

Ide Parish Council

Flood prevention sub-group – progress report

For IPC meeting 17 January 2024
From Nick Bradley

Paper 4

1. New Sub Group.

At its November 2023 meeting, following Storm Ciarán, the Council resolved to set up a flood subgroup - Paula Burton Perrett, Ian Campbell and Nick Bradley - to bring together the affected property owners, the involved landowners and the Environment Agency (EA) to make a formal flood risk assessment, with recommendations for preventive action.

2. Sub group tasks. The subgroup was also tasked with:

a) identifying an expert commercial flood risk consultant and obtaining a quote for an independent flood risk assessment, with particular reference to the culvert under the railway embankment between Shooting Range Field (the field above the railway embankment) and Easterbrooks Field (the field directly above the affected properties in Fore Street).

b) investigating potential sources of funds to pay for an independent assessment if the parish council decided to commission one.

3. Subgroup meeting.

The sub-group met at 15 Fore Street, Ide on 30 November.

a) We discussed the role of the EA and the personnel to contact. PBP had already reported the event, but received no reply so far. The EA has a statutory role in assessing flood damage, land management, making recommendations and if necessary enforcing certain actions.

b) PBP will provide EA with photographs, videos and Ian's report.

c) It is Devon CC's job to deal with surface drainage and ditches.

d) In our case, DCC also happen to be landowners of the fields up to Markham Lane, which form a large part of the water catchment area draining down into the culvert under the railway embankment.

e) We also highlighted separate areas of flooding in the village which have their own causes:

- The Huntsman Inn flooding from the neighbouring field
- 13 The Hams flooding from tarmac road run off

- Ide Village Road flooding repeatedly due to blockage of the drain at the lowest point in the parish, by entrance to Radmore and Tucker
- Blockage of surface drain grills on Dunchideock Road, at level of Pynes Cottages entrance causing flooding at top of High Street.

4. Railway embankment culvert.

On 8 December Ian Campbell and NB cleared the thicket above the railway embankment culvert, in Shooting Range Field, to allow inspection.

5. Teign Consult advice and estimate.

NB contacted Nigel Smith, a commercial flood risk consultant, of Teign Consult in Teignmouth. He responded rapidly and helpfully on the phone; and on 12 Dec quoted £2535 for a full assessment with hydrology, and report within 4 weeks of receiving instructions. See accompanying written estimate. Mr Smith appreciates we will need to wait for the EA's assessment in the first instance.

6. Meeting on site with Church Commissioners' agent.

On 19 December 2023, we (Gill Orme 1 Fore Street, Chris Jeans owner of Sculphers, Ian Campbell and NB) met Victoria Leeming of Strutt & Parker, agents for the Church Commissioners who own Easterbrooks Field, on site. We visited 1 Fore Street, Easterbrooks Field, Shooting Range Field and inspected the culvert. VL took in the full devastation of the damage at 1 Fore Street; and was impressed with the potential for an orifice throttle at the entrance to the culvert; and agreed to look seriously at the options for changing the pattern of planting and harvesting to reduce run off; but will need like us to await the EA's assessment.

7. Meeting with EA to seek formal flood prevention assessment and advice

A meeting on site has been arranged on Tuesday 23 January, 2024 at 2pm, with the following people:

Tom Dauben, EA

Jessica Bishop, Devon CC - landowners

Daniel Halford, EA

Victoria Leeming, for Church Commissioners, landowners

Paula Burton Perrett, Ide Parish Council

Gill Orme, 1 Fore Street affected resident

Pete Voysey, 3 Fore Street affected resident

Ian Campbell, Ide Village Hall and Fore Street resident

Nick Bradley, Ide Parish Council

END - NCAB, 5 Jan 2024.