

# **FARRINGDON PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2024**

## **ROAD /ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS AND ISSUES IN NEED OF ATTENTION**

### **SOURCES OF FLOODING IN FARRINGDON pages1-2**

Over the past 30+ years I have observed first hand the various problems associated with flooding in Farringdon Village - observed but not scientifically proven.

There are two different sources of flooding in our village.

### **Flooding due to water table increase forming what is know as a “Lavant Stream”**

Primarily due to excessive amount of rain falling before Christmas and the following months right up to the end of March/April and typically on a 7-11year cycle the local water table rises, sometimes very quickly.

Our local reference point is the crossroads at Lower Farringdon where the ground level is measured as 117m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) NEWLYN Corwall and a bore hole at the Farringdon Industrial Centre provides us with water level data which is can be monitored through our Parish website.

It would appear that the threshold of the Thames Valley and Meon Valley watersheds meet near this point. Water flowing north goes via the river Wey to the Thames and water flowing south goes via the river Meon to the Solent.

It is believed that as the Meon watershed levels increase then water is more likely to flow north into the Thames watershed forming eventually the “Lavant Stream”

Due to the nature of the surrounding ground types of clay, flint, chalk and gravel, it is thought pockets of water build up and eventually accumulate and can cause rapid flooding as happened in 2000 where the levels rose 1m in 3 hours.

Lower Farringdon is generally affected and flooding can be expected initially by sight of a “river “ in the field south of Chawton church, followed by the A32 side ditches filling up. Later as the water table increases water will be seen in the gardens at the rear of the houses opposite the “The Royal Oak” and some houses with cellars seeing water rising in them. The lower playing field will have rising water due to increased water table and eventually the field north of the Newton Valence crossroads (old gravel pits) will be fill up. As the water table increases, because the various drains along the A32 are small in capacity they will not take the flow and eventually the A32 will become a “river” with flowing water..

Then on houses that have flooded before will have the likely hood of flooding again.

In 2000, 12 houses on the now playing field were flooded to 1m depth in 3 hours. Demolition took place as insurance would not cover the dried out houses that were stated as being habitable. (Shirnall Meadow now replacing these properties)  
Over the years, 4 other properties have been flooded locally along the A32.

Following the last flood in 2014 with the A32 basically shut again for 3 months, HCC formed a “Flood Action Group” to find ways of flood alleviation in our area. Money was spent in obtaining ground and rainfall surveys by Portsmouth University producing a report. From that, various works were agreed upon and actioned such

as immediate ditch clearance and drain clearances and recently increased drainage pipes.

Over the years, the environment Agency have got involved and started to monitor the land around Chawton Church which was then defined as a river flowing annually in the winter.

Work by HCC continues (money permitting) but at present is on hold awaiting planning permission and private land owner's acceptance of HCC doing work at the rear of the A32 houses opposite the Royal Oak. Little/no work has been done north of Farringdon recently with landowners being told it is their responsibility to clear ditches

### **Flooding caused by excessive rain causing "flash flooding".**

#### **Two areas of interest:- flooding related to direction of rainfall.**

#### **Ground west of the A32, Brightstone Lane, Kitcombe Lane and Mary's lane.**

After torrential downpours from the south west and with saturated ground these lanes and their ditches/drains cannot take the water flow and basically a "river" will flow.

Due to the lie of the land next to these lanes with rising ground of either side, water, mud, gravel and debris washed down will eventually block the local drains and reach the A32 causing blockage of the main road drains.

This further can cause problems with excessive water being splashed into resident's gardens and on to their houses by passing vehicles.

Flash floods have been seen in July, November and December making some of the lanes impassable especially Brightstone Lane when the dip under the old railway bridge fills up. No houses have been flooded except one property in Kitcombe Lane.

#### **and not so regular, rising ground south of the "The Street"**

If excessive rain coming from the north hits the rising land above "The Street", then several houses may be affected with water flow through their back gardens and potentially entering houses. Bunkers, Cotehele, Clyders, and "The Cross" come to mind. Also water flowing down Hall lane towards Crows Lane, if excessive will not be able to flow as soon as drains get blocked. This water eventually through drainage pipes reaches an exit point in Gaston Lane and will via Caker stream flow to Alton then the River Wey. If the exit point into the Gaston Lane ditch is blocked, water backs up and causes problems with flow higher up the various lanes.

Interestingly, due to the nature of the land (again, chalk, flint and clay layers)

A field behind the new houses of West View; a couple of water catchment pits were discovered one summer that had clear water in them approximately 2 m deep whereas wells in Upper Farringdon were showing 30m+ depth! Very confusing.

Looking at old maps of the area it is evident that there was a network of ditches around Upper Farringdon, so problems have been around for a while.

