

Kirk Ella
And
West Ella
Parish Council

East Riding of Yorkshire

Report on the Storm Damage in the Parish
which occurred on
June 15th 2007
&
June 25th 2007

Produced by the Kirk Ella and West Ella Parish Council, Flood Working Group.

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11th April 2008.

Mr. Nigel Leighton,
Flood Review Panel,
East Riding of Yorkshire Council,
County Hall,
Beverley.

STORM DAMAGE and Flooding in the Parish of Kirk Ella and West Ella, in the East Riding of Yorkshire. 15th June and 25th June 2007.

This is a supplementary report to the one written on 23.9.2007.

Our enquiries initially concerned the flooding of Valley Drive through to West Ella Road and of West Ella Road, from the boundary with Swanland to the junction with Beverley Road.

The Valley Drive flooding remains the focus of our enquiries.

The Easenby Drain is shown on the 1796 map from what is now the junction of Main Street and Beech Hill Road, Swanland and comes across to West Ella, passes the Kerry Pit and continues to Kirk Ella and through to the Hull Turnpike Road (now West Ella Road).

The 1850 map is smaller in scale, but appears to show the Drain following the same course until just East of the Dale Cottage and Dale Well. There appears to be a drain to take the water to West Ella Road, between what is now the St. Andrews' School and 61 West Ella Road and a Drain to West Ella Road further East, i.e. as on the 1796 map.

The 1888 map shows the Drain from the Easenby Farm, going East across field 233 and at the boundary with field 237 it seems to disappear.

The 1888 map shows the Drain to be piped through The Grove and the White Walk and then there is a pond, and then the Drain continues between fields 37 & 38, past the Kerry

Pit and across to the Dale Cottage and Dale Well and to the edge of the map. The School is shown on this map and also the drain on the 1850 map, to the now West Ella Road.

On the next sheet for 1888 there is no drain shown across field 105 but there is a Drain shown between the boundary of fields 105 and 106 with field 108, i.e. the original course of the Easenby Drain, to West Ella Road and the Lodge on West Ella Road for South Ella Hall. This Drain is still shown on present day maps, from the Land Registry.

On the 1910 map there is a "Pump" shown in the position where the Drain disappears on the 1888 map.

On the 1927 map there is a broken line between the Slight's Plantation and the Kerry Pit. Markings suggest that the owner of the Kerry Pit is responsible for the cleaning of the Drain and that the owner of field 142 is responsible for the next short section of Drain. The Drain then goes North East, between field 142 to the South and Fields 135 & 136 to the North. i.e. following the same course as in 1796.

I visited the Treasure House at Beverley recently, where I saw the 1910 maps but they were unable to help with all of my queries, although I now have some of the legends.

I have recently been given information from Helen Roberts, Senior Archivist at the University of Hull, regarding the information that they hold, which is mainly written rather than maps or plans.

On the 10th October 2007 I received an e-mail from Elaine Moll, the Librarian of the Local Studies Library, Albion Street, Hull.

She told me that the Swanland enclosure is with the Ferriby Award and it includes " Also we do award and set out one other public drain or watercourse herein called "Easenby drain" beginning at the east end of the town street of Swanland aforesaid and then leading thence in an Eastwood (sic) direction etc. and into the township of West Ella and we do hereby award order and direct that the said last mentioned drain shall be of sufficient width and depth to carry off the water and shall be for ever hereafter at all times when necessary well and sufficiently repaired cleansed scoured and maintained (the same being cleansed and scoured out at least once at the least in every year in the month of October) by and at the expense of the several persons and in the respective portions hereinafter mentioned."

It goes on to mention the names of Henry Sykes and John Ringrose and their heirs as being responsible.

The Flood Working Group has been trying to establish who is responsible for cleaning out the Drain in the present day.

I telephoned the University of Hull on 3rd December 2007 and spoke to the map room and then Judy Burg, the archivist, in an attempt to establish the current legal status of the Easenby Drain and was advised that we would probably need to seek the opinion of a lawyer.

We then applied to Barry Adams for funding under the Town & Parish Fund to pay for independent legal advice, as the Senior Legal Officer of ERYC had previously been unable to help us.

On the fields East of the A164 and to The Grove plantation there is no sign of the Drain but to the East of The Grove the pond still exists and the Drain continues between fields 37 & 38, but has not been cleaned out for a long time.

