

MEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Review of and proposed actions following Flash Flooding on Wed 21st and Sat/Sun 24th/25th Nov 2012

In this report "Flash Flood" means water overflowing the weir at Bonds Lane

1. General:

Wednesday's problems were assessed as due to leaves and debris whilst Saturday was down to sheer volume of flood water. The siren did not activate on Wed. but both siren and auto-dialler did on Sat. - but too late to give advanced warning.

Action:

- 1.1 Amend warning system to activate the auto-dialler at around 1.1m with siren at 1.4/1.5m. Alex liase with EA. See 3.2 & 3.3 below
 - 1.2 Change auto-dialler message to avoid number instruction - see 3.1 below. Alex liase with EA.
 - 1.3 Alex to amend Flood Emergency Plan as appropriate
- Nigel Cook, Magnolia Cott has volunteered. Could help Barrells/The Paddocks etc

Action:

- 1.4 Alex to confirm and arrange to add to autodialler

2. Wednesday 21st

- At around 0230 all the road drains were blocked from Springfield to Haddon Fields: the drain under Hallendale entrance was blocked and the water from the trough was flowing down the road: the drain under New farm entrance was unable (as usual!) to cope with the water from the ditch above and this water was running down the road: the water was overflowing from Fred Board's ditch and coming through the bank by the entrance gate and flowing down the road: the water running down past Magnolia and Clarence crossed the road at Clarence Cross, was running too fast to flow down the [reversed direction] gulley above Haccombe and was running down the road: the sump was coping well with virtually no surface flood beside it.
- The water was about 6" (150mm) deep outside Haddon Fields front gate and had overflowed the old bridge hump flowing down the street and pushing debris down past Little Haddons. At that time there was no surface water in the street until Downside/Little Goslins

Actions:

- 2.1 Possible to have a set of rods specifically to keep Trough/Hallendale drain clear? Nick/PC

MEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

2.2 Still need a drain at foot of Policeman's Hill above storm culvert to take water from Policeman's Hill and Furley Cross and Chestnuts. Currently this bye-passes all the drains. Nick work with EDDC/DCC.

- Once they were located, the major problem was to keep the drains clear of leaves (0230 - 0400), which eventually resulted in the Sump being blocked by twigs and leaves at around 0745 and the resultant flash flood at around 0800 causing ingress of water in to one property.

Action:

2.3 Place easily seen markers at drain covers. See PC working-party below.

- At 0400 the sump was witnessed clear and the water level was at about 50% of the outlet pipe. The system was working OK and deemed safe to leave. At 0400 the sump sensor was reading 0.941m (cf 0.4m normal level and trigger 1.94m)
- At 0745 the water level was such that the siren should trigger. Flood wardens were alerted manually and checked "at risk" properties.
- At around 0900 it was realised that the sump was blocked and the debris was cleared above the exit pipe. The flood-water level immediately dropped and the excess flash flood ceased.

Actions:

2.4 All wardens to regularly assess state of sump in times of potential risk.

THERE MUST ALWAYS BE 2 PEOPLE PRESENT BEFORE SUMP DEBRIS CLEARED

2.5 Two wardens to check sump & clear as necessary when autodialler activated. Jeremy to talk with Bradley Dare & David Broom

2.6 Need tools to clear debris - Sandra/Jeremy to organize. Tools to be kept in locked sump area.

2.7 Playing Field gate & Bonds Lane needs leaf and debris filters. Nick to add to PC meeting agenda and ask for working party to install. [and drain markers, see above]

- Add Helen Strevens to "At Risk" properties.

Actions:

2.8 Ron to ask John Stevenson and/or Keith Hoskins to check the rear of her property. [Note: she is warned through ring-around second level)

- Around 1000 Phillip rodded and cleared the drain from trough to gully.

MEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

3. Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th

- At around 1630 Sandra & Alex cleared sump of debris. Able to stand on grid. Whole grid was covered.
- At 1800 and 1900 sump still clear, water at top of outlet pipe. Other than surface water from New House Farm entrance and above drains running free as most debris had been washed away on the Wed. However, volume of water much greater.
- At around 2300 autodialler began ring around and siren sounded. There was no tannoy warning and flash flood had already reached Car Park

Actions:

- 3.1 At least one person miss-heard the autodialler instruction and thought it said "Press 82". Alex to liase with EA to change message to say" to acknowledge press 8"
- 3.2 Need earlier autodialler warning to alert wardens. Change trigger for autodialler to (say) 1.1m. Alex to liase with EA. [Steve Fox at EA has confirmed technically feasible but lengthy job. We should meet with relevant EA people and discuss these matters - but these (Actions 3.1 thru 3.4) are an important empirical improvement to system. **Steve Chapman to advise Alex** of who should attend meeting from EA and fix date]
- 3.3 Siren triggered too late to give any advanced warning. Change trigger from 1.94m to (say) 1.4 or 1.5m. Alex to liase with EA
- 3.4 A platform of about 2'x2' (0.75m x 0.75m) in southwest corner of sump, above the outlet pipe, would facilitate clearing of debris from grid - at the moment one has to hang on to fence with one arm and work tool with other. Nick to seek approval/assistance from EDDC/DCC as well.
- 3.5 Jeremy to look at possible harness and anchor rail.
- 3.6 Children and on-lookers should not be out at time of flood. They got in the way and there could have been an accident as well as flooding. Send message to general public from PC, Nick.
- 3.7 Senior Warden, normally Emergency Officer should have an identifying orange vest and his instructions to be final. Nick/PC to provide.
- 3.8 Ask Mark Shepherd if he will agree to be added to autodialler and Warden list - Alex to contact.

MEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

- Water was rising OUT of storm drain-holes between Colecroft Cott. driveway and Hollies. This flooded road between there and Red Lion/St. Georges Cott.

Action:

3.9 Unless there is a restriction in the drain at that point it is thought that this might be due to ditches discharging in to drain and that water pressure at right angles to flow effectively blocking the flow down the drain. Can the discharge be angled in to join the storm water flow. Nick to discuss with EDDC/DCC

- The sump needs clearing out!

Action:

3.10 Nick to arrange with EDDC/DCC