

## Report No. 2

### Report to Malmesbury Town Council 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016

#### Operational Flood Working Group (North) Meeting, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

#### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To inform Council regarding the meeting of Wiltshire Council's Operational Flood Working Group (North) held at Monkton Park on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 I am the designated representative from the Town Council on Wiltshire Council's Operational Flood Group (North) and I attended the above event together with about ten delegates from other towns and parishes.
- 2.2 Wiltshire Council's Operational Flood Group (North) meets every two months or so in the north of the county to share information about flooding and drainage issues.
- 2.3 It is chaired by Wiltshire Councillor Simon Jacobs and attended by Wiltshire Council's Land Drainage Team plus representatives of other bodies: usually the Environment Agency, Highways England, Wessex Water and Network Rail. Also attending and for whom the meetings are designed to benefit are around a dozen or so Wiltshire, Town or Parish Councillors, representing towns and parishes, and various other interested parties. At this meeting were also Wiltshire Cllr Toby Sturgis and Deputy Area Commander Byron Standen of the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 2.4 The format is typically a report / update from the Land Drainage Team, updates and questions from towns and parishes and interested parties, and finally updates from "the Agencies": the Environment Agency, Wessex Water and Network Rail. Sometimes, but not this time, there is a presentation on a technical topic.

#### 3. Relevant Matters

- 3.1 Much of the meeting, naturally, concerned towns and parishes other than Malmesbury. However below are items that may be of specific or general interest to Councillors.
- 3.2 Problems with blocked or overflowing drains should be reported to Wiltshire Council using the MyWiltshire App, online at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts) or via a Smartphone application. Reports can be telephoned in on 0300 456 0105 but handling a telephone report costs ten times that of an electronic report.
- 3.3 The long-awaited report of the Malmesbury Flood Model is "imminent". Dr Vicky Farwig of the EA had finalised the model report herself and it would be available very soon. The model is of the behaviour of the local reaches of the Sherston Avon and it will be interrogated to test possible flood protection and amelioration measures.
- 3.4 The Environment Agency's long-term forecast, with 60% confidence, is that a wet November will be followed by a cold and dry winter.
- 3.5 Land Drainage and Wessex Water had responded to my request in May to investigate surface water flooding from field run-off at the very east of Baskerville. A "minor scheme" of remedial work has been agreed and scheduled and might happen in the new year.

- 3.6 A problem drain leading from the Warden and Freeman cottages by the Town Bridge into the pool of the Sherston Avon at the bridge would be inspected by CCTV on 16<sup>th</sup> December.
- 3.7 Hearing of another parish's problems with Sustainable Drainage Systems (= attenuation ponds and associated works) promised by developers not being correctly implemented, I asked who would inspect similar works that are part of the Bloor Homes' development north of Reeds Farm? The response was that Land Drainage's contractors Atkins would have engineers free in the next months and would make an inspection.
- 3.8 One of the biggest flood plans in the county, for Salisbury, has been completed and is being led by the City Council. The Salisbury Flood Plan used the Malmesbury Flood Plan as its template.
- 3.9 One of the innovations of the Salisbury Flood Plan is that it specifically calls for "multi-agency working" between Flood Wardens and the Emergency Services. However there is work to do if each party is to understand the roles and expectations of the others. Deputy Area Commander Byron Standen of Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service wishes to work with all parties to achieve this mutual understanding and would be grateful for any assistance that Malmesbury could provide.

Cllr John Gundry  
16<sup>th</sup> November 2016