Please note that The Grove is still piped and drains on a 12" pipe to the pond. There is a 6" pipe draining from the fields to the same pond. Then there are at least two 6" pipes draining from the two fields, about half way, and another 6" pipe from the lower corner of field 38, into the Easenby Drain. The water disappears underground from the drain, adjacent to Slight's Plantation, when the flow is small, and there is a spring in the woods beyond.

The pipe for the Drain is 12", from the rear of property No.46 Valley Drive and until the boundary of 16 & 14 The Vale, where it becomes an open watercourse again and as described in my earlier report, para.5, Page 2.

Water from the Drain also appears to go into the sewer manhole at the rear of No. 52 Valley Drive. The letter of 18.1.2008 from Helen Screen, Central Customer Case Manager, Yorkshire Water, includes "The land ditch to the rear of number 52 Valley Drive does appear to drain into the public sewer, but is not our responsibility."

There is a second manhole at the rear of 52 Valley Drive but this is still to be surveyed. This water may also be going into the sewer. Yorkshire Water has refused to survey it as it is not their manhole.

During the floods of 15.6.2007 & 25.6.2007 residents reported that several sewer manholes were blowing and some residents reported sewage in their gardens.

On the 25th June the water was so deep and fast flowing, that some pupils from St. Andrews' School had to be rescued by the Fire Service.

Our independent Solicitor, David Porter & Co is collating information and several residents have kindly provided copies from their Deeds. We have now established that the section of the Drain to the rear of Nos. 40-52 Valley Drive is unregistered and we have found a restrictive covenant between the original owners of No.52 Valley Drive and the builders, George Wimpey regarding the cleaning of the Drain, which was not with the Deeds of the present owner of No.52 Valley Drive. David Porter is to write to George Wimpey.

A resident has now provided a copy of the letter of 29th October 1991 to Beverley Borough Council, which was copied to Councillors Raymond, Stephenson, Leng and McCobb, regarding the proposed filling of the Kerry Pit by West Ella Grange Farm, Tranby Lane, Anlaby.

It includes concerns of flooding and states that the late Mr. W. Crawford, who for many years was the Chief Planning Officer for Beverley Borough Council, said that if there were any alterations to the contours of the land to the rear of his property, No. 52 Valley Drive, it would increase the risk of flooding. The letter also states that since his death there has never been anyone to inspect the two drains (I assume this refers to the manhole intakes).

The properties nos.46-50 were built in 1960, by the late Mr. C. Hobson, a local builder, and No. 48 was occupied by him for many years. One would assume that he was unaware of flooding risk at the time of building.

The properties No. 52 Valley Drive and higher were built about 1965, by George Wimpey & Co.

Mr. W. Crawford died in 1983 and in 1985 planning permission was submitted for the Paddocks, off Valley Drive. It was refused in 1986 but allowed on appeal on 16.3.1987. Drainage was to connect to the existing public sewer, with a new sewer for foul and surface water from roads and some of the dwellings, remainder surface water by soakaways.

There was much local opposition to this development but mainly because of removal of the trees and wildlife habitat. I could not find much mention of drainage until a letter of 14.4.1988 from a resident, "Point 8. Now we hear there is difficulty with draining surface water. Is it true that cesspools and/or septic tanks are to be installed for drainage purposes? If so where are the "outfalls" to go?"

There is a memo. Chief Technical Officer to Chief Planning Officer of 6.5.1988 – Drainage – No details submitted. Note: - Details for both onsite/offsite sewers shall be submitted and approved prior to commencement of development (see Appeal Decision – Condition 13/3).

When Mr. Cluderay of Yorkshire Water visited us on 25th October 2007, we queried why the sewers for The Paddocks were not shown on their map and we were informed that they were unadopted sewers. At that time we had been trying to establish the capacities of the sewers.

In the early 1990s the A164 was constructed and there is a water storage lagoon at The Grove (also referred to as the Swanland Soakaway). I applied for information under the Freedom of Information Act and was informed that the gullies for the A164 were last fully cleaned out "2004/5" . " The gullies are cleaned on a 14-month cycle. They are due to be cleaned w/c 17 December 2007. These are to be done on a yearly basis from now on". The lagoon discharges to the fields and to the Grove, which drains to the Easenby Drain.

