

Highways report to Sparsholt Parish Council meeting on Thursday 21 July

The regular and substantial flooding of Woodman Lane near the Plough creates a serious road safety hazard. Accordingly, I have been working with Phil Bailey, our HCC councillor, to resolve this issue. Following the recent spate of heavy showers, each of which produced a significant flood, I wrote to Phil Bailey.

Please see copy of my letter of 12 July, below:

“The recent biblical rain storms have, again, produced significant flooding on Woodman Lane by the Plough. Yesterday's storm resulted in a 25 metre long flood that covered the whole road was 25/30cm deep and took 12 hours to subside. From a road safety stand point this is a serious hazard that has now occurred several times in the last few weeks.

As you will recall from our conversations, the cause of the flooding is a blocked drain that should allow water to drain from the road into a balancing pond. At our last meeting I showed you the location of the blocked drain and you agreed to pursue the process of resolving this serious and potentially dangerous issue.

Sadly some 6 weeks have passed since our meeting during which there has been no activity on the site. Yesterday's flood was the most serious to date with flood water overflowing into the Plough's car park and almost reaching the front door. As a result Richard Crawford, the publican, called me this morning to ask that I urgently contact you with a request that you progress this matter.

Don't think I can add anything to Richard Crawford's request. Other than to re-state that the flooding is a significant road safety hazard that will cause a serious accident if it is not resolved.

Your support and assistance in having this issue quickly resolved would be much appreciated.”

I visited the Plough on 16 July and was briefed that HCC's contractors had attended the site on Friday 15 July and removed the fallen trees and other rubbish. Hopefully, this was in preparation for the work to finally replace the blocked drain.

I will continue to monitor the site and report progress.

**Stewart Wooles
18 July 2016**