

Report from Drainage Group for Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting on 6 November 2018

Since the last Steering Group meeting on 17 October, the Drainage Group have the following to report:

- 1. Surface water ditch survey:** On 26 October, we investigated some ditches relating to the Priory Road Estate. There are the remains of part of one on Linmore Crescent, the road off Norwich Road leading to Jewson's. It does not seem to connect up with anything and was full of weeds and litter. We then went to the homes in Priory Road behind Jewson's as they were badly flooded and one resident had mentioned a ditch. Keith knocked on the door of one home and the owners showed us the ditch which runs along the back of their garden fence between them and Jewson's. The man keeps it clear but said there was nothing in their deeds about it. He showed us where it goes into a culvert that runs under the next house and then into the ditch we do know of in the farmer's field. As there is only about a hundred metres between the location of that ditch and the one on the road into Jewson's they might well have been connected in the past. The ditch behind the homes will also get filled up by the runoff from the tarmac in Jewson's yard.

Keith has obtained Kevin Bowes phone number from Cllr Bowes so that we can have his permission to look at the ditch between Cranswick and Watton Brook. Keith has not yet been able to reach him.

- 2. Keep It Clear Campaign:** I copied you all in on the email from the Community Education Team leader Richard Park at Anglian Water about the work they will do if the schools take up their invitation. He is not going to contact Wayland Academy direct as he hopes that Jane and Pat may be able to facilitate their going to the school.

- 3. County Council Lead Local Flood Authority:** The Group decided that we needed the clout of the county in dealing with getting landowners to undertake their riparian responsibilities so I emailed them. We had a reply from Nathan Harris who said he would write letters to remind those we wanted to contact. The Clerks and I had a go with the Land Registry website but discovered they had to apply to pay for title deeds and a map of the titled land. We also thought we needed to clear with the Steering Group that we can use up to £60 of NP funds to do this (allows us to search for 10 titles and maps).

I had invited Nathan to join us on our 26 October walkabout but heard nothing from him.

- 4. Highways Drainage.** We were very disappointed to learn that Ben Rayner has left the County and he did not respond to an email from me just before he

left which I copied to his replacement Jon Cotton. So no further work has been done on the drainage system at Watton Green.

Alan Nicholls has been speaking to a neighbour across the road from him in Watton Green. He has produced some useful drawings of the highways system at Watton Green which is not what the County have on their maps. He also produced a letter that showed that Abel's are responsible for the ditch between the former Stable Field and Akrotiri Square which is good to know.

While clearing out old files, the Clerks pass on anything to do with drainage to me. One paper was a copy of a fax from 1997 from the Environment Agency to Bennett Homes giving permission for a surface water outfall headwall to Watton Brook north of the development at Langmere/Ringmere Roads. A copy was sent to Anglian Water. I emailed the information to both Greg Murphy at the Environment Agency and Chris Wray at Anglian Water asking if it was on their maps and asked if we could determine if it was working. Chris came back to me yesterday asking to have a copy of the document. He writes *We have no sw system marked for Langmere road or Ringmere road which would suggest it is a Highways asset or unadopted/ never transferred.*

The Clerks also found copies of letters with pictures of flooding in Goffe Close after the storm of 15/6/09 and of the front lawn flooded in November 2009. A subsequent letter showed flooding on 31 August 2015 with the fire brigade pumping out. That is all useful additional information on the extent of flooding in the town.

5. **New Junction at the Abel Development.** Ben Rayner was also going to raise this with the Highways engineer who designed the new junction for the Abel development to highlight the many problems it causes. So nothing done about that either.
6. **Affiliation to the National Flood Forum:** Completed for now sent to the Forum.
7. **Future Work:** We still plan to deliver the remaining forms but will now aim for the end of November as life is busy for all of us and we are only four.

Liz Whitcher
Chairman
Drainage Working Group
5 November 2018