In addition there is another ditch/drain which runs approximately parallel to the A164, from West Ella which then goes to a culvert(about 24") before the lagoon.

ERYC has now found the microfiche stored plans for the lagoons and provided photocopies.

I have asked to see the planning and construction papers, to see who was consulted and if the Easenby Drain was considered. The residents in Valley Drive do not recall being consulted.

The letter of 29th October 1991, regarding the draining of the Kerry Pit, and alteration of the contours, relates.

A resident has told me that only one farmer asked for his drain to be continued under the A164, i.e. from Swanland towards Anlaby. It would seem that the Easenby Drain has been interrupted/cut off by the A164. This also seems to be the case for the drain from Swanland, West Ella Road, to West Ella, where the A164 runs under the West Ella Road. After heavy rain water stands at the side of the road before the bridge to West Ella.

Our Solicitor, David Porter is presently studying the strict liability implications of Rylands – v- Fletcher (1868), L.R. 3 H.L. 330; [1861-73] All E.R.

Carl Skelton, Divisional Highways Manager (South) wrote to us on 19 February 2008 and stated that "I can confirm that the lagoons (particularly the Swanland and Willerby locations) were inspected during the height of the June 2007 flooding by my Engineers. At no point during these inspections was any evidence of overflowing present."

Residents were not present at the lagoons during the height of the flooding in June but we have had reports that the water on the A164 was very deep and we have photographs of the Swanland Soakaway taken after the flooding, also photographs taken shortly after the soakaway had been cleaned out, on 8th September 2007, and several photographs taken in January, at both the Swanland Soakaway and the Willerby Soakaway. Copies of the earlier photographs have already been given to ERYC on disc.

There was no reported flooding of properties in Swanland. However residents in Swanland have told us that they had difficulty with the amount of water coming from Main Street, and

had to move the pebbles in their driveway. This area is where the Easenby Drain used to commence. I have been told that at one time the ponds of Swanland, West Ella and Kirk Ella were linked.

A few years ago I drove down Main Street, Swanland, after a heavy thunderstorm and the road was barely passable. There is often standing water at the lower end of Main Street and we query the capacity of the Swanland Sewer, given the amount of development in recent years.

A resident has now provided me with a copy of the video taken of the water overflowing the Easenby Drain, behind the property, in June 2007. This shows the volume and speed of flow of the water coming from the Drain and onto the property, the flooding of the conservatory and home, and the water charging around the property. My husband is in the process of transferring the video to DVD and we will then supply a copy for the Flood Review Panel.

In addition I have walked the fields between Valley Drive and The Grove several times, once with the landowner and at other times with his permission. The landowner pointed out the 12" pipe which comes from The Grove – there is a fencing post close by and when the grass is high it is easy to miss. The landowner also pointed out the pipes draining from the fields 37 & 38.

I have taken many photographs, in dry conditions and when the Drain is running with water. On Tuesday 15th January I visited a resident by appointment, to show him the maps and explain the position. As I was about to leave, another resident came to report that the Drain had just started to run again. I should explain that this Drain is normally quite dry, save for some moisture in the bottom. We then went up the fields and I took photographs to show the quantity of water in the Drain and also in the fields themselves.

On 30.1.2008 I wrote to our Solicitor, David Porter, and informed him that "residents in Mill Lane had had trouble with the sewers in the past. I do not know if previous incidents have been reported. It probably only happens when there is very heavy rain. A previous resident of No. 50 Valley Drive has now said that they flooded before and that is why they moved. This would be years before the lagoon for the A164 was built." I also wrote "After seeing the fields 37 & 38 after very heavy rain this month, etc. I think we have 2 problems – the field system and the lagoon."

The present resident of 50 Valley Drive has lived there since 1969. The original residents were there for about 18 months and then, reportedly returned to their former home area. We think that the second owner was there until 1966/7 – they were the ones who have said that they flooded. The third owner was there about 2 years. Residents have told me that flooding occurred when Wimpey's started to build in Valley Drive.

I will put some of the more recent photographs on a CD but I do not have the time or expertise to label each photo. I suggest that I come to County Hall and explain the locations etc.

