

Flooding in Sturton by Stow: Ongoing Efforts and Update on Action Plans

Following the most recent and ongoing flood events affecting Sturton by Stow, local councillors and Parish Councillors have been actively addressing the situation and will continue to explore solutions with various authorities to help prevent future flooding and mitigate its impact on residents.

Cllr Mullally recently informed the community through social media that she is collecting contact details on behalf of West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) for those whose homes have been affected by the flooding. Additionally, she has requested the road sweeper to visit the village to clear debris left behind by the floods.

It was also highlighted at our last meeting that a significant amount of water has been running off fields, contributing to the flooding. Cllr Butroid emphasized the importance of identifying the specific fields where water is running off and notifying the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), as landowners are responsible for preventing water from flowing onto public roads. It was noted that water from the headlands has been a major contributor to road flooding.

In response, a cross-party meeting was suggested between WLDC, LCC, Anglian Water, Highways and the Internal Drainage Board. The aim is to discuss the lack of infrastructure in the village, particularly the fact that current infrastructure cannot accommodate the new buildings being approved by WLDC. It was also noted that flooding in the village has become an annual issue, raising serious concerns about the area's ability to manage the increasing frequency of these events.

At the meeting, Cllr Cook reiterated concerns about specific areas within the village that are prone to flooding and emphasised the need for a response from Anglian Water regarding their assurances about the system's capacity. Despite Anglian Water's previous assurances, recent flooding events have shown that the drains cannot cope and are not functioning as required.

Cllr Holtby also raised concerns about the response time between the initial phone call to Highways and the road being closed, questioning whether there could be a quicker solution to prevent heavy vehicles from passing through floodwater and potentially causing further damage to homes.

Cllr Butroid suggested exploring whether councillors could have the authority to close roads during flooding. Training would have to be provided to ensure the correct procedures are followed. He also stated that large vehicles passing through closed roads can be reported and have their planning permission revoked.

He also noted that a Section 19 (S19) report would need to be conducted if floodwater enters homes.

The Clerk has been collecting photo evidence of flooding in the village to assist the Lincolnshire Local Resilience Forums understanding of the flooding within the village.

Cllr Cook has sent a formal letter to Anglian Water and other relevant authorities, highlighting concerns raised by the parish council and residents in hopes of reaching an agreement on mitigation measures to prevent future flooding.

Anglian Water's Response:

In response to these concerns, Anglian Water has provided an update. Their Water Recycling Management Team has confirmed that they are investigating possible solutions in collaboration with the Modelling Team to address the ongoing flooding issues. They cited that their Sewer Network and Treatment Works are becoming overwhelmed during heavy rainfall, although they operate within limits under normal and dry conditions.

The root cause of the flooding has been identified as excess surface water infiltration on the Foul Network. Anglian Water's Water Recycling Teams are prioritizing this issue, although it is a complex and ongoing process without an expected timeframe for resolution. The team is checking all Anglian Water assets and outfalls in the area to ensure they are functioning as expected, with completion of these checks expected within the next four weeks.

Anglian Water has recommended that any further discussions go through the Lead Local Flood Authority, where their Water Recycling Team is available to correspond and attend meetings as needed.

Residents have raised the idea of relocating the sand bin from Bradshaws to Stow Road, which was well received and will be on next month's agenda for further discussion.

Next Steps:

The council is committed to continuing dialogue with relevant agencies, and further action will be taken to address flooding concerns and infrastructure challenges. The community remains united in calling for long-term solutions to prevent further flooding and ensure the safety and well-being of Sturton by Stow residents.

About Sturton by Stow Parish Council:

The Sturton by Stow Parish Council is dedicated to addressing the needs of its community and working with local authorities and organisations to ensure the safety and sustainability of the village. Through ongoing dialogue and action, we aim to mitigate with these agencies and hope to improve the infrastructure within the village.
