

Flood Report from the Chair of the FLAG

Once again, with the precautions in place the main village did not suffer flooding from the River Wyre even though we did have one of the wettest winters on record. We must not be complacent, however and stay on the alert by signing up for the FloodLine Warnings and reporting incidents. Many schemes have been put into place to help alleviate the issue of river flooding and to date these seem to be working. This year we have seen a range of temperatures from the highs to the lows, a range of 33 deg to -8 deg. This could be more the norm than we have seen in the recent past.

Having stated that the main village did not suffer river flooding there was flooding this year at Moss Side which once again was hit with the rising tide and river levels leaving many properties flooded. In the early part of 2024 there was another breach at White's Bridge on the A586 and even though I have protested many times about the structure of this bridge and the height of the levees (being higher than the wall of the bridge) still nothing has been done to sort out the issue. This dyke becomes the main reason for the flooding at Moss Side. There is also a dangerous scenario emerging with White's Bridge itself. The levee is higher than the top of the bridge and several times this year water has been pushed through the bridge thus weakening its structure. There is also the issue of standing water at night, The road is 50mph and with no real warning of a flood a vehicle hitting standing water in the dark when it is a dark patch on a dark background could end in a very nasty accident.

We started the year with controversy from plans to develop the Cross House farm development into a caravan storage area. This development which has come up for planning on a yearly basis has already raised the level of the land and blocked the drainage system. This is on a zone 2 and 3 flood area. If the land floods due to this then the Moss Side area will also be flooded. Again on behalf of the FLAG I have protested to this development.

The main issue we have now with flooding in the main village is surface water flooding of which villagers are not alerted to in the same way that river flooding is. The Great Eccleston Flag has a dedicated area on its website that shows the current river flooding warnings and the river levels as well and the potential for surface level flooding. The more houses that are built on former farmland the more the likelihood of surface level flooding.

The issues with surface level flooding at the bottom of Raikes Road seems to have subsided with the flushing of the gulleys although puddling, due to cars parking on the pavement. All incidents that were reported to the FLAG were reported back straightaway. These included:

- Pennine Way – required a flush through of the gulleys
- Bottom of St Mary's Road – required a flush through of the gulleys
- Raikes Road overtopping gully – ongoing
- Barrows Lane – ongoing
- Copp Lane – ongoing due to building works
- A586 Cycle lane – the secondary drains were cleared

Last year saw a major issue with the Water Lane Water treatment plant with many tractors pumping water from the plant and shipping it further up the river. This is a temporary repair until the Water Lane Plant gets an upgrade.

A new attenuation tank has been added at Sunningdale in Little Eccleston which will work with the new housing development planned for the village.

Remember we all need to stay alert

David J Astall
Chairman Great Eccleston FLAG