

Flooding and Drainage Meeting – Public Summary

Representatives from **Sturton by Stow and Stow Parish Councils** met with **Lincolnshire County Council (Highways and Flood & Water teams)** and the **County Councillor** on **3rd December 2025** to discuss recent flooding in the villages and how future risks can be reduced.

The meeting focused on how local drainage coped during recent extreme weather, including the January 2025 floods, and what actions different organisations can and cannot take.

Key Points

- Flooding in the village is caused by **multiple factors**, including extreme rainfall, saturated ground, limited capacity in drainage systems, blocked or damaged pipes, and watercourses that are not being maintained.
- **Highways** are responsible for draining roads, not private land.
- **Anglian Water** manages surface water and sewerage systems.
- **Landowners are responsible for maintaining watercourses** (ditches, drains, streams) next to or running through their land – known as *riparian responsibility*.
- Drainage systems are **not designed for extreme weather events**, and adding more gullies alone will not solve the problem.
- Flooding is becoming more frequent, and managing risk will require a **shared approach** between agencies, landowners, and residents.

What Is Being Done

- LCC confirmed that highway drainage is being maintained and monitored.
- Damaged pipework from historic utility works has already been replaced in some areas.
- LCC Flood & Water and Highways teams work closely with Anglian Water, Internal Drainage Boards and the Environment Agency.
- A **public multi-agency meeting** is supported, where residents can hear directly from the organisations involved.
- LCC will provide an article for the village newsletter explaining how **Fix My Street** reports help prioritise works.

What Residents Can Do

- **Report flooding, blocked drains and gullies** using *Fix My Street* – multiple reports and photos help prioritise action.
- Check whether you have **riparian responsibility** for nearby ditches or drains and ensure they are maintained. The general rule is, If the deeds do not state that you are not responsible then by default you are under common law. Those who are tenants of housing or lease holders of land, it is recommended that you clarify with your home/ landowner who is responsible for carrying out riparian responsibilities
- Consider **property-level flood protection**, such as flood gates or air-brick covers.
- Check eligibility if your property suffered from internal flooding from Storm Babet or Henk for available funding - Lincolnshire County Council launched a new Property Flood Resilience (PFR) grant scheme, offering up to £5,000 to help homeowners protect their homes from future flooding.
- Be mindful that increasing **hard surfaces** (e.g. block-paved driveways) can worsen flooding.
- Use the village **Community Emergency Plan**, including sand bins and local support, during severe weather. Be prepared.

The Parish Councils will continue working with LCC and partner agencies to seek practical solutions and keep residents informed.