In the afternoon of 15th January I went out and viewed and photographed the Western Drain. The main purpose was to check the sizes of the pipes/culverts. However as the water was running it was an ideal opportunity to see the flow of the water. There is an open section of drain outside Nos. 151 & 149 West Ella Road, and a 12" pipe at each end, with two 6" pipes from two road gullies draining to this open drain/ditch. Yorkshire Water has told me that this is "upstream of their responsibility" and I wrote about this in my earlier report. We have asked Yorkshire Water for the size of the pipe from No. 61 West Ella Road, and from the Telephone Call Box, opposite No. 85 West Ella Road, which they claim is the

limit of their responsibility. We have asked them when the drain was culverted but they have not replied. Local residents think it was culverted in the 1950s. My own property was built in 1958 and there is no mention of the Drain in my Deeds. There is also no mention of the culvert under the pavement/footway outside my property. The plan with my Deeds shows "Kerb", "Hedge" and "Road widening line". The area between the Hedge and Road widening line is shown in blue and the area for my property is shown in red. I have provided David Porter with a copy. As far as I am aware we only own the area shown in red. The ERYC cut the grass verge. It would appear that residents only own to their side of the edge of the banks. The Environment Agency are now cleaning and clearing both sides of their Drain(Western). The pipe/culvert under the pavement outside No. 53 West Ella Road is approximately 24".

The diameter of the pipe/culvert from No. 15 West Ella Road, the start of the Western Drain is 36".

I took photographs of the water coming from Tranby Lane and joining the Western Drain and also at the Marr Bridge, where interestingly, the water from the drain on the West side of Beverley Road and South of the Marr Bridge, was flowing towards the Marr Bridge and joining the water in the Western Drain. The Drain then goes across the fields and is culverted under Boothferry Road. To the West of No. 153 Boothferry Road it is an open Drain, until it reaches Astral Close, a short distance away. It is then culverted again and this is where the man very sadly lost his life in the June Floods. I am told that the culvert goes to the rear of the Sainsbury Store at Hessle and then to Hessle Haven, and that there are problems if it is High Tide. This is outside our Parish Area but I am trying to achieve a full "picture".

The Cemetery at Tranby Lane, Kirk Ella flooded. The gullies needed clearing. A lot of water flows down Tranby Lane, from the A164 roundabout (Swanland Vet.) and part of the ditch/drain on the Hessle and Anlaby side had not been cleaned out. The drain outside the Cemetery needed clearing. It is noticeable that water stands on the fields between the A164 and West Ella Grange, to opposite the junction with Jenny Brough Lane, although the ditch/drain is usually dry, at this side of the road.

I travelled on the top of the double deck Community Support Bus on Sunday 24th June 2007, along the A164 and noticed that a lot of water was standing in the fields adjacent to the A164, i.e. due north of the Distribution Centre, Tranby Lane. Some of these fields were under "set aside."

HIGHWAYS

At the end of November 2007 I telephoned regarding the cleaning of the gullies on the A164 approach roads to the A63, as I had noticed that they were so full that there were weeds growing and in rain they were not draining the water away and it was coursing across the carriageway. I was advised to contact the Highways Agency and their Brian Johnson of Carrillion Highways (tel. 01405 863829) telephoned back to advise that they were only responsible for the A63 and slip roads, the A1033 to Hull Prison and the M62. I then telephoned ERYC again and informed them and asked them to clean the gullies on the approach roads and roundabouts. I was told that it was difficult due to traffic flows etc. I would suggest that this should have been thought about when the road was designed. This is outside our Parish Boundary but our residents use these roads and more importantly they are used by the Emergency Services, who may be called out to our residents in Kirk Ella & West Ella. During the June 2007 Floods these roads were reported to be impassable. Indeed I invited a stranded motorist to use my toilet and made her a drink on the morning of 25.6.2007 and the water in West Ella Road was so deep that she stayed until 4.00 p.m. She telephoned about 6.00 p.m. to say she had problems with her car and the roads were bad and the Police had directed her to the Hotel Elizabeth, at Ferriby.

I informed Brian Johnson that rain water was standing on the A63 where there were no kerbs, on the South side, and that drainage appeared to be impeded by the high grass verges. He advised me that there would be French drains and I suggested that he ask for the areas to be inspected when it rains heavily. Some of the grass has now been removed.

