

Chilmark Parish Council Flood Risk Assessment & Local Flood Plan

Background

Wiltshire Council has a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act to establish, quantify and record levels of flooding within the county following on from the Pitt Review and recent major flooding events.

Wiltshire Council requires that all town and parish councils assist with the discharge of this duty by providing relevant information about flood events and perceived flood risks in each locality.

All Parish Councils are encouraged to appoint a Flood Warden to help identify and notify potential flooding problems to the Lead Local Flood Authority (Wiltshire Council), monitor the state of watercourses within the community and to assist the community in times of flooding emergencies.

Geology of Chilmark

Chilmark lies at the bottom of a steep sided valley. The Winterbourne, often dry except for prolonged wet periods when it is fed by springs, runs through the valley bottom alongside “The Street”.

This steep sided valley could make parts of Chilmark vulnerable to ground water flooding following periods of prolonged heavy rainfall.

Chilmark Flood History

1. Significant flooding occurred in the early part of February 1990 – the worst being along “The Street” from Forge Cottage to “Beckett’s Lane” where the watercourse running alongside the road overflowed, entering the adjacent houses. The cause of this flooding was identified as being due to a combination of prolonged heavy rainfall throughout December and January with a lack regular maintenance of the Winterbourne water course. Action by Riparian Owners to keep the stream bed free of restrictions to flow seems to have prevented a re-occurrence since then. (1).
2. Significant flooding occurred in the early part of 2014 when groundwater levels were at a historically high level following heavy autumnal rainfall. The worst effected areas being “Hindon Lane”, the bottom of “Dog Drove” and along “The Street” from the junction of Hops Close up to the junction with “Frog Lane”. Groundwater issued from many old spring lines around the village that had been inactive for some years with many gardens becoming waterlogged. (1)
3. Surface water flooding from field run off occurs each winter at the junction of “Beckett’s Lane” / “Claybush” / “Frog Lane” causing a traffic hazard and inconvenience to residents. (2).
4. Surface water flooding from field run off has occurred along “Frog Lane” between the junctions of “The Street” and “Beckett’s Lane” (3).
5. Surface water flooding along a section of “Hindon Lane” towards its junction with the B3089 has occurred on a regular basis during the winter seasons. (4).
6. Surface water flooding has occurred at the junction of “Dog Drove” and “The Street” (5).
7. Surface water flooding has occurred at Mooray when road drains have been blocked by debris. (6).

Risk Assessment Statement.

Whilst the geology of Chilmark appears to give rise to potential flood risks and the Environment Agency Flood Map (copy attached) shows part of the village to be on a flood plain the risks to property can be minimised by regular clearance of the Winterbourne by Riparian Owners and regular maintenance of highway drainage facilities by the local Highway Authority.

Flooding Event Statement

During periods of high flood risk the Flood Warden will receive regular updates from the Environment Agency as to the levels of groundwater within the catchment area. The Flood Warden will then carry out regular inspections of the Chilmark Winterbourne to check for potential obstructions to flow and work with local Riparian Owners and Wiltshire Council Highways Department to help minimise risk, notify residents at risk of flooding and advise all members of Chilmark Parish Council accordingly.. In the event of flooding the Flood Warden will assist the Parish Council to coordinate the response within the village to utilise the PC's stock of gel sacks to help guard against property flooding, put out road "flood warning" signs and call on external help as necessary.

Contacts:-

Chilmark Parish Council as per published membership list on noticeboards and website.

Environment Agency – Mr Nick Read 01258 4834735

Wiltshire Council Highways Department – Mr David Button 01722 7444406

Wiltshire Council Weather and Drainage Team – Renate Malton – 01225 712514

Wessex Water- 08001691144 or 0845 73006007

Fire/Police – Emergency Services Number 999

Actions Required.

1. Send Copy of this update to Renate Malton at Wiltshire Council.
2. Support the Flood Warden to monitor potential flood risks and to liaise with Riparian Owners to ensure that the Winterbourne is kept clear of restrictions to flow.
3. Encourage residents to access the Wiltshire Council website and review the advice and guidance within the flooding section of the community and environment heading at www.wiltshire.gov.uk
4. Encourage residents to access the Environment Agency website and review the flooding advice and guidance within www.environment-agency.gov.uk and to prepare their own personal flood plans if they consider themselves to be at risk of flooding.
5. Publicise this report through the Parish Newsletter and provide copies and related documents to residents on request.
6. Provide information in respect of flood protection products available through the National Flood Forum website: www.floodforum.org.uk.

Date: 3rd September 2014