Chapel Road to enter the ditches by the side of the road. The Highways Authority were sent a request on 29 January 2021 to re-cut the grips and clear the pipes in the ditches and that work is outstanding as of 5 March 2021. The riparian owner of the ditches by the side of Chapel Road (the D’Abo Estate) has agreed to do some clearance work on the ditches. Note that some residents of Chapel Road have voluntarily recut some of the grips closest to the village over the past few days – as of 12 February.

Residents of Chapel Road have been sent information concerning flooding in their area (Area 3) including about their riparian rights and responsibilities. A number of residents are mindful of the situation and are actively engaging to investigate the flooding problems and how they might be rectified/mitigated. Investigations ongoing.

Action required: Maintenance of the grips and drainage pipes to the west of the Chapel is the responsibility of the Highways Agency of Cambridgeshire County Council and they were asked on 29 January 2021 to carry out some work in this area. This work has been approved but no date is available for when it might be carried out. The Highways Agency is also responsible for the gullies, pots and drains in Chapel Road to the East of the Chapel in front of the bungalows.

The responsibility for the maintenance of the ditches/streams to the east of the Chapel lies with the riparian owner, The D’Abo Estate and it has agreed on 27 January 2021 to carry out some work on clearance of these ditches.

The tributary of the Stour Brook runs through or by a number of properties on Chapel Road, mainly those on the north side. The owners of these properties and those living in properties on Mill Hill adjacent to the Reading Room, being the riparian owners, are responsible for maintaining the ditches which run through/by their homes. All property owners in Chapel Road have been made aware of their responsibilities in this respect. Studies are ongoing to figure out some of the hidden drainage systems along both the north and south sides of Chapel Road.