Most of these ditches still exist but are now with little or no work done; they will not be of little use when it does flood.

Please be prepared, information is available through our Parish Website and an updated emergency plan is available.

Compiled CCIr David Williams Farringdon Parish Council March 2024

## **ROAD/ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS AND ISSUES IN NEED OF ATTENTION**

Parish Meetings continue, refer to website <https://farringdonpc.org/> and notice boards.

Next meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 @7.00pm in Farringdon Church.

Reporting any local issue on road, footpaths etc. can now be done via our updated website.

Hopefully the more instances of you reporting a problem will raise the priority of the job!

## **UPDATE ON FLOOD ALLEVIATION ROAD WORKS --- IN PROGRESS**

Pipe work with multiple inspection points completed up to hedge line opposite 4 Chase Field.

Discussions with the Flood Alleviation Group and residents continue to establish future responsibilities and any licensing required. A planning application is being processed as suggested route of drainage route is not on HCC property.

Hopefully further work will continue in following the route of the Lavant Stream to Chawton, under the bypass and to Lumbry Farm with blockage points being eased along route. The time scale for this work is still unknown.

At present a small stream is seen to flow at Chawton and the A32 fields and ditches are filling up slowly from the north towards Farringdon with levels the same height as the road.

As the local water table level is now 116m AOD (Flooding seen at crossroads at 117m), we may this year experience some flooding.

Please bear this in mind and prepare if necessary- the Parish council is updating information on a weekly basic; both on the Farringdon Parish Website and Farringdon.biz.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/strategies/scheme-a32-farringdon>

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## **LOCAL ROAD/LANE SIGNS**

HCC have updated most of the road/lane signs in the village but there are some changes still required especially around the out of date "school" signs--HCC have replied with updated costs and will be discussed and hopefully agreed upon our next meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>. March.

Changes to be agreed upon are:-

*New lane signs for Woodside Lane.*

*Change of sign positions for FIC/FBP including a new footpath sign at Alywards Drive. Change of and extra stop sign for Brightstone Lane and crossroads junction.*

*Removal of old school signs.*

*New sign for Parsonage close and footpath signs moved to be more visible.*

*New junction sign by the Folly to be moved nearer to Parsonage Close.*

*A replacement "ALTON" sign at the Crows Lane/Gaston lane junction.*

*Chevron sign near R/Crown to be investigated, possible replacement or removal.*

Following the resurfacing and new white lining of the A32, several points have been raised as to the suitability of the white lining; its action in controlling parking, overtaking and speed through the village. With the addition of new speed cameras now in action (you have been warned!), the Parish Council will wait until the results of the new camera collected information is available and a decision will be made if there is a requirement for change.

### **ESSO SOUTHAMPTON to LONDON new pipeline.**

Locally work has stopped due to ground conditions and will resume when weather permits. Parish Council have had contact with the gas pipeline management and raised concerns on abandoned road signs, litter and blocked drainage pipes along the A32.

Action was undertaken and several but not all problems have been sorted.

### **LOCAL ISSUES WITH ROADS AND LANES MAJORITY REPORTED TO HCC/EHDC**

Majority of problems seen within or near the Farringdon Parish are listed in relation to their Road/Lane location and have been reported to HCC/EHDC via their websites.

Comments from HCC suggest that only high risk items are being tackled at present and that minor problems could take up to 18 months to resolve!!

### **MAIN A32 SOUTH to Farringdon crossroads**

A32 adjacent flood alleviation works have been completed.

Ditches at side of the A32 require clearing and it is also evident that drainage pipes under side roads are partially blocked.

### **KITCOMBE LANE**

A flash flood resulted in one house having a flood problem.

The Parish council followed up with a site visit noting the water flow, and previous actions by HCC in trying alleviate the flood problem.

One of the problems highlighted was that the resident was unable to get satisfactory response from the various flood emergency telephone numbers -- being further investigated

### **FARRINGDON CROSSROADS ( north to the 30mph limit)**

The old telephone box is being re painted and will be completed as weather and conditions permit. Local Parish notice boards will also be refurbished.

Minor changes to the stop signs at the crossroads and FIC/FBP signs to be placed onto one post with new footpath sign at Ayward's Drive have been requested and hopefully HCC will accommodate. The memorial rose gardens are in the process of being further updated.

## **A32 NORTH TO CHAWTON ROUNDABOUT**

New "Woodside Lane "signs are requested; two suggested one left and one RHS of lane.

The ditches along the A32 are now full with rising water following rising water table.

Water flow is impeded by all of the litter, rubbish and vegetation in them.

Although reported to HCC , It appears that the onus is still on the land owner to clear!

