

OPEN MEETING TO DISCUSS FLOODING ISSUES HELD ON THE 6TH
FEBRUARY 2024

Welcome from Dennis Clark Chair Burnham Market Parish Council

Speakers:

Meeting Chaired by Andrew Jamieson, Deputy Leader, Head of Finance, and our County Councillor

Tom Hunter, General Manager, Internal Drainage Board, Kings Lynn

Cllr Sam Sandell, our Borough Councillor

James Wild MP

Mark Ogden, Norfolk County Council, Flood Investigation Manager

Steven Hills, Norfolk County Council, Project Manager for The Burn

Paul Louth, Anglian Water

Grant Tuffs, Anglian Water

Victoria Anglian Water, Regional Network Manager, sewer networks.

Jason Moore, Norfolk County Council Senior Highways

Damien Jefferies, Norfolk County Council Engineer

Dave Robson, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Risk Management, Environment and Welfare/Hardship

Jade Kite, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk – Flood & Water Management Officer

Rory Sanderson, Area Environmental Manager for the Environment Agency

Sandra Squire, Borough Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Coastal

Andrew Jamieson explained about the role of Henry Cator and the Flooding Alliance along with Lord Dannet's role in setting up a single floodline and the need for a multi-agency approach. There are 31 organisations involved and we all need to work together.

Mark Ogden asked for a show of hands for house flooding – 15, loss of facilities – 17, foul water in gardens – 21 and road flooding – 32. He stressed the need to report all issues.

Steven Hills explained what is happening now, in the short term including the multi-agency approach, speaking to residents and working together. Issues include the water course, surface and ground flooding. He has 21 other projects but was looking at the idea of a larger underground pipe from the Bec / west of the village to Joan Shorts Lane and his report would be complete by September 23. The IDB cover mostly North Burnham, Anglian Water – foul water sewage with Highways on the roads and gulleys.

The opening of sluices is key, and they are speaking to the owners to allow opening at night time. Tankering and mobile pumping measures.

Paul Louth advised that £300k had been spent following the previous flooding with sealing of manholes and some temporary repairs via CCTV down sewers to check for blockages etc. Crusts in the pipes following levels dropping require jetting to clear.

Overpumping was raised by a resident as it had worked in the past, but AW do not overpump anymore. Rory Sanderson advised the pumping was not the best idea. Steven Halls advised that the peak flow in the Goosebec can be pumped into the River Burn.

Jason Moore talked about the problems in the West of the village with water going into the pit via Westgate Hall and overpumping was not a good idea with so many homes flooded at that end of the village and water going under carriageways. Damien Jefferies added Whiteways Road.

A resident advised that he had been running pumps 24/7 over the last 6 weeks and the water was running off the fields into his garden. Questioned the sluice gates – who checks these, enforcement/dredging? The owner of the Mill sluice gates advised that these were open but upper mill was different. Fallen trees on the Holkham Estate were blocking the waterways and reeds needed cutting back. Riparian owners should take more ownership and the new sluice gates were composite and easier to work.

Chair of South Creake Parish Council raised toll river management and dredging to remove lost of silt. Stagnant banks have fallen in with trees, branches and debris all effecting the flow. He was advised that the EA no longer allow dredging permits.

Rory Sanderson the Chalk Streams are nationally important and that “permitted” dredging may be allowed. The increase in rainfall from October 23 to date, following the drought up to September 23 has led to a lot of the problems and the Norfolk River Trust are also an important member of the multi-agency approach.

A resident advised that when the IDB cleared the reeds, it only took 30 minutes yet was very effective.

Another resident had 3 floods in the last 4 months and was unable to live in their house.

The highways need to jet out the rains/culverts with 2ft of silt on the Creake Road including gravel and debris. The drains at South Creake were solid with silt.

Jason Moore and Damien Jefferies advised that Highways would investigate the clearance of these gulleys and confirmed that some of the work has already been booked with the contractor but a scheduled clean would be programmed.

James Beamish from the Holkham Estate will discuss the clearance of trees and debris with Rory Sanderson and thought there was not much silt in the pipe under Joan Shorts Lane.

A resident raised the issue with Friars Lane by the school and was told by highways that it was not their responsibility, he then called the parish clerk who helped. Damien Jefferies advised that the issue was a blocked ditch on private land, and he was in discussions with the landowner to clear.

Communications are poor and suggested that the agencies use local newsletters etc.

Steven Hill advised that long term, there was a capacity issue at Burnham Market and a full land drainage system was needed which would have to be government funded, James Wild stated that he would support this. The Front Street culvert needs to be upsized and he would look to work with local landowners. Land for reservoirs would also be considered to hold water. Slow release dams had been raised with landowners at South Creake

A resident advised that a number of boards had been put in places along the river Burn which diverted water and led to the holding back of water.

Dave Robson stated that support was available for families suffering from the effects of flooding.

A number of residents raised issues regarding flooding of gardens, foul water etc., and the speakers would speak to individuals after the meeting ended and take details.

Caroline Boyden