

Flood Warden Report to Breamore Council

16 April 2018

Introduction

As background, I moved to Breamore in November 2013. All was fine up to Christmas period when the weather deteriorated into almost perpetual rain. This led to high ground water levels which had an impact on several properties around the Breamore Parish, and in particular the section close to the A338. Resultant from this it was agreed that a Flood Warden be appointed, with Trudi Broughton and I volunteering to take on the task. Trudi has subsequently left the area.

As this is the first formal report to the Annual Meeting this report covers the period from 2014 to date. There have been three relatively benign years, weather-wise, but this year has seen some activity because of a period of prolonged rain fall.

Role

The Flood Warden is the single point of contact of the Environment agency as well as being the eyes and ears of the community. The Warden is an agent of the local Parish Council, whilst advising on flood prevention, has no authority to instruct remedial action, which is referred to the BPC.

The Warden does issue notification of Flood Warnings received by email to the BPC and by posting a copy of the warning on the notice board.

Event History

The BPC, HCC and Environment agency co-operated in, 2014, to develop improvements to the water flow under and around the A338. These resulted in agreement to provide 2 additional pipes under the North Street area, and 3 new gullies and pipework in the Priory View area as well a two trash screens.

A web page dedicated to Flood management has been created on the Breamore Parish website. (www.breamore@gov.uk). This includes Emergency Flood Alert Contacts as well as the main services. Also included in the site are the two river level monitors closest to Breamore, Salisbury Harnham which is below the flood level and East Mills Flume which is marginal. These give an indication of what is happening with river levels.

An email contact, breamorefw@btinternet.com has been set up.

Alerts since 2014:

- Cranborne Chase Flood Alert 15:42 on 4 Jan 2016
- Cranborne Chase Flood Alert 15:42 on 10 Feb 2016
- Cranborne Chase Flood Alert 15:42 on 2 April 2018 (updated 7 April 2018)

Reports:

- March 2016 saw a minor flooding incident which was reported to HCC and following an inspection the unwritten outcome was that HCC and the EA would look at funding / budgeting to add a further bore(s) to the river. In separate discussions with Cllr Heron / Richard Bastow it was noted that money would be unlikely to be available until 2017/18 - but the aim was to get the project into the works programme - which would give proposal a formal status and improve the chance of getting something done.
- Working parties were formed to clear the Hulse hall ditches in autumn of 2016 and November 2017. A large section of tree stump and other obstructions were removed from the rear of the Hall, and consequently the water flow is much improved. It was observed that there is currently a large amount of silt at the base of the waterways.
- A report of excess weed in the section of ditch across the marsh leading down to Rectory Lane has been reported. On examination it is not too serious but may need attention over the summer.
- Flood prevention action has been taken to clear a bit of the ditch near Chartwood where the water was very high outside Capscore. There is a bottleneck, causing pooling at Chartwood, where the water company has put their supply pipe through the ditch. This makes it harder to dig the ditch out any deeper and the width is also restricted. This could lead to further obstruction and the Breamore Estate is seeking to remedy this.
- From time to time articles have been placed in the Breamore News and Views stressing the need for the maintenance of the water courses adjacent to property and for volunteers for working parties. This will continue.

Outstanding Issues

Culvert under the A338 – We are still awaiting responses from HCC / Environment Agency regarding the modelling of the Avon and the tributaries and therefore the knock-on assessment of the adequacy of the culverts under the A338.

Trash Screen – The Trash Screen at the Hulse Hall North Culvert is kept clear by the landowners / residents, and my thanks go to them. However, the screen at the North Street Culvert has been removed and needs replacement. HCC are aware and will be providing a new one.

Future actions

Communications avenues are to be improved, and we will formalise a communication plan together with a telephone chain for extending warnings.

Parish Flood plan to be finalised (in draft at present). This will require the involvement of the PC;

- Identifying vulnerable people and carers where appropriate
- Identifying places of safety for each area of the Parish

It is proposed to hire a digger to remove much of the silt in the water courses around the Hulse Hall grounds and funding will be sought to achieve this. Perhaps a Lengthsman job?

The question of ensuring the capacity under A338 was hotly followed up during 2016 but has gone quiet of recent times. We have been fortunate so far this year that the water flow has been reasonable but nonetheless the bores under the road are running at 2/3 capacity and it will not take much for flooding on the west side of the road to occur. The BPC will need to enquire on progress once again, following the inspection in 2016.

Suggestions for improvement

I have an application on my phone from AccuWeather which can be freely downloaded from most Apps suppliers to phone or computer, and not only gives accurate weather forecasts, but now flags up the same flood warnings I receive from the Environment Agency.

More use could be made of the breamorefw@btinternet.com email address by parishioners in flagging up issues.

End of report

Paul Hammond

15th April 2018