

Flood Working Group Report 30 January 2008

In December David Lewis, Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator for Mill Lane, called a meeting of his co-ordinators to discuss what help could be offered to those residents who had been flooded. It was decided to send a letter to residents, giving the telephone numbers for myself, Capt. Frank Holmes, Chairman of the Parish Council, and the Rev. Jukes of St Andrew's Church. They were informed that the Flood Working Group continues to make its enquiries with Yorkshire Water, The Environment Agency and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. They were also informed that copies of correspondence were sent to our M.P. and that the Chairman of the Parish Council has sent copies to, Mr. Nigel Pearson, the Chief Executive of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

David Lewis then asked if our M.P. could come and see us regarding the floods and in particular the badly flooded homes in Mill Lane.

Our M.P. was contacted by our Ward Councillor, Shaun Horton and on the evening of 17.1.08 I received a telephone call to say that a visit may be made the following day at 5 pm, but was subject to confirmation.

I contacted David Lewis, who then delivered notes to his flooded residents. I contacted the residents at Valley Drive, as I thought we should start where the water came through the bungalows, and then show our M.P. the flow of the water down The Vale and into Mill Lane. Unfortunately our M.P. could only spare a short time between his engagements so residents were asked to be ready for 5.00 at Valley Drive and 5.15 at Mill Lane.

I went in good time and was soon joined by Mr. Barry Clinch, School Governor. We checked the level of water in the ditch/drain behind the bungalows and it had gone down a lot since Tuesday. We had time to chat to residents on the driveway and were joined by Ward Councillors, Shaun Horton and Kerry Hemming- Tayler, Capt. Frank Holmes and Parish Councillor David Jordan.

We were informed that our M.P. was running late so Barry Clinch and I went to Mill Lane to inform residents, but unfortunately were not in time to see Mr. Lewis. We knocked at No. 26 & 28, & spoke to residents at No. 7 who were going out. Some homes are still unoccupied and as it was then dark I decided against knocking at more doors.

The residents at Valley Drive were able to discuss their concerns about the Drain at the rear of their properties.

David Davis was also accompanied by Andrew Percy, his researcher. When they arrived at Mill Lane we went to No. 8 and David Davis went inside to speak to the residents. I went to No. 4 and invited the resident to come to No.8.and he joined the private meeting.

I gave David Davis four photographs of the Lagoon at The Grove, four photographs of the lagoon at The Ketch/Albion Mills, and four photographs taken on 25.06.07, to show the quantity of water rushing down The Vale.

Andrew Percy asked to be kept updated and you will see from the e-mails that the Haltemprice Office is included.

For the information of all residents you are advised that the Parish Council appointed an Independent Solicitor in late December, to establish the present Legal status of the Easenby Drain and to assist us in obtaining replies from Yorkshire Water, the Environment Agency and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. This is being funded from The Town and Parish Fund for Flooding,

from the East Riding of Yorkshire council. We are still trying to establish who is responsible for cleaning the drain behind the properties in Valley Drive. Recently the residents have cleared wood, twigs and other debris from the ditch themselves, though it is not thought to be their responsibility.

Since July we have been asking the ERYC about the water storage lagoons for the A164 and have asked for the original drainage plans, under the Freedom of Information Act. The ERYC claim that they are still searching their archives and I have now advised them that the plans should be sent direct to our Solicitor.

Residents who have a boundary with the Western Drain, i.e. from 15 West Ella Road, will have received a letter and booklet from the Environment Agency as the Drain is classified as Main River and is the responsibility of the E.A.

We are still trying to establish who is responsible for the other ditches/drains but the E.A. have just given me a small supply of their publication "Living on the Edge" which I will be giving to residents. The information is available on the E.A. Website, for those with computers.

Most of the road gullies have been cleaned and should have a black tag, though they can come off. A number of gully grates have been replaced – some were cracked or defective. There may be some that have been missed, possibly because a vehicle was parked. If you know of any that are not taking the water away please report them.

The heavy rain of the last 2 weeks caused some localised flooding or standing water, though no flooding of properties in our Parish, as far as we are aware. However it was a good opportunity for us to check the flow of water and identify any problem areas. The residents in Valley Drive are keeping a very good check on the drain. We were also keeping a good check on the level of water in the lagoons and we have again asked ERYC what contingency plans they have, should they overflow.

The Flood Working Group continues to make enquiries and hopes to reduce the risks of further serious flooding in the Parish of Kirk Ella and West Ella.

If any resident has any information, help or advice we will be pleased to hear from you.

Parish Cllr. Mrs. E. Robinson
Head of the Flood Working Group
Kirk Ella and West Ella Parish Council