

Dauntsey Parish Council Drainage Board

Report to Parish Council

23rd September 2008

Progress

1. Dauntsey Brook through Union Farm re-profiled by Ed Kidner. Now approximately 2 metres wide at the base with banks sloping out to the fence posts. This clearance included the HA land right up to the motorway culvert. Told those attending the Great Middle Green Farm meeting at the Peterborough Arms (18/09/08) that they could get the equipment at a discounted rate because it was still on the farm and not to blame anyone else if they flooded – I've not been contacted by anyone! **Should DPCDB do a leaflet drop to those in The Green affected?**
2. M4 southern ditch. WISE culvert closest to Church Lane has now been removed and carefully re-profiled. Second culvert by control box still exists and HA/Atkins are fighting against its total removal, simply suggesting replacing two 450 mm pipes with one 900 mm pipe.
3. I have written to Vince Crocker about the WISE control box pointing out that based on the July 2007 flood levels it will flood and stop the WISE system informing motorists that the M4 has flooded! Suggest that he exerts pressure to get it moved.
4. EA are having a meeting with HA tomorrow. Primed Alys Lambert with the problems re the remaining southern WISE culvert and the need to remove the other culverts plus re-profile the northern ditch. Also told her of the original stream profiles (1968 M4 drawings) and the need to restore to that shape.
5. Alys is also going to try to get HA to co-fund the full Dauntsey feasibility study.
6. Spoke to both Alys and Andy Wallis (Black & Veatch) about a feasibility study on increasing the southern M4 ditch to Main River and main flood flow handling. Favoured approach is a two stage (i.e. stepped profile) ditch that would handle almost all the abnormal flow... but problems are cost of culvert under Church Lane and maintenance costs.
7. Alys & Andy agree that maintenance of M4 ditches through Dauntsey needs to be recognised by HA as priority and a special case – 1 in 10 years is totally unacceptable. However, Dauntsey PC (Drainage Board) will realistically need to police this.
8. Meeting on 22/09/08 with Danny Everett to discuss all flooding problems in Dauntsey. Danny is helping to identify who is responsible for questioned area – Sodom Lane, Providence Chapel, ditch and culvert alongside Church Lane, Dauntsey Brook alongside recreation ground plus Olivemead Drain. Danny was WCC advisor on drainage for this site.
9. Aqua-cells (Great Middle Green Farm development) are regarded as very bad news by both EA and WCC. General view is that no sensible organisation would take on their maintenance – normally falls on homeowners and requires replacement every 10 to 20 years and will cost 10s of thousand pounds per maintenance cycle.

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Current Problems

1. Dauntsey Brook – Church Lane to Old Sodom Lane: Needs re-profiling.
2. Dauntsey Brook – alongside recreation ground: Needs flailing and possibly some minor clearing.
3. Dauntsey Brook – Old Sodom Lane to Olivemead Drain: Needs repair to collapsed bank re-enforcements plus general re-profiling.
4. Sodom Lane: West side leading up to motorway bridge needs clearing.
5. Near Providence Chapel: Ditch and culvert need clearing.
6. Ditch to south-east of motorway bridge: Needs clearing.
7. Culvert to north-east of motorway bridge: Collapsed.
8. Northern motorway ditch between two motorway culverts: Needs clearing and WISE culverts removing.
9. Southern motorway ditch: Needs remaining WISE culvert removing.
10. Olivemead Drain: Needs re-profiling.
11. Area around Good Mondays Farm: Culverts under the road seem to be in a mess and need more detailed investigation & rectification.
12. Culvert under road by Corner Farm (Sodom Lane) is only about 225 mm but the upstream culvert is about 450 mm. Water floods the road rather than flowing down the ditch. Needs investigation and rectification.
13. The canal at Dauntsey Lock is blocked and cannot drain excess water via the culvert under the road – water is diverted via the weir and down to St James... and at times seems to flood across fields into the backs of houses. Canal overflow should pass under the road.
14. The section of The Bourne from St James to where it meets Dauntsey Brook needs to be re-profiled.

Andrew Chapman