

Mere Parish Council

Clerks Report – March 2010

Information Items

Wiltshire Council has sent the following briefing note on flooding:

Cabinet Member: Mr. R. Tonge

Department: Transport, Environment
and Leisure

Further Enquiries to: Tracy Carter

Date Prepared: February 2010

Direct Line: (01225) 713258

OPERATIONAL FLOOD WORKING GROUPS

Prior to Wiltshire Council becoming a unitary authority the responsibility for Land and Highway Drainage was divided between the County Council and four District Councils. This sometimes caused difficulties in resolving flooding and drainage issues due to the different responsibilities and powers of enforcement held by the respective councils.

Wiltshire Council is much better placed as a unitary authority to fulfil its legal obligations concerning flooding and has set up a flood risk management and drainage team comprising former county and district highway and land drainage staff. Information held by the different councils concerned with flooding and drainage has been consolidated and work is being carried out to enable officers to identify, prioritise and secure funding for flood relief and drainage schemes more efficiently. By combining some of the various schemes the Council has been able to apply for government funding which would not previously have been possible.

As part of this process Wiltshire Council has also set up two Operational Flood Working Groups (OFWG), one in the north and the other in the south of the county. These groups mirror the river catchment areas operated by the Environment Agency and offer an opportunity for all those stakeholders with an interest in highway surface water, surface water run-off, drainage and flooding to consider these issues within each respective area. Stakeholders included Wessex, Thames and Southern Water, the Environment Agency, Network Rail and the Highways Agency.

These issues include:

- Identifying lead authorities for each issue to enable a better, more focussed, efficient and co-ordinated response enabling resources and funding to be targeted effectively
- Making recommendations for bids to fund major projects
- Considering proposals for prioritising funding and programming of schemes
- Implementing Government legislation on drainage and flood management
- Complying with the legal requirement to map our surface water and establish collaborative information with our partners
- Responding to Community Area Boards in respect of flooding and drainage issues
- Communicating with members of the public regarding the work we are doing via the Wiltshire Magazine, Parish Newsletter and the Wiltshire Council website.

Over the coming months we will be engaging with Parish and Town Councils to update our mapping systems with their local knowledge and to identify any local issues which are not apparent on initial inspection that may be exacerbating problems. This work will be done in conjunction with the Community Area Boards. Towns and Parish Councils will each be sent a map of their area with a request that they identify any known flooding issues. This will enable Wiltshire Council to consolidate its information on flooding and drainage issues ensuring that every location of flooding is established, including those affecting property and residential and agricultural land.

We have successfully carried out much of this work by asking our highway engineers to mark all known flood sites so they can be imported into our GIS mapping system. Once we have added in the information from Town and Parish Councils we will be sharing this with the Environment Agency helping us to understand and evaluate all flooding within the county.

Good work has been carried out through the Flood Warden Scheme which has operated well over the last five years in the south of the county. We hope that this will be expanded to cover the remainder of the county over the coming months. We would encourage all Town and Parish Councils to nominate a Flood Warden and form a local Flood Working Group for those councils which are aware of flooding problems within their areas. The Flood Wardens are usually members of Parish Councils with considerable knowledge of their areas which can be passed onto the engineers working with them. In turn, they will develop knowledge of the causes of flooding problems and the options to solve them which can be shared with their fellow councillors. They are also the main point of contact during any incidents of flooding and may represent their Town or Parish Council Flood Working Group, if one has been established. External Agency funding can often only be delivered to a local area where a local Flood Working Group is in place to apply for such funding.

The procedure for reporting drainage and flooding issues is, in the first instance, to contact Clarence (0800 232323). If the problem cannot be resolved by the local Divisional Highways Office using available resources, it will be referred to the highway and land drainage engineers. They would work with the relevant Town or Parish Council, through a local Flood Working Group, to design a solution to the problem, engaging other agencies as necessary. If the solution is particularly complex it may be referred to the relevant Operational Flood Working Group.

The Operational Flood Working Groups cover considerable geographical areas and have to engage with partner organisations on strategic rather than site specific issues. However they recognise the importance and value of working with local councils and so are developing a protocol for engagement with Town and Parish Councils. This would enable the chairmen of the OFWG to invite either the Flood Warden or a representative of a Town or Parish Council Flood Working Group to attend a meeting of the OFWG. A period of time would be allocated on the agenda for the representative to raise any issues relating to a flooding problem that have not been satisfactorily resolved through other means. The OFWG should agree this protocol at their respective meetings in February.

