

# Great Alne Parish Council – Project Progress Report

**Project Name: CCCF023 - Flood Mitigation**

**Report Date: August 2024**

## **1) Project Objectives:** Describe Project Objectives

This project will:

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

## 2) Progress against Plan:

Achievements this period:

- Volunteer equipment purchasing continues.
- Individual Landowner and Farmer meetings to discuss the proposed works underway, David Kinnersley, T & G Steele, C Linfoot and Mr Bloor completed and way forward discussed. Ongoing communications with T Barnsdale and R Turney continue, meetings to be arranged post harvesting.
- Sernal Lane ditch excavated by Landowner. Future ditching workloads should be completed post Harvest activities. (Parish Ditch, Alne Cote S Bend fields) No work to date on Pelham Lane as included in the WCC Works planned to be completed this financial year)
- Warwickshire County Council contacted several times during August (Allan, Dylan) – Allan confirmed that financial provisions for all works discussed at 6 June meeting have been made but as yet no timescales for completion agreed with contractor . WCC supplied maps and drawings for assets around Alne Cote S bend, which have been shared with owner. WCC have agreed to excavate the ditch at the front of Alne Cote and owner has offered to reduce a portion of the hedge to allow access to the ditch
- GAPC and WWT met with Farmers at the top of Alne Hills to share WWT NFM proposals - positive response from Farmers but will need to engage Landowners before any agreement can be made. Left with WWT rep to progress.
- Progress has been made with WWT and HOEF and plans are in place to harvest trees required for the Leaky Dams etc during September, GAPC Volunteers will be invited to assist this activity
- Subscan contract commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> August, to date 85% of works have been completed (over three sessions 5/9/21 August).
  - Huff Cap to Kinwarton Grit store has been cleared and CCTV camera inspection completed (including Alne Cote S Bend)
  - Park Lane has been cleared
  - Henley Road from the Cricket Pitch to Park Lane has been cleared
  - Henley Road from Memorial Hall to Cricket Pitch and Park Lane to junction with Pelham Lane remain to be cleared and inspected.

Following the work to date - August Monthly drain and ditch monitoring completed – 101 (84%) Green, 19 (16%) Red a significant improvement in potential capabilities

Subscan have not been as professional as we were led to believe from their tender submission. – Inefficiencies, restrictive working practices and timekeeping have impacted overall performance.

GAPC are currently in communication with Subscan to resolve outstanding works, agree timescales for completion and understand any financial implications.

CCTV investigations to date have hugely increased GAPC knowledge around the drainage flows and the state of gullies and culverts (Runs) in the Village. CCTV investigations show there is a significant amount of work to be undertaken if we are to improve flood alleviation in the Parish.

GAPC will receive a full report from Subscan on the condition of parish drains by end of September which will provide the evidence needed to both plan the next stages of activity and engage with WCC to agree the way forward.

- No progress has been made with securing an Hydrologist to review GAPC flood alleviation plans. GAPC will reach out to the Wellsbourne company again in September to identify any capacity to undertake the work.
- Coffee Pot Wood – Communicated with Woodland Trust – there are no plans for any further work in CPW this year. Engaged with Environment Agency regarding Tree in river, no response as yet – 20 day SLA on email responses!
- Alne Cote S Bend - Discussion held with owners regarding drainage and ditch in front of Alne Cote property – Owner is supportive of works to date and willing to help with hedge and ditch
- Pelham Lane – Emailed farmer regarding Tree Root removal, no response.
- Rainfall reporting – As part of understanding drainage and flows GAPC met with Ron McLune who has a weather station in GAP – Ron has agreed to furnish the Flood Action Group with daily rainfall statistics so we can monitor flooding in line with rainfall – currently awaiting first set of data

#### Actions not completed / deferred

- Pelham Lane Ditch not cleared by Farmer / Tree root not resolved.
- Alne Cote S Bend Ditch not cleared out by Farmers
- Coffee Pot Wood - Tree in River not resolved
- Coffee Pot Wood Ditch alongside Henley Road not cleared

### **3) Actions for Next Period:**

Planned actions for next period:

- Continue with Drain and Ditch monitoring/reporting activities.
- Continue monthly communications with Warwickshire County Council to ensure clear understanding of any potential delays or cancellation of works. Depending on outcome of communications re-plan the project to maximize delivery.
- Continue monthly 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.
- Continue regular communications with neighbouring Parish Councils to ensure support alignment with Project plans and outcomes
- Complete RFI/RFP process to secure independent Hydrologist review.
- Engage with WWT, Landowners and Farmers to continue discussions /planning Manor Court Ditch improvements.
- Engage with Environment Agency to understand plans for Tree extraction from River.
- Receive feedback from Mr Bloor representatives to understand options for Woodland on Mr Bloor Land
- Complete Subscan contract and receive final report
- Commence planning next phase of flood alleviation activities in preparation for discussions with WCC

## 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.
- Subscan – Delays in completion increase overall costs to GAPC – Mitigation Activity – engage in communications with Subscan to manage situation, either negate any increases to contract costs or understand overall impact of reducing scope of work.

### 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 – Chase RFI/RFP. If not forthcoming review GAPC financial regulations to ensure any decisions are made within the current GAPC Rules
- Subscan performance delays/impacts delivery of final report - Resolution manage communications to understand impacts of scope, costs and quality of final report.