

Dear All

10th March 2016

PC Agenda Tuesday 29th March

After the flood event of yesterday, 9th March, in Lower Brailes, can I request that Flooding is added to the agenda.

I'm sure it will be agreed by all that yesterday's flood event was a wake up call for the village and alerts us to the fact that the flood risk to the village remains very much in place.

I accept the discussion we had at the February PC meeting was curtailed but I believe we still need to have proper discussion about flooding which should include the remit of Ken Taylor's Floodwatch.

This is not a criticism of Ken's work in the village with WCC, STW and the community but I am concerned, particularly after yesterday's flood, that Ken has written to the PC (see attached) stating he has requested the Environment Agency, without the sanction of the PC, update their flood map for Brailes. This is something Ken also voiced at the NDP meeting on 7th March. It would be useful for the PC to see the correspondence surrounding this and discuss the matter.

Kind regards

Cllr Steven Kaack

I am very surprised and disappointed that statements that have been made on the incidents of 2007 and earlier are still being used in relation to the problems of flooding in Lower Brailes.

Extensive planning and work undertaken by WCC Highways.

The comments belittle the work done in 2007-9 throughout the village and especially in the High Street/Jefferies Close/Orchard Close area. These improvement works now move the surface water more efficiently via the infrastructure so it gets through the areas at risk quicker.

Flood Relief Channel.

These comments also appear to question the expertise and integrity of the local drainage firm who came up with the idea and designed of the Flood Relief Channel. All the PC have a copy of the design plans and most of the Parish Councillors have had a guided tour of the flood risk and Channel area. The plans, approved by Stratford District Council, state that in the approx 200 metres length the Channel drops 1.74 metres. My photograph dated 27/12/2015, which I sent to all the PC, shows water running down and along the Channel.

The 2012 Flood to be used as a benchmark.

By all means use the pictures etc prior to 2012 to record historical events. It would be far more appropriate if only the events of the 2012 floods, backed up with appropriate photographs, are now used. This must now be the template, and used as a basis to ask why did the areas flood in 2012 and have the things we have done since eased the probability of it occurring again? Will the future plans be effective and not damage upstream of the village nor have any adverse effect towards the Golf course and those Parishes downstream.

Environment Agency Flood Plain Map.

I know that an official issued map must be used in any reports but this shows that Sutton Brook would have to be some 3 metres deep as it goes through Betty's Field and maybe 2 metres deep around the bottom of Orchard Close.

There is a letter from the WCC Flood Team which states they are aware of the inaccuracies of the Environment Agency Flood Plain Map and the Flood Team have raised these with them.

I have requested an updated map.

We all realise we can never say never when it comes to Nature.

I hope I have expressed my thoughts clearly.

Ken Taylor
Brailes Floodwatch
01608 686645

13th Feb 2016