RAINFALL  
   My rain gauge showed there had been 25mm up to 7am and then a further 10mm to 10am.  
Subsequent enquires indicated it had rained through the night but was extremely heavy around 4-5am. So this was very similar to the 2012 flood where we had 23mm in 3 hours.   
Nature never presents us with exactly the same weather.  
(The 2007 flood we had around 100mm in 9 hours).  
  
SEWAGE.  
   I took several photos at 7.45am of sewage bubbling up through manholes around the High Street/Jeffs Close area. I had, over the last few months, listed the problems to my contact at Severn Trent Water and at 9.15am I sent the photos to him.  
  A parishioner informed me that Contractors had attended on Thursday, inspected the manholes and found them to be clear.   
  7pm Thursday, email from a resident of Orchard Close saying there was sewage coming out of a neighbour's manhole, he had reported this to STW was informed will be out within 24 hours.  
 Friday 9.30am saw STW at the High Street, they were here to clear sewage from a property in Jeffs Close and to inspect and flush out infrastructure from High Street, through Jeffs Close and around to Sutton Lane. I asked if they would also clear the blockage in Orchard Close.  
  Around 1pm STW left having flushed out from the blocked manhole in Orchard Close through to the main pipe, cleared the blockage in the Jeffs Close property and flushed the system all around Jeffs Close to out of the village and then around to Sutton Lane. They told me there were some problems in the system which they would put into their report to Head Office.  
  
SURFACE WATER  
  At approximately 7am I drove round the village. Sutton Brook was high but not excessively and noted that the ditch at the side of Castle Hill Lane, going down by the village hall, was overflowing onto the road and down the High Street.   
  The tributary of Hen Brook, whose culvert goes under the High Street, just below Hen Brook Lane, Upper Brailes was overflowing onto the road as was Hen Brook itself in Hen Brook Lane.   
  
  Took 20 photos around 7.20am including that of the brown, muddy water coming out at some considerable volume from the verge by the seat at the junction of High Street and Sutton Lane. This added to the overflow from Castle Hill Lane, the gullies down the High Street were not coping with the flow, so the excess water was flowing into Sutton Brook via the grip.             
The Brook was still rising and I realised it would probably shortly start to 'pond' in the Old Coach House/Jeffs Close area.   
   Reported to Chris Righton the problem of the overflowing ditch in Castle Hill Lane and emailed  at 9.15am appropriate photos to STW and WCC Highways.  
  9.30am Sutton Brook was at its peak. The brown, muddy water from Sutton Lane and above had stopped but was replaced by brown, muddy water running off, just down from Blew Gates, from the fields at the back, (to the north). Took photos of this and also the Flood Relief Channel and Sutton Brook.  
  
 Midday, Sutton Brook had dropped to about the level of 7.30am  
  
  3pm drove around the village again and spoke to a gent who had inspected the Hen Brook tributary, referred to above, who stated he had inspected the stream and was all clear up to the High Street culvert.   
I told him I had already, some months ago, reported the blocked culvert to WCC Highways and would report again with photo.  
  Hen Brook culvert under Hen Brook Lane, grill at the entrance full of debris.  
  Spoke to resident who showed me the drainage grill he had to uncover to stop floodwaters pouring onto the High Street from the track alongside The Paddocks, High Street, Upper Brailes.  
  
  Friday 11/03/2016. I asked WCC Highways Contractors, who were doing remedial work in Upper Brailes, if they would cleared the blockage of the field runoff by Blew Gates. This now goes direct into the infrastructure.  
  
DAMAGE.  
    Some erosion of the Sutton Brook bank at No 21 Orchard Close.  
   No properties were damaged (amended from 'no properties were flooded'), the Old Coach House did have some dampness in the walls.  
There were, however, problems in this area with vehicles creating bow waves as they went through the flood. I emailed Jeff Morris, Highways, who confirmed we, as villagers, cannot close the road. We could notify Highways, who would notify the police who are the only ones who can close a road.   
(If there was a hole in the road, a manhole cover blown out, then that is a different case, because for safety reasons we might say we anticipated that police would eventually close).  
    Vehicles also caused spray to splash halfway up properties between the Garage and Birdie Blacksmith.  
   I still have to enquire if there was any erosion damage at No 1 Bridge Cottages and No 1 Orchard Close. See below under future plans.  
  
FUTURE PLANS.  
 To investigate the drainage around The Paddocks as referred to above.  
  To investigate another problem at the top of Hen Brook Lane. [My discussion with the neighbouring Farm Manager has not yet been conveyed to the 2 affected property owners   
(? Easter holidays) and will be included in the next BPC Monthly Meeting 23/04/2016]  
   Reappraise Sutton Brook with WCC Flood Team for erosion prevention and think about raising the banks.  
    Continue to try and obtain Grants from WCC and SDC.  
   Encourage Highways to continue their good work in clearing roots etc from the infrastructure in Upper and Lower Brailes.  
   Encourage STW to continue their program of surveying and flushing out their infrastructure down to the Sewerage Works at Cherington.  
  Slow the waters in both Sutton Brook and Hen Brook upstream from both villages.   
I have joined the Shipston Area Flood Action Group. They are a volunteer group who are working with EA/WCC Flood Team/Flood Forum etc and liaising with local landowners and businesses to introduce a proactive agenda on flooding issues throughout the River Stour Catchment Area.  
  
All the above is based on my observations and conversations I have had.  
If anyone has got timed videos and photos they think helpful to highlight problems.  
I am always open to discussion, ideas and will listen to points of view and opinions.  
  
Ken Taylor   
Brailes Floodwatch