

Hilton Focus Team

FLOODING – AGAIN



January was another month of floods, following on from those in October. This time one of the major impacts that many people noticed was the closure of the Egginton Road / The Mease roundabout near Aldi in Hilton on 2nd January. This was by no means the only flooding incident as many places across Derbyshire were hit as well (and for that matter elsewhere in the Country) as Storm Henk released large volumes of water across a wide area.



Many people have asked me “when is the Council going to fix the drains?”. Well... the first thing is that are 3 Councils (Parish, District and County) involved along with Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency. The principal authority responsible for drainage on Highways is Derbyshire County Council. At the time of writing, I’ve just had a meeting with someone from their drainage team, I’m going to see if we can get all the parties to work together to fix things. There appears to be many different causes the scale of the problem, it is unlikely that it is a simple matter of just having a drain cleaning vehicle clear out the gullies, in fact a County Council vehicle had cleared out those on the roundabout the week before this latest problem. They have tried again since, but with the same result.

My personal view is that there are 5 contributing factors.

- 1) There are blockages in the drainage system under the roundabout, beyond the gullies themselves. This seems evident as water bubbles up from the gullies onto the roundabout.
- 2) The storm water tanks operated by Severn Trent Water, that are there to prevent too much water hitting the drains near the roundabout, located near Egginton Road and Mulberry Way, do not appear to be doing what they should do. It is unclear how long ago they were emptied / cleared / inspected.
- 3) The outflow ditch that runs alongside Egginton Road had some clearance work done by the District Council just prior to the latest problem but could perhaps need more of its length clearing as it runs through the trees alongside Hilton Garage.
- 4) The Severn Trent tanks were designed to cope with the water off the Normandy Drive and Bren Way estates, since then we've had the Lucas Lane development "plugged in". I can't help but think that when that was a big field with a pond that would fill, it wouldn't have delivered the water in the way that has just happened.
- 5) The County Council pay the District Council to clear gullies out just once a year, in many locations and this is one of them, that isn't enough.

I am hopeful that the County Council can pull together the necessary resources to fix these issues and at least get a camera survey done to establish where the blockages are. In the meantime, I'm going to attend a meeting with South Derbyshire District Council officers to discuss their plans to clear the ditch along Egginton Road.

One note of caution, Hilton residents will have been pleasantly surprised that this year we didn't see the flooding on Main Street, that we have done for many years. It took 3 years for DCC Highways to get that resolved and one of the reasons was budgets, right now DCC has some major budget challenges so they may struggle to find the funds to do any works...

Finishing off on a brighter note, I'd like to praise Hilton Parish Councillors out on the night. It is often a thankless task being a Parish Councillor in these circumstances, a volunteer, out in the weather, getting abuse from some drivers because you're stopping them going where they want to. These people managed to be out there when people from the larger Councils were busy elsewhere.

If you would like either of your Lib Dem District Councillors to help you resolve a problem with the District Council, please drop either myself or Jayne a line on our emails Grahame.Andrew@SouthDerbyshire.Gov.Uk or Jayne.Davies@SouthDerbyshire.Gov.Uk