We are organising two "Flood Fairs", during 2010 in conjunction with the Environment Agency. We propose to invite representatives of Community Area Boards and Town and Parish Councils and other interested stakeholders to participate. Their purpose would be to raise awareness of flooding and drainage issues and how local communities can help to manage these risks as well as to showcase available property protection measures. In addition we will launch the protocol on engagement with Town and Parish Councils at these events.

The Council is aware of the need to improve communications on the work of the OFWG and that of the flood risk management and drainage team. Work is currently underway to update the information held on the Council's website to include details of drainage work schedules, not only those of the Council but also those of stakeholders where they are available.

The following planning applications were determined by the planning authority.

Application Number:	S / 2009 / 1791	
Location:	THE COTTAGE OLD HOLLOW, MERE, WARMINSTER.	
Proposal:	ERECTION OF A CONSERVATORY AND EXTENSION	
Agent:	CHRISTOPHER GREENWOOD CHERITON MILTON ON STOUR GILLINGHAM SP8 5PX.	
Case Officer:	Mr S Banks	
Category Of Application:	FULL PLANNING	
Decision:	APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS	Date of Decision: 26/01/2010

Application Number: S / 2009 / 1598
Location: LAND AT CUNNAGE LANE BARROW STREET, MERE, WARMINSTER.
Proposal: CONSTRUCT FISHING LAKE TOGETHER WITH TWO HOLDING PONDS, CONSTRUCT CAR PARKING SPACES AND PROVIDE LANDSCAPING
Agent: BRIMBLE LEA & PARTNERS WESSEX HOUSE HIGH STREET GILLINGHAM SP8 4AG.
Case Officer: Charlie Bruce-White
Category Of Application: FULL PLANNING
Decision: APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS **Date of Decision:** 27/01/2010

Application Number: S / 2009 / 1858
Location: 5 THE SQUARE, MERE, WARMINSTER.
Proposal: CHANGE OF USE FROM RETAIL (A1) TO OFFICE (A2)
Agent:
Case Officer: Charlie Bruce-White
Category Of Application: CHANGE OF USE
Decision: REFUSAL **Date of Decision:** 04/02/2010

Application Number: S / 2009 / 1910
Location: DOWN VIEW FARM LIMPERS HILL, MERE, WARMINSTER.
Proposal: ERECTION OF AGRICULTURAL LIVESTOCK BUILDING, STATIONING MOBILE HOME AND CONSTRUCTION OF FARM TRACK, TOGETHER WITH CONTAINMENT OF COMPLEX WITH POST AND
Agent: DAMEN ASSOCIATES 101 WILTON ROAD SALISBURY SP2 7HU.
Case Officer: Mr O Marigold
Category Of Application: FULL PLANNING
Decision: REFUSAL **Date of Decision:** 11/02/2010

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL
SECTION 14(1) AND 14(7) OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF B3095 (PART), MONKTON DEVERILL AND
TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF EXISTING WEIGHT RESTRICTION ON B3089, EAST KNOYLE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Wiltshire Council has made an Order to close temporarily to all traffic: B3095 (PART), MONKTON DEVERILL; from its junction with Hindon Road in a northerly direction for approximately 250 metres.

And to temporarily suspend the existing weight restriction on: B3089, EAST KNOYLE; between a point 135m west of its junction with the A350 and a point 175m east of its junction with the A303.

To enable:

British Telecom plc to replace overhead wires and effect a suitable diversion.

Southbound Alternative Route:

Via B3095 Brixton Deverill – A350 Lords Hill – B3089 East Knoyle – A303 Mere - B3095 Kingston Deverill.

Northbound Alternative Route:

Via B3095 Kingston Deverill - A303 Mere / West Knoyle – A350 Pertwood / Lords Hill – B3095 Brixton Deverill.

The closure and suspension of weight limit will be clearly indicated by traffic signs throughout the works period.

This Order will come into force on 22nd March 2010 and it is anticipated the work will take five days between the times of 09:30 and 15:30 hours. The Order will have a maximum duration of 18 months.

For further information regarding these works please contact Aplant Lux Traffic Controls 0870 050 0792.

Ref: A1/TRO/10/05

Transport Development Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road Trowbridge BA14 8JN
18th March 2010