In recent years many of the ditches/drains at the sides of the roads have not been cleaned out. Some of the road gullies drain to the ditch, usually on a 6" pipe, and on more rural roads there are no gullies and the water runs off to the ditch. It seems that since the Drainage Boards were disbanded there is a problem of who is responsible for cleaning out the ditches, and perhaps more important a problem of who pays for the work. I have spoken to several people about this issue and a farmer from North Yorkshire told me that he definitely thought the ditches should be cleaned out, both to drain the road surface and to drain the land.

GREAT GUTTER LANE

I have not touched on our problems in Great Gutter Lane but they are essentially similar to Valley Drive in that we have a water storage lagoon nearby, on the North side of the roundabout opposite to the Ketch Public House, and a field "system" which drains to Great Gutter Lane. I have taken a number of photographs in dry conditions and when it rained heavily on Monday 21st January 2008. This is the old road from Beverley to Hessle and we saw two ERYC lorries in attendance at the gullies. On another visit I spoke to a resident and he told me that he had had to dig to divert the water coming from the field, to stop it coming over his land and flooding his property. The Drain/ditch alongside Great Gutter Lane needs cleaning out. Just before the badly flooded properties on the North side of the road it is culverted, probably a 12" culvert. I have obtained maps of the sewers for this area from Yorkshire Water but there is little shown for the sewers or surface water. We need to find out if the sewers for the newer developments have not been adopted by Yorkshire Water, and if not, why not?

Please note that the properties and the Ketch Public House were flooded very badly on both the 15th and 25th June 2007.

I am concerned by the Development that has been permitted north of the A164 at Willerby. I recall that at the time the A164 was built we were promised that there was to be no development to the North. Two other residents also remember this and one was originally interested in the Albion Mills, but thought that no redevelopment would be allowed. Planning for Albion Mills was refused in 2000 and 2003 but then subsequently granted and they are now including provision for the parking of 28 vehicles and a new exit. The Ketch was not notified of the development. The plans show the "Willerby Soakaway" but we could find no reference to it. Surface water is to be by soakaways and foul sewage to be connected to a main sewer.

I have several photographs of the Willerby Soakaway, taken in January 2008 when it rained heavily and the water levels are not that far off the top. We are also concerned about the fencing, signage and lack of Lifebelts at the lagoons. Carl Skelton of ERYC is currently dealing with these matters but Barry Clinch, retired Health and Safety Executive Principle Inspector has advised that ERYC could be reported to the H & S at Sheffield. We will give ERYC the opportunity to put matters right. I should add though that we are very fortunate to have Barry Clinch on our Flood Working Group and he is able to provide us with very useful H & S information. Mr. Clinch is a West Ella Road resident and Governor at St. Andrews' School, which as you know was very badly flooded.

PLANNING

The flooding affects the insurance costs, sale price and saleability of homes and businesses. Residents do not want to be flooded again and the Association of British Insurers will no doubt want to be sure that everything possible has been done to try to reduce the risks of future flooding.

May I refer everyone to the report in the Daily Telegraph on Friday 15th February 2008, "FLOOD PLAIN CLAIM" – Hundreds of thousands of new homes due to be built on flood plains will be unsaleable, uninsurable and uninhabitable unless tougher planning laws are put in place, according to the Association of British Insurers.

This Parish Council's enquiries indicate that the building of new houses and extensions is likely to exacerbate the flooding risk to EXISTING properties and I ask you to write to the Chief Planning Director about all future planning applications. I provided David Porter, Solicitor, with a copy of a recent planning decision, to refuse the application, received as I had commented regarding the drainage. There was no mention that any thought or consideration had been given to drainage.

Furthermore I am now looking at the flooding of semi-detached properties in West Ella Road, where building and extensions have been permitted by ERYC in recent years. I am awaiting a response from the Chairman of the Planning sub committee of the Parish Council. I should add that I am not on the Planning sub committee.

FENCES AND WALLS

I refer to my earlier Flood Report of September regarding close board fencing and we have now found from one set of Deeds that this was not permitted without consent. I am of the opinion that the landowner who sold the fields for the building of homes was aware that there was a risk of flooding.

We have the problem of the Watercourse between The Vale and Westland Road, where ownership is to the centre of the watercourse, but that "it is to be maintained as a watercourse, unless piped with pipes of an adequate size." Access is through the gardens of the residents and is limited in size. Formerly the fields were open and owned by one person, who would have easy access, to clean out the Drain, i.e. The Easenby Drain.

