

Kings Somborne Flood Action Plan - Initial Response – To Discuss 11/01/21

A good deal of effort has been made by the E.A and the Parish Council this year to both understand and alleviate risk of flooding to vulnerable properties in the village. Historically flooding has occurred to property in Vicarage Lane and Winchester Road as well as some along the A3057.

The recent presentation by the E.A. on resilience measures to be introduced under the threat of flooding and the promised delivery of sandbags for public use is appreciated.

As we all know Kings Somborne has the potential to flood due to excessive levels ground water which manifests itself in increased flow into the bourne commencing above new farm. When this flow is excessive the village is subject to both fluvial flooding from the borne and groundwater flooding as the ground water level exceeds the natural surface level. Additional springs occur due to increased groundwater pressure. A spring appeared in the middle of Martins Shop during the 2014 floods.

The key to flood prevention in Kings Somborne is as you are well aware ensuring that the flow capacity of the bourne exceeds the maximum generated flow from all sources.

Resilience Plan

The following is a set of observations for your consideration they are not intended as a criticism but rather something that may help to refine the plan. These are observations from a single councillor and not endorsed by the PC as a whole.

The resilience plan as presented will doubtless assist in reducing the impacts of fluvial flooding but with an increase in bourne level up the barrier there likely is a likely corresponding increase of ground water appearing behind them. It is appreciated that this cannot be quantified and it is noted that the intent is to pump this excess water presumably back to the bourne. For this to be effective the pumping rate must be in excess of the surface water accumulation rate from both groundwater and runoff. This consideration must be made early enough in order that pumps can be deployed in a timely manner.

The plan initially deploys barriers at the bottom of Vicarage Lane which suggests you are expecting a restriction in flow at the bridge over the A3057. No measures have been considered for the cottages along the west side of the A3057 or the Crown Inn which was badly flooded and closed for months these may need some consideration. One assumes that the proposal is that providing barriers the extra head generated will increase flow through the anticipated restriction. If this is the case have you considered high capacity pumps these have from experience proved more effective than increase in static head.

Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme

As already advised the government has introduced the above programme. The aims and objectives of this programme are very much in line with trying to find a more permanent solution to resilience to flooding than the provision of sandbags and barriers.

It was noted in your presentations that you could not give specific advice on individual property flood prevention measures. This scheme provides for this. We also in July in conjunction with Wessex River Trust in finding a natural based solution to increasing flow this again is consistent with the programmes goals. It was mentioned in the meeting that in order to achieve this co-operation of the landowners was required. Since the meeting I have been in touch with one of the principal landowners whose property runs from Hayes Farm down through the weir to culvert at Horsebridge. He has e-mailed me with the following:-

“It would be good to develop a long term strategy that deals with causes as much as possible at a catchment scale, rather than unsustainable approach focused on symptoms.. Any new development in KS needs to adopt an approach that safeguards water quality and limits flood risk.

I am particularly concerned about water quality impacts that affect my fishery.”

His sentiments reflect ours and the programmes

It is noted that we have seen some monitoring added to determine the bourne depth but we still have no idea of flow one of the key criteria to fully understand the overall performance. Currently it is anticipated that you are advised by the public of events which have the effect of restricting flow. As the public are not in a position to view large sections of the bourne it would be preferable to measure flow which would give a clearer and quicker indication than bourne level alone and give better indication of overall performance This can be achieved with perhaps two or three open channels of set dimensions with portable turbine meters as a low cost solution. Again this programme foresees management of assets an important element.

The programme mentions 25 areas that are covered by the funding whether Kings Somborne qualifies is unclear however the objectives within it are consistent with what is required and the EAs opinion would be useful. The aspirations of the programme should be used for further work.

Sewage

The upgrade by Southern Water to the sewage system was highlighted during the meeting details can be found on the following link:-

<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/media/default/PDFs/KingsSomborne-IRP.pdf>