

Notes from Meeting with Anglian Water and Highways

9th Feb 2022

Present: AW Nigel Minter (NM) project lead, Victoria (V) network development officer, Tom Balfour (TB) regional network officer.

Highways: Julian King (JK) Design Surveyor, Amanda (A)

PC Drainage group: Di Warne (DW) Alex Brockhurst (AB) Garry Deeks (GD)

NM outlined the survey that had taken place asking residents about where their surface water went. 75% of the village had been surveyed.

The data from this is currently being analysed and should be available within next couple of months. This will be made available to the PC.

However, it would appear that most of the water getting into the sewage system is not coming from highways. It is more likely to be seepage from the ground, not necessarily from housing surface water.

The monitoring of flow of sewage has been going on now since 2020, mostly concentrating on Low road. Ultimately, the idea would be to re-line the pipework and seal it so that the manhole covers can be fixed and no longer pop up. This would be a no-dig process. Monitoring will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

There is a proposed monitoring along Victoria Terrace where problems have arisen at the back of the pottery.

Removing the overflow at The Swan is now a designated project which involves both Highways and Anglian Water working together. This work is probably being scheduled for July/August. It will mean that the Harleston Road is closed for three weeks as the pipework will be replaced down the centre of the road. It has been verified that the overflow has not been caused by surface water drainage from the church yard.

GD raised concerns about water supply pipe breakages which had caused problems on Stradbroke Road at Sandpath. Also that Highways water could be heard in drains along the Laxfield road near the entrance to the SPSC. This was noted.

GD also checked if we were correct that there was a charge for surface water from residences going into the foul system. This was confirmed but could be rebated if not done. The data for this will be made available to the PC.

AB pointed out that residents at Carpenters Yard had notifications of works to be done by Essex/Suffolk suppliers. However there had been no feedback.

JK outlined that highways water getting into the foul system was highly questionable.

A reiterated that Highways do not have maps of their drains in Fressingfield. It often remains unknown where water routes go and come from. The example was given at Sandpath where water comes from under the properties somewhere and goes somewhere.....However, sharing information is very helpful which is what they are now doing.

TB suggested it would be very helpful to gain more local insight into the where old ponds, drains, ditches, wells etc are located in the village to help get a full picture of the water flow and potential gathering points. He said that his team were trained in looking for unexpected outflows.

JK provided maps to the PC for the proposed works to alleviate the flooding at the Swan. They are waiting on the property managers to give the go ahead.

TB will probably check out the school surface water egress during a weekend. There are special School SUDs available if necessary. He was encouraged to also look at the development site at the end of school lane- plans on MSDC planning portal.

DW asked about concerns at Jubilee Corner. NM said there are many services which go through there including a foul drain. There is known to be an historic water tank beneath the triangle. There is also BT pipework which if bowed at that point has the potential to cause water egress. TB will take another look at this area.

In conclusion it was agreed that:

Once data is available it will be provided to the PC

At that point the PC will see what mitigations they can encourage from residents to help reduce water overflow, water butts, ponds etc..... (need to check with LH if water butts still available).

PC to encourage locals to provide information about historical knowledge of ditches, drains, ponds, wells etc.....

TB would make contact with Essex/Suffolk Water to try and engage them in the Fressingfield problems and share intelligence.

Over the next few weeks it is likely that more surveys will be taking place in the roadways- feel free to have conversations with the operatives.

Next meeting June/July t.b.c.

DW AB GD