WILDLIFE

Defra have their Environmental Stewardship scheme and I have been provided with a copy of their "Entry Level Stewardship Handbook".

EB6 DITCH MANAGEMENT

This refers to ditches which regularly contain standing or flowing water and both sides of the ditch must be owned by the same person, so it probably does not apply to our ditches which are usually dry. Maintenance is limited to 15 September to 28 February.

I question the wisdom of some of the measures. If the ditch has little or no water there is little drinking water for birds and insects etc. They need water as well as berries etc. However some hedges are cut very severely by machine and take a long time to recover. Some hedges are almost non existent and offer no shelter for birds and wildlife.

MAINTAINANCE OF TREES

I have raised the matter of proper maintenance of woodlands and trees, especially where dead branches and debris fall in to the watercourse and cause blockages, with our Solicitor, David Porter. This is particularly a problem for the residents in Valley Drive, who have even hired a skip to remove dead branches from the Drain, which are not from trees owned by them.

We have had fallen trees in the Western Drain and the Drain outside the Cemetery at Tranby Lane, Anlaby, which also flooded.

Recently fallen trees have caused problems when they have fallen across the carriageway of the A164 and in Calvert Lane.

NEW TREES

I contacted the tree officer, Stephen Robinson, late last year, and suggested that he arrange a meeting to discuss the planting of trees to soak up water, near the A164 and the Western Drain, early in 2008 but I have had no response.

VISITS TO RESIDENTS

David Lewis, Area Coordinator for Mill Lane N. W. has visited flooded residents several times and before Christmas called a meeting of his coordinators, to see what could be done to help residents. They were all sent a letter with telephone numbers for our Chairman, the Vicar, The Rev. Jukes, and me. Some residents have still not returned to their homes and I have asked the Vicar if his team can visit. I understand that the curate has this "in hand". David Lewis also asked for our M.P. to visit and he came and spoke to residents in Valley Drive and Mill Lane. ERYC sent Tony Houghton to see residents in West Ella Road, and they have also been visited by my neighbour, Dr. Annette Payne, who was flooded out of her home and has only just moved back, and also by me. Richard Foster, Mill Lane and Colin Grasham, West Ella Road, have also offered help and are copied in on e-mails and attend St. Andrews' Church.

Residents want to know what is being done to reduce the risk of further serious flooding. The report of the visit by our M.P. was sent to as many residents as possible, using our N.W. contacts with West Ella Grapevine and the N.W. for the Beverley Road to the School area. 100 printed copies have been delivered and I also thank the N.W. Coordinator for Westland Road, Mrs Jean Powell.

CONTACT WITH WARD COUNCILLORS

Our Flood Working Group member, Duncan Hemming Tayler, has kept our Ward Councillors informed. I invited Councillor Mary Rose Hardy to our meeting with Yorkshire Water last October and have kept her informed of our enquiries since, so that she can pass on the information to her colleagues. More recently I have copied e-mails to Councillor Ros Jump, who is on the Flood Review Panel. I have also telephoned Councillor Winifred Knight of Cottingham, to exchange information about the flooding. I also copy in Andrew Percy, the researcher for our M.P. and have suggested that he may be able to help should the drainage boards be formed again. This was in an effort to save duplication of enquiries and work.

CONCLUSIONS

The road gullies need to be kept cleaned out. I apologise if I have made too many calls but the gullies should never have been allowed to be so neglected. There are still gullies which have not been cleaned out since last June. The tags in St. Julian's Wells are still red and others have been missed, and not all are due to parked cars.

Similarly the Water Storage Lagoons for the A164 have been neglected and were not adequately cleaned out prior to the June Floods.

We would ask you to check whether the capacities are adequate. Parish Councillor Stuart Blanshard (Retired Chartered Civil Engineer) is on our Flood Working Group. He designed the Market Weighton By Pass Road and the lagoons and he has told me that the lagoons for the A164 are not big enough.

Some of the Combined Sewers do not seem to be big enough to cope with both sewage and a lot of surface water. Specifically, the amount of land drainage water, which should not be going in to the Public Sewer network. Yorkshire Water also needs to check the capacities against all the development which has been permitted in recent years.

