

Great Alne Parish Council – Project Progress Report

Project Name: CCCF023 - Flood Mitigation

Report Date: October 2024

1) Project Objectives:

This project will:

- Complete the mapping of watercourses and areas of flooding in the Parish – completed
- Maintain a database of all Road Drains, Ditches, Culverts and Grills throughout the Parish (FLAG assets) – completed
- Monitor the status of FLAG assets – ongoing
- Develop action plans for each FLAG asset – completed
- Allocate Stakeholder responsibilities for each FLAG asset – completed
- Undertake exploration of known blockages/constrictions – completed
- Undertake remedial works including Road Drain clearing/ maintenance, Ditch clearing/ excavations, Culvert maintenance/ clearing and Grill management. – ongoing
- Report progress to **Great Alne Parish Council** and **Stratford District Council**

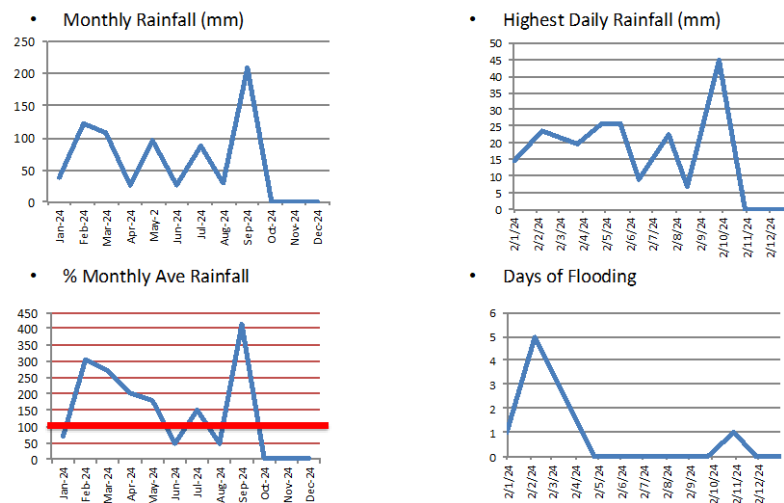
2) Progress against Plan:

Achievements this period:

- Volunteer equipment purchasing completed and stored at the EO premises awaiting the proposed new storage facility in the Church grounds.
- Ongoing communications continue with all Landowners and key organisations. Meetings held with RT to discuss Manor Court Ditch culvert and WWT proposals and TB to walk fields around Alne Cote S Bend.
- The new ditch along Stroat Lane (West) managed the excessive rainfall on 8 October from the 44acre field (which ran into the Sernal Lane ditch).
- Sernal Lane ditch over ran during the brief period of excessive rainfall 8 October, caused by blocked culvert in front of Linfoot Oaks. Flooding cleared within a couple of hours after the rain ceased.
- Parish Ditch excavation is still outstanding. Landowner is waiting for a dry spell to complete the works
- Alne Cote fields – Ditch excavation work is dependent on funding. Landowner exploring funding options. No progress during October.
- Pelham Lane - No work to date as included in the WCC Works (planned to be completed this financial year)
- Warwickshire County Council contacted several times during October (Allan, Dylan) – no dates have been forthcoming. GAPC engaged with County Councilor during October to look at escalation options. County Councilor met with WCC end of Oct to discuss dates and escalate importance of work completion prior to the Winter.
- Alne Cote owner continues to support GAPC regarding the hedgerow ditch in front of Cottage. (WCC committed to excavate ditch)
- Detailed proposals have been issued to the Farmers at the top of Alne Hills following meetings in August. Farmers have contacted DEFRA re proposals to clarify any impact on current DEFRA position. WWT to manage progress.
- GAPC volunteers attended two sessions to assist WWT and HOEF harvest trees required for the Leaky Dams etc. Very successful events. More sessions will be held through November/December
- Following GAPC formal communications with Subscan, Subscan agreed to complete the outstanding drain clearance up Park Lane and Henley Road. No CCTV investigations were completed, however Cllr Taylor, Lead Volunteer Roger Bennett and Lin Page attended the session and recorded the condition of drains and gullies. This information will be included in the final report to GAPC and WCC Highways later in the year.
- GAPC have agreed to settle Subscan invoice, as work has been completed as agreed during recent discussions.

