

Village Link

The Newsletter of Hotham, Everthorpe and North Cave
December 2019 - January 2020



When next ????

Flooding - time for action?

Welcome to the Christmas / New Year Edition....

And our apologies, because this is going to be a bit of a damp issue, at least to kick off with. We are using our editorial privilege to start a conversation which we hope will lead to some serious action to help deal with the regular flooding events that affect our villages.

We don't claim to have all the answers - they will only come when all the people (residents, landowners and farmers, Parish and County Authorities, Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water) get together. This is called partnership working and there has been precious little of it to date. So to begin outside our door...

Everthorpe Lane

Properties on Everthorpe Lane flooded on the evening of 14 November. The worst was averted for us because we called the fire brigade, who pumped out from the back of our property, and ERYC arrived with sandbags which prevented water coming in off the Lane onto ours and our neighbours' drives. In addition, we dug the grips from the Lane into the ditch at the south side of the Lane, which played a major part in diverting

and storing flood water.

Although we have some flood damage, to some extent we 'dodged the bullet' but the warning is clear, from both this and the 2007 flooding (which was not as severe for us). The source of water on Everthorpe Lane was the same on both occasions: the fields to the north of the Lane shed significant amounts of water. This time it was sufficient to overwhelm our properties. We are aware of similar flooding to our own (pluvial, or based on rainfall runoff) to properties in Everthorpe - but occurring on both 7 and 14 November.

So the clear warning is that this will happen again if nothing is changed. A '1-in-100 event' means very little any more. It could happen again next month, next year or the year after. We can and will do more to improve our property resilience, but the fact is that such large volumes of water should not be threatening properties in the first place.

continued...

....Flooding continued....

'Downstream'

Although the ditch is designed to take water from the highway, when pumping or directing flood water into it, we are aware that this may well have effects downstream. 'Downstream', in this case, means following the road/field drain, and Little Moor Drain, to the rear of properties on the south side of Station Road, where they go into culvert, potentially causing water to back up at the rear of those properties - as happened on 14 November.

The drain then pops out for a brief length at the front of properties on Station Road, opposite the primary school. From here, the water is culverted again under the school (what genius built it there?...) and, of course, the school flooded in 2007. The drain surfaces briefly within the grounds of The Croft, before going into culvert under Finkle Street. Again, the culvert can't cope, the water backs up and over-tops into Finkle Street, which has been flooded probably more often than any street in North Cave, despite Yorkshire Water adding a drain towards Mires Beck after the 2007 floods.

The water would naturally flow from here, along Blanchard's Lane, to the beck, but being built up, and receiving rainwater from both Westgate and the Beck, Blanchard's Lane has been unable to cope in the past. Equally, we know that properties along the Beck suffered badly in November.

So, whilst it would be easy for us, on Everthorpe Lane to say *"the ditches need cleaning out, to get the water away faster"* there are obvious consequences for our neighbours in the rest of the village. *"Dig the ditches / dredge the beck/river"* is what is heard up and down the UK after flooding events, but watercourses can only take so much. And shifting it away, faster, always has consequences for those downstream. So what is the answer?

'Upstream'

We have to look 'upstream' into the catchment where the bulk of the rain is falling, and try to catch (or 'attenuate') the rainfall as close to where it is falling as possible. A catchment can apply at many scales. For North Cave Beck, it is an area of about 37 sq km, running up into the Wolds, beyond Newbald and taking in

Hotham. For Everthorpe Lane, it is the playing fields and agricultural fields around, but especially north of, the Lane. For Everthorpe hamlet, it is agricultural land west of the hamlet. Every flooding situation is different, but it can only be dealt with by a catchment-based response, using landform, vegetation and 'leaky dams' to direct and hold water back in a storm, but allow it to drain away slowly afterwards.

We have been involved with Calderdale SlowTheFlow (<http://slowtheflow.net>), who have been installing many Natural Flood Management (NFM) features in the tributaries above the River Calder to help protect Hebden Bridge and other towns. There are similar successful projects at Pickering, Stroud and elsewhere.

Most sensible people now accept that climate change is a reality, which will result in rainfall events of increasing frequency and severity, so future flooding is no longer 'if' but 'when'. And 'when' is most certainly not in 100 years!

Actions

In time, we need to set up the partnership referred to at the start of this article, but for now, we would like to make contact with people who have been affected by flooding, so that we can build up a picture of what has happened, in this and previous years, in Hotham, North Cave and Everthorpe.

In addition, we would like to hear from anyone who has knowledge, whether professional or local, about flooding or drainage in this area.

As a first step, drop us a line at: floor@villagelink.info to tell us who and where you are, what has happened, whether you have any specific thoughts on what could be improved, and whether you wish to help in any way.

We need to work together to create an effective approach that reduces the risk to all of our properties. Let's not wait for the next '100 year storm' - we haven't got that long!

It's not all doom and gloom - if we get this right, we could also improve the biodiversity of our area and attract important funding.

Bill and Elizabeth



Dear Residents,

I'm writing this on the 100 year anniversary of Remembrance Day but I know Christmas will be upon us before we know it.

There is never a dull moment in the life of a Ward Councillor

and there are lots of issues I'm asked to help with. Planning is a little quieter at the moment and work is underway for the new housing development by Duchy Homes, I am asking East Riding Officers to keep an eye on progress and try and ensure that the all the due diligence needed to protect our residents, particularly those near the site, is carried out.

Huge quantities of rain water have fallen during October and November and I have been working with the Parish Council and residents to try and achieve the best possible flood protection for the village. After speaking with residents I am pleased that some of the surface water issues we have experienced in the past at the junction of Blanchards Lane and Church Street have now been addressed and a thank you to East Riding for the help with this. We still have issues around foul water and I keep challenging Yorkshire Water to address these issues. Unfortunately a lot of older properties discharge rain water (surface water) into the sewage system, this then overwhelms the foul system meaning the water comes up through manhole covers and is very unpleasant, so please check that all surface water at your property does not go down the normal foul drain system. If you would like to report an issue with a gully, drain, manhole or flooding on the highway you

can do via the East Riding website www.eastriding.gov.uk and [search flooding and drainage](#).

My work at County Hall and the Drainage Board continues to challenge and at the moment I am lobbying the Environment Agency and Government to establish funding to future proof the area from Climate Change/ Global Warming. Believe in climate change or not, water levels are defiantly rising and we need to be around the top tables to secure the best funding we can.

Health & Care services are always on my agenda so if you have any concerns pop me an email and I'll try and head you in the right direction. I am also sitting on a review panel which is investigating the local Adult Care Market across the county. We intend to try and establish where our strengths and weaknesses are and how we can help support the private sector providers who are very important to care provision across East Yorkshire.

I hope you all have a lovely time over the festive period, and if I don't see you before "Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!" If anyone would like to contact me, Nigel Wilkinson or Linda Bayram on these or any other issue please feel free to do so. We can be contacted at

councillor.aitken@eastriding.gov.uk or councillor.nigel.wilkinson@eastriding.gov.uk or councillor.linda.bayram@eastriding.gov.uk

or call me on 07721411620.

Thank you once again for your trust and I look forward to working closely with you all.

Have a great Christmas!!

Victoria Aitken,
Ward Councillor - Howdenshire