

**Notes of informal meeting with Bolesworth Estate & CW&C Highways Engineers.
Bolesworth Castle.
Monday 14th October 20 24**

Present

Bolesworth Estate –Gaurav Batra, Frances Steer.

Cheshire West & Chester Council (CW&C) – Stuart Bateman (Principal Engineer), Cllr. Mike Jones, Gareth Owen (Team Leader Highways Climate Adaptation).

Tattenhall & District Parish Council –Ann Wright (Clerk).

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss highway flooding issues.

It was stated that it would be helpful if the Highway's officers could identify 'pinch points' where flooding occurs before winter. It was reported that the Estate is receiving a large amount of correspondence on flooding and the Estate wants to be helpful in resolving these issues where they can and to clarify what the Estate's role is. It was also hoped that a more joined-up approach can be taken to provide long-term solutions.

All recognised the dialogue was needed to resolve these issues.

Frog Lane

It was noted that there are 2 locations which are flooding on Frog Lane. The first is after Russia Hall. It was noted that the ditch to the south of Frog Lane in this area is blocked and filled to ground level.

It was confirmed that highways plan to jet out the drains from Russia Hall Barns it would be helpful if the ditch can be cleared before this jetting takes place.

It was confirmed that the ideal solution would be for the ditches to be cleared right through not just next to the highway.

It was suggested that the ditch could be easily dug out and spoil piled next to it.

It was agreed that the tenants need to regularly manage the ditches as required by their tenancy agreements.

It was discussed that an inspection regime be created by the Estate to monitor ditches. CW&C officers said this could also be include in their inspection regime if highlighted on the CW&C system.

It was agreed that all ditches need to be inspected prioritising those where flooding is taking place.

The second area is nearly Milton Green, it was thought this was not Estate land, this will be checked and confirmed. Again, it was confirmed the ditch needs to be cleared and the culvert jetted out by Highways.

It was confirmed that works have been undertaken on Frog Lane to address flooding issues by CW&C noting that the government provides funding for work to protect properties from flooding.

Rocky Lane

It was noted that Rocky Lane is the worst area for flooding. The drains were jetted in January 2024 and the Estate has carried out works clearing out the ditch along with the tenant.

It was stated ingress of sand and silt onto the road continues to cause flooding.

It was noted that drains on Rocky Lane are cleared every 12 months by the Highways Dept. as such it would be helpful if the Estate also worked to address the issues of sand and silt build up.

It was discussed that the silt is coming from the field entrances and being tracked along the Lane by farm vehicles working on the land.

It was noted that it is a difficult problem to tackle as the tenant needs to farm the land, and the Estate needs to talk to the tenant to discuss possible solutions which could include:

- Under seeding of the maize.
- Changes to the entrances noting they are steep and have a camber which will make this difficult to resolve.
- Review of the direction the land is ploughed.
- Creating a buffer of grass or a ditch along the boundary to collect silt.

It was discussed that the silt is caused by a mixture of vehicles coming on the land and run off from rain.

It was confirmed the Estate will engage with the tenant to look at possible solutions. It was noted that the maize on the field is currently being harvested and the Estate will monitor that the road is swept.

It was suggested that the first step could be to grass along the boundary and see what impact that has before digging out a ditch, the intention of this boundary is to stop the flow of sand and silt rather than get the surface water away away.

It was agreed that the Farmers also recognise and suffer from the impact of flooding and the loss of sand/ soil off their land is damaging.

It was confirmed that Highways will dig out the verges.

Frances Steer confirmed she will talk with the tenant and provide an update inc. timescales.

It was stated the A41 culvert was flowing although Stuart Bateman confirmed he was going to check this. It was stated the A41 was likely to pond if it wasn't.

Cllr Jones joined the meeting.

Keysbrook

It was noted that Highways has cleared a tyre from the Keysbrook culvert last week.

It was reported that the attenuation pond has not been built in accordance with the approved planning application and that the hydraulic brake has not been installed.

It was confirmed that Highways have not been able to obtain a satisfactory response from Redrow about correcting the issues and had therefore passed on the matter to CW&C Planning Enforcement.

Redrow had stated they needed to get permission from the Estate but when asked to provide an update had stated they had made no progress on obtaining that permission.

It was confirmed by the Estate's representatives that had not been contacted by Redrow to obtain permission to access the site. The Estate confirmed they would supply an email to highways confirming they will provide access to the area and contact Redrow directly.

It was confirmed in the culvert is the Environment Agencies (EA) responsibility as it is on what is classed as a main river in an urban area and will therefore be part of their routine maintenance.

It was noted that all surface water drainage was expected to come under the control of the Local Authority under Section 3 of the Flooding & Water Management Act 2010 but this has not yet happened and it is not clear when it will be put in place.

It was agreed the Clerk contact Robert Charnley and ask if this matter has been prioritised by Planning Enforcement and cc Cllr Jones in the email.

Cllr Jones agreed to forward the details of the Redrow Management Company for the Tattenhall development.

Sandbags

It was asked if Bolesworth still have sandbags available in an emergency and it was agreed this would be checked. It was noted the Parish Council does have a supply based at the Primary School which can be accessed with a code.

Bolesworth Estate Contact

It was confirmed that the Highways dept should contact Frances Steer in the future regarding any issues.

All were thanked for attending the meeting which had been very helpful.

Ann Wright
14th October 2024