Weston Colville Community Flood Plan

Appendix – Outstanding actions and associated responsibilities to mitigate flooding as of 5 March 2025.

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 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.

Action required. On 8 September 2021 a note was received from the Highways Agency that a major drainage scheme to replace the collapsed drain pipe from Brinkley Road to the ditch was being worked on. Furthermore a structure on Brinkley Road to catch water running down Mill Hill (proposed is angled kerb inlet) is being developed.

Since 8 September 2021, significant work has been carried out at the Church End junction and completed apart from a small outstanding section which is the subject of discussion with residents in the vicinity.The work does appear to have improved the drainage of surface water at Church end and reduced the previous flooding of properties along New Terrace.

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. There is a particular issue in the vicinity of Stour House and Old Orchard where water from the fields behind the properties cascades down a narrow ditch and exacerbates the flooding along Common Road. Highways Dept are aware of the Common Road flooding but have yet to come up with a solution. Serious flooding, necessitating road closures, occurred on at least 6 occasions in 2024 with vehicles stranded and residents unable to leave their properties.

Action Required: Following a meeting at the end of July, 2024 the Flood and Water Team at Cambridgeshire County Council commissioned a consultant’s report to look at the ongoing situation on Common Road with the aim of better understanding the flood risk and determining if there are any suitable flood alleviation measures that may be achievable at this location. A 10-page report from Hestur Limited was completed on 20 November 2024 and shared with the Parish Council. It outlines the flooding problems along Common Road and makes suggestions for further study and possible actions.

A CCTV survey of the drainage infrastructure south of Stour House to better understand its course and determine its state of repair and maintenance was carried out in February 2025 and some water jetting of the gullies and culvert was carried out on 12 February 2025.Suggestions for further work are awaiting decisions from the CC Flood Team. Liaison between the CC Flood Team and the Parish Council is well established and ongoing.

The stream behind the houses on Horseshoe Lane and certain properties along the Green was cleared by contractors on behalf of South Cambridgshire District Council in Autumn 2024. It is hoped that this will be carried out on a regular basis now that responsibility for the work has been established.

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 was 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 the Reading Room Trust in autumn 2024. 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 the Reading Room Trust.

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 in 2024. Action remains outstanding.

Action required: Action to clear gullies, pots and drains is the responsibility of the Highways Agency of Cambridgeshire County Council. On 29 July 2021,a note was received from the Highways Agency that the gullies, pots and gratings on the south side of Mill Hill would be cleared within the next 3 months i.e before the end of October 2021.

On 4 January 2022, the Head of the Cambridgeshire Highways Agency confirmed that ‘there is a works order raised to do the south side of Mill Hill to be emptied and jetted up to the Reading Room. I have asked our contractors for a date when this can be done. Once the jetting is done any faults found can be rectified’.

No further developments as at March 2025.

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. Grip cutting was carried out by contractors in December 2021 but to a poor standard. This has been relayed to the Head of the Highways Agency in the expectation that the work can be completed to a satisfactory standard.

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. Residents of Chapel Road now regularly clear the grips along Chapel Road beyond the Chapel to assist with moving flowing water from the road and into the ditches.

1. B1052 adjacent to Hall Farm (Area 6)

The drainage pipe running under to road (B1052) adjacent to the entrance to Hall Farm is partially blocked and needs jetting to clear.