



# Dauntsey Parish Council Drainage Board

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## Parish Council Report – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009

### General Progress

General requests via the Pump etc. are starting to show results with ditch clearances in several locations including Church and Idober lanes. Since these have been done, Church Lane hasn't flooded and the levels on Idober Lane went down sooner than has been the case of late.

Cllr Sturgis reports that he has recently been removing trees from his section of Brinkworth Brook.

Other major ditch clearance works have been promised for later this summer.

Work continues on trying to get the length of the Brook between Church and Old Sodom lanes cleared of weeds and silt although I understand that one owner was working in their section last weekend.

### Flood Working Group

The last Flood Working Group meeting was on 20<sup>th</sup> March... and that is the last ever NWDC FWG meeting. It is intended that there will be something similar under Wiltshire Council, but so far there is no agreed date for any further meeting.

From discussions inside and outside the FWG, it is apparent that there have been a number of different meetings between EA, WCC and Highways Agency/InterRoute... and they don't seem to be able to agree. All have different views on what should be done in Dauntsey, and none are in agreement with what we are suggesting locally... but we are gradually approaching a shared view. Slowly however, EA and HA are accepting that they need to be considering much larger catchment areas than they originally thought – this is what we, Brinkworth and Christian Malford have been telling them for some time.

### Highways Agency

HA turned up for the first time ever at the FWG meeting (InterRoute have occasionally been there) and I now have the direct phone number and email address for their local responsible manager. In public meeting, I did get him to agree that HA are responsible for everything between motorway fences, are the riparian owner, and so have no more excuse for not clearing their ditches than anyone else.

HA and WCC have both agreed to continue to search their records to find which of them is responsible for those areas outside the motorway that were changed when it was built (e.g. the bridge and its banks, Leading to Sodom Lane, Olivemead Drain, etc.). Once we know this they can be pressurised to get them maintained.

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HA have verbally agreed to remove the WISE (also known as Atkins) culvert alongside Field 6970 and replace it with a bridge... if anything is eventually needed. They also seemed to have changed stance and accepted my assertion that their control box will flood.

## **WCC**

After walking all the problem areas with Danny Everett, the Vactor (drain pressure jetting machine and camera) was promised for last month... but didn't turn up due to breakdown. The machine is promised for 24<sup>th</sup> March, but a phone call today reports that both WCC machines are currently broken. I will be called in the morning to let me know if they will be repaired in time – if not, it will again be a case of trying to fight for “our” slot.

## **Environment Agency**

Out EA contacts keep changing – we are now on at least the 5<sup>th</sup>!

In the last couple of weeks, I have had visits from four different EA representatives including their Enforcement Officer and the person responsible for flow modelling. We have been given LiDAR (Light Distance and Ranging) maps of Dauntsey Brook and nearby showing 0.5 metre contours. We also have general agreement that we can use EA flooding maps on the website.

It is however proving difficult to get consistent answers or advice. They now claim that up to date advice should be given in response to Planning and similar enquiries – they recently told NWDC that there was no record of flooding south of the motorway since 1960! Their latest flood maps however are still not those in the Dauntsey Pre Feasibility Report.

## **Great Middle Green Farm Development**

NWDC and WCC both failed to carry out any camera inspections of the drains before the Appeal Hearing (10<sup>th</sup> March). The developer was due to provide detailed information on drainage to NWDC by 17<sup>th</sup> March and NWDC to inform us so we could comment before 24<sup>th</sup> March. Despite requests, I haven't seen anything.

## **Field 6970**

There have been several exchanges with NWDC Planning as the bunds and muck-heap haven't been removed, despite NWDC's deadline of end of January 2009. NWDC have now extended the deadline until the end of April 2009... but NWDC ceases to exist on 31<sup>st</sup> March!

Andrew Chapman