

Lower Common Working Party to Clear Green Lane Drainage Channel

Saturday, March 5, 2016

Report by Paul Turner to Ellisfield Parish Council (emailed March 5 at 5.15pm)

You'll be pleased to hear that the Green Lane drainage channel is now clear. The gap breached by the February flash flood (and widened by Highways ...) has been filled in and the ditch from there to the Flood Pit behind Lower Common has been cleared of the shingle and also scraped back to help water flow.

There's a reasonably detailed News Item on the [Ellisfield Community Website](#). From that report, you'll see that the trees that were dragging down the telephone cable were also removed.

What we didn't do (or even think of doing!) was to fill in the dozen or so "cuttings" made by Highways a week or so ago. Their intention was, of course, to get water off the road but I still think that the reverse may happen (ie, water FROM the ditch TO the road).

I'll leave it to yourselves now to get all the other known problem areas sorted out.

However, may I suggest that your "Action Plan" be published so that residents can be assured that you're covering all their areas of the village?

(BTW, have you looked at how to manage flood water coming down Fuzzy Lane?)

If you got any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Further Communication from Paul Turner to Ellisfield Parish Council (emailed March 6 at 7.11pm) after being told by the parish council Chairman of their problems with liaising with the County Council authorities and then stating that:

"When there is an Action Plan that I think deserves the name it will be communicated."

By "Action Plan" I don't mean the "toing and froing" between the council and outside agencies, trying to get things done.

I simply mean having a Parish Council Drainage Map describing where all the current drainage exists in Ellisfield, with each section individually referenced (so that residents can quote a formal reference when communicating with the council), together with a Statement about each section so that residents know the reason/intention of the section, what's been done and what's planned to be done (together with some kind of timescale ...).

Whenever there's a change, the Map and Statement can be updated and (most importantly) re-published on the Parish Council website.

*Frankly, residents don't really want or need to know about all the hassles the council has gone through getting things done. **They just want facts about the here and now!***

At the moment, residents only know what's happening if they're lucky enough to be copied in one of your emails or (the unreliable method) by word of mouth from another resident.

*An example of what should be covered is that I was asked by a number of residents on Saturday morning: **"What's happening regarding the repair of Fuzzy Lane and what's being done to avoid a repetition of the flood damage to the lane?"**.*

It's all about communication. If people feel that they're being kept out of the loop, they tend to get fractious.

END (for now!)