

BFG update from the residents meeting held on Tuesday 7th October.

We held our first residents feedback session at the village hall on Tuesday where 23 residents attended.

The purpose of the meeting was to update everyone on progress on the implementation of the Strategic Flood Plan which we produced from the EA and Section 19 reports we all received earlier in the summer.

We explained in some detail what actions will be required to deal with control of water upstream West of Billingborough through a flood alleviation scheme, the issues we are facing with the overall poor condition of the village drainage system and how we can get surface water that does break through onto roads through the village quicker and into drainage assets to the East of the village.

We also outlined how the BFG will monitor progress with developments and hold the various authorities to account.

Village Drainage System

The main effort in the short term will be in understanding in more detail the drainage system within Billingborough and determining who is responsible for each asset. .

We have been struggling to obtain comprehensive maps of the village drainage system and identifying in some cases who is responsible for the assets and we are working closely with Anglian Water, LCC Highways and SKDC to obtain a comprehensive set of maps that we can use to identify responsibility in the event a problem and push the relevant authority to undertake a repair.

Already some blocked/obstructed surface water and sewage drains have been identified or are yet to be identified.

We are aware that both Anglian Water and LCC Highways are undertaking further investigations around the village but unfortunately their communication systems leave a lot to be desired.

One request to residents, if you do see contractors in your street and you are able, please ask them what they are undertaking and post on the Flood Group Facebook page what you know. It will help us to ask further questions of the relevant authority.

Similarly, we value the contribution from all residents who have knowledge of our drainage systems and feel they can contribute to understanding the issues we face. This is an important aspect of the work we are doing.

Ousemere Lode to the West of Billingborough

One of the actions from the the Strategic Plan was to locate additional telemetry devices further upstream of the village as part of the early warning system for potential flooding events. We are pleased to announce that LCC obtained approval from the Environmental Agency to locate one device on Pipperdam bridge and one on the bridge on Mareham Lane where the OML crosses. In addition, LCC are locating additional telemetry in Folkingham to provide additional warning of potential flood events. Residents can connect to the App and data will be fed from Folkingham as well as the devices at Mareham Lane and Pipperdam bridges. There will be more information provided to residents on how to access the data when installations are completed which commence in the next couple of weeks.

Drainage to the East of Billingborough

At this stage we are focusing on the issues above but will be providing further updates in the coming months.

Billingborough Constituted Community Flood Group.

We have been researching how flood groups have been operating in other parts of the country.

We discovered that a number of villages have formalised their flood groups into organisations similar to charities. These constituted groups, once registered, can apply for grant funding from various sources to support local flood mitigation efforts.

We have consulted with the LCC and EA who fully support our intention and will work with us to put projects local together.

The BFG intend to become a Constituted Community Group in the next couple of months.

Billingborough Flood Volunteer Group

Once we have formalised our group, we would like to invite residents who would like to volunteer to form a community action group to work in collaboration with the various authorities in undertaking basic maintenance work such as keeping local drains, ditches, and other water courses clear as well as street gullies in an effort to keep assets clear as far as possible.

If we can attract enough interest, we will arrange a meeting with LCC and EA for them to talk to us all about how we go about this.

If you are interested in helping to look after our village watercourses, then please contact Helen Middlebrook or Murray Turner (our district councillor).