The Drain in South Ella Way seems to end after Wolfreton School, which was badly flooded. It would seem that the water should flow to the Western Drain in Beverley Road. Our enquiries are on going.

David Porter has suggested that we contact Prof. Lynn Frostick, Geologist at the University of Hull, for a geological survey of the Kerry Pit. Will you please consider our suggestion of a Geological study and advise us if we should just ask for Kirk Ella and West Ella or if it would be better for ERYC to commission an area wide study?

He also suggests contacting the Bishop Burton College of Agriculture for a study of agricultural farming practices. It was noticeable in January that those fields that were deeply ploughed held water in the furrows. Fields 37 & 38 were under set aside in June, and are now under winter crops, so the water runs straight off the land, as it is heavy clay. Will you please advise us if any approach has been made to the Bishop Burton College of Agriculture and again if we should ask them to look at our Parish or the whole East Riding area.

David Porter advised us that it would be very expensive to employ our own independent Civil Engineer and suggested that we "pool" our resources with the neighbouring Parishes. This led to discussion about a review of the whole area and we suggested combining with Hull City Council and ERYC. We then found that ERYC had already appointed our selected Civil Engineer, Peter Kite. We have enquired as to his remit or terms of reference for ERYC. The specific area of the fields to the West of Valley Drive may be "Riparian" owned but they are part of the much bigger picture and I would suggest that we need to be looking at the whole area, from Swanland, through West Ella, Kirk Ella, Anlaby and to Hessle.

It would seem that the Easenby Drain should still be maintained, as per 1796. We have found nothing to indicate otherwise.

The Drainage Board was disbanded and the responsibility passed to Beverley Borough Council. It should then have passed to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. We need to have an authority with power of enforcement, and for those powers to be enforced.

When I discussed our problems regarding the drain between fields 37 & 38 with Nicholas Ward of the Environment Agency, they were only looking at the area between the Marr Bridge and Hessle. I suggested then that we needed to stop or hold up the water before it reached the Marr Bridge.

I have asked that the surface water drainage of West Ella Road be thoroughly checked as there are long stretches of road without kerbs and few gullies in some parts. Your Engineers report that there are no problems but the residents will tell you that there are problems when we get very heavy rain. The water flows quickly down the road and erodes the sides of the

road, and debris is picked up and carried downstream, blocking the gully grates. Residents reported that water poured off the Golf Course, onto West Ella Road, in June. Residents have also reported problems in Packman Lane and Church Lane, i.e. the old part of Kirk Ella. Surface Water from School Lane runs down towards the crossroads with West Ella Road and Mill Lane. There used to be areas of trees before the houses were built at Pine Meadows, off School Lane.

On Tuesday 13th November 2007 the West Ella Road was marked with yellow paint, for work prior to resurfacing. I personally think that the drainage should be improved before resurfacing. The claim for a flooded resident, on West Ella Road, between Cottage Drive and Godmans Lane, exceeded £100,000. The resident has reported that there is a gully grate which has been tarmaced, at the corner of Godmans Lane. I have reported it but it had not been rectified last week.

The sewer in Mill Lane, between the junction with the sewer from Swanland and that with West Ella Road seems to be inadequate in storm conditions. The St. Andrew's School, with nearly 600 pupils, and a nursery are due east of this sewer, i.e. immediately "downstream" of this Sewer.

I will ask our Clerk to write to Yorkshire Water about the sewer sizes that are not shown on the maps we have been given, for the old parts of Kirk Ella.

I strongly suggest that the ERYC Planning Department should fully consider the drainage and the impact of future developments on the flooding risk of the existing properties, as recommended by The Hull Daily Mail's "Never Again" Action Plan.

The draft of this report was e-mailed to Mr. Nigel Leighton of ERYC on 3rd March as he wanted my draft report as soon as possible. I was going to e-mail it to the members of our Flood Working Group for approval/amendment. The ERYC Flood Review Panel hopes to publish their report shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Parish Councillor Mrs E. Robinson. Head Flood Working Group, Kirk Ella & West Ella Parish Council.

c.c. Capt. Frank E. Holmes M.I.N.; M.R.I.N.A.; M.I.M.I.; Chairman of Kirk Ella & West Ella Parish Council.

c.c. David Porter & Co. Solicitors.

c.c. The Rt. Hon. David Davis M.P.

c.c. The Pitt Review.