- A FLAG meeting was held on 21 Oct at GAKMH to present the findings of the initial Subscan investigations to the wider council and volunteers. Roger Bennett displayed his extensive technical skills with a presentation linking maps of the road drains and water flows at critical areas in the village and linked Videos showing the status of some of the road drain gullies and culverts. The presentation was very informative and well received.
- GAPC (I Taylor and R Bennet) have continued work on the presentational materials to be use with WCC Highways, and potential WALC and NALC meetings scheduled for 2024/2025.
- As at the end of October the Drain RAG Status is: 115 GREEN, 4 AMBER, 2 RED - This is mainly due to the completion of Subscan works.
- Coffee Pot Wood – Communicated with Woodland Trust – Agreed a meeting with WT and EA in November to discuss further work and the Tree in the river.
- Pelham Lane – No Progress with WCC
- The chart bellows indicates statistics from March – Sept Awaiting Octobers

Rainfall & Flooding



figures

- Road Drains on Bends to Little Alne completed by WCC Highways
- Communications with a number of Parish Councils undertaken to advise on GAPC approach to Flood Management.
- Exploratory excavations of open ditch by Alne Cote S Bend, to understand flows into road culvers around bend completed.
- Volunteer Leaf Fall clearance commenced in Sernal Lane and Henley Road.
- Attended Town and Parish Council Reference Group on Flooding 12/11/24

Actions not completed / deferred

- WWC Highways agreed works not commenced – Sperm Lane blocked culvert at Linfoot Oaks, Alne Cote S Bend Ditch in hedge , Cleaning Alne Cote field Gully, Excavation of open ditches by WCC Grit Store. Pelham Lane Ditch
- Parish Ditch and Sump – not cleared by Landowner
- Pelham Lane Ditch - not cleared by Farmer / Tree root not resolved.
- Alne Cote S Bend Ditch - not cleared out by Owner / WCC
- Alne Cote fields ditching not completed by Landowners
- Coffee Pot Wood – WT and EA not resolved Tree in River
- Coffee Pot Wood Ditch alongside Henley Road - not cleared
- Manor Court Ditch – not cleared by Landowners
- Manor Court Ditch Culvert – not cleared by Landowner
- WWT NFM activities, not commenced – waiting Landowner responses to proposals
- Hydrologist engagement – No response received from Hydrologist organisations - GAPC to decide if we progress with this activity

3) Actions for Next Period:

Planned actions for next period:

- Continue with Drain and Ditch monitoring/reporting activities.
- FLAG volunteers clear autumn leaf fall.
- Continue monthly communications with Warwickshire County Council to ensure clear understanding of any potential delays or cancellation of works. Depending on outcome of communications escalate to County Council Level and re-plan the project to maximize delivery.
- Re-engage with County Council to escalate WCC lack of delivery progress.
- Apportion Costs for Subcan drainage works.
- Continue monthly communication with the Farmers/Landowners to monitor progress and ensure clear understanding of potential delays or cancellation of works. Depending on outcome of communications re-plan the project to maximize delivery.
- Continue regular communications with neighbouring Parish Councils to ensure support and alignment with Project plans and outcomes.
- Agree way forward and if necessary re-engage RFI/RFP process to secure independent Hydrologist review.
- Continue engagement with WWT, Landowners and Farmers to progress discussions and delivery activities/planning Manor Court Ditch improvements.
- Re-engage with Environment Agency and Woodland Trust to understand plans for Tree extraction from River.
- Receive feedback from Mr Bloor representatives to understand options for Woodland on Mr Bloor Land
- Complete Drain Investigation Report, and commence planning next phase of flood alleviation activities in preparation for discussions with WCC
- Support WWT in harvesting required materials and support agreed NFM constructions.
- Look to obtain historical river levels (2 years) to investigate correlation between, Rainfall, River Levels and Flooding

4) Risks and Issues:

Risks:

- Warwickshire County Council do not deliver their agreed works during this financial year. This could impact overall delivery of the Project, and potentially our funding stream. Mitigation Actions – Constant communication with the WCC team to ensure clear understanding of any potential delays or cancellation of works. Depending on outcome of communications re-plan the project to maximize delivery.
- Farmer/Landowners do not grant permission for works to be performed. This could impact overall delivery of the Project, and potentially our funding stream. Mitigation Actions – Engage with statutory bodies to influence/enforce delivery of the works.
- Landowners / Farmers fail to deliver their activities during project lifetime. This could impact overall delivery of the Project, and potentially our funding stream. Mitigation Actions – Constant communication with the Farmers/Landowners to ensure clear understanding of any potential delays or cancellation of works. Depending on outcome of communications re-plan the project to maximize delivery.

Issues:

- Lack of delivery of Farmer/Landowner tasks to agreed timeline. Resolution – Individual conversations to understand delay and secure agreement to delivery in project timelines. Look for alternative bodies to complete works if Farmers/landowners cannot meet timescales
- Lack of response to Hydrologist RFI/RFP – Resolution – Re-engage with RFI/RFP. If not forthcoming review GAPC financial regulations to ensure any decisions are made within the current GAPC Rules