There are still broken signs near and on the Chawton roundabout.

There is still a quantity of old road signs and rubbish although reported to HCC still remain.

## **BRIGHTSTONE LANE Now passable with caution**

Following the recent flash floods all of the 22 drains were blocked and so far in the last two months we have seen eleven (yes 11) drain clearing lorries (some @1.30am with flashing lights), 3 road sweepers attempting to clear all of the washed down mud, grit and debris.

Some drains are still blocked with mud, gravel and debris remaining on edges of the lane.

The lane was blocked for 2-3 days with local residents repositioning road closed/access signs to use lanes. Road signs at top of lane still await collection and has been reported.

There is still the problem of some kerb stones along the lane.

Most of the side ditches still require clearance as most are filled with washed down gravel.

Lane edges at upper part of lane have at last been filled with tarmac.

The lane will probably be closed week starting March 11<sup>th</sup> for further drainage works.

Overhead BT/Openreach telephone cables have been partly sorted by some of the overhanging branches being removed. Other branches are still causing the lines to drop.

A notice on intent to close the lane for future work has been sent from Openreach.

Several instances of fly tipping reported to EHDC who were quick to act and one flytipping of a mattress has been sorted following contacting of "Woodlands for Sale "website.

Locally we do not know who now owns sections of LORDS WOOD, apparently all now sold.

Walking through the wood there is evidence of small campsites, shelters and the top end seems to have advertised some kind of woodland play area?

## **SHIRNALL HILL**

Drains at Chase view reported and have been dealt with and will be future monitored.

## **CHURCH ROAD and PARSONAGE CLOSE**

Road signs are in the process of being updated. Old telephone box to be repainted. Massey's Folly is still there in the same state as 8-10 months ago. There are signs that the building is no longer water proof so we wait and see if any work starts soon – hopefully!

The roadway from Folly past the Church entrance is awaiting a planning application approval

## **THE STREET**

Blocked drain and drainage problems still apparent, may need to be reported again. Stank lane was blocked by large fallen tree, reported to HCC but local residents have cleared.

## **CROWS LANE.**

Parish is still looking at solution to the poor condition of the verges adjacent Westview Gardens. CIL money being allocated for this project.

Parking at corner of Crows lane and Hall lane is being abused again as yellow double lines are fading fast--- this have been reported and hopefully will be repainted shortly.

## **GASTON LANE Closed until end of July 2025 according to HCC map info !!!**

Brickwork under the Caker stream bridge has been reported yet again and following an inspection by HCC deemed to be unsafe. Gaston lane is now closed until bridge repaired.

## **HALL LANE**

One chevron sign may not meet regulations and again will be replaced or removed. The new SDNP sign at the junction of Hall lane and the B3006 has been reported as a sightline obstruction. The left hand junction sign on the B3006 still not replaced after 2 years but has been highlighted yet again to HCC  
Some of the hedges have been cut and the unsighted left hand bend sign can now be seen!

## **FOOTPATHS AND HEDGES**

All paths and bridleways are being monitored; most are now just passable but muddy.

HCC Rights of Way list six paths within the parish and hopefully are on the list for this year.

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All hedges and overhanging trees, to be cut back from the road, lane edges and those bordering any footpaths and bridleways. Rights of Way will only cut footpaths to 1.5m and bridleways to 2.5m width. Problems can be reported to myself or directly to the Rights Of Way website.

## **LOWER PLAYING FIELD, PLAY GROUND AND VILLAGE GARDEN**

A new playground inspection was carried out and highlighted several small problems which have been sorted. Further work to the timber structures will take place weather permitting.

## **VILLAGE GARDEN**

Garden work by volunteers continues and has made this a very successful area both for local residents and walkers on the circular route from Chawton.

Adjacent parking, use of passage and access to Right Of Way is being monitored.

Illegal parking on the Right of Way should be reported to the local authorities directly.

## **FLOODING Possible flooding this year as water table is higher than normal**

Local water level measured was 116m AOD on MARCH 3rd and is rising slowly.

Previous flood years have shown this trend and it is the rainfall in January, February and March that seems to decide if it will flood with Lavant stream starting to become visible.

Ditches and fields along the A32 towards Chawton now have water in them and possibly water is already seen in local A32 cellars. **Keep checking Parish**

**website.**

There have been no further meetings at Winchester since the Flood Action Committee

updated us on their progress to date and possible work timescales.

To report footpath problems use the Parish Website <https://farringdonpc.org/>  
PLEASE REPORT ANY ROAD/ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS DIRECTLY TO ME  
OR TO ANY PARISH COUNCILLOR, OUR CLERK, OR VIA THE PARISH  
WEBSITE.

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