

To: George Freeman MP  
Norfolk County Council (Ed Connolly)  
Breckland District Council (Helen Crane & Tim Birt)  
Saham Toney Parish Council  
Anglian Water  
Environment Agency

SAHAM TONEY – FLOODING in CLEY LANE - 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020

I have been contacted as an ex-Parish Councillor and a member of the Saham Toney Neighbourhood Planning Group by some very upset residents in Cley Lane who now want ‘ACTION’, as they feel that their flood problems which have been ongoing for a number of years are being ignored by those authorities responsible. I think it is time for all the interested parties and authorities to accept their responsibilities and to work together to resolve this problem.

Following the recent heavy rains before Christmas Eve, certain areas of the village once again suffered with severe flooding, mainly; Pages, Chequers and Cley Lane and Richmond Road.

Residents in Cley Lane feel abandoned and frustrated. There is wave of rising anger that nothing is being done by the authorities to alleviate this increasingly frequent problem. They have and are enduring much personal and financial hardship and immeasurable disruption because of the inability of authorities to instruct the works required and resolve these issues. In the past, the only interest from the local authorities has been the odd visit with advice about sealing the doors, which does not stop the water coming up through the floor and the occasional meetings, but no positive remedial action. Sitting back and doing nothing is not an option anymore.

There are two primary issues. 1.) Large volume of water coming down the road from higher ground.  
2.) Inadequate surface water drainage solutions in the village.

THERE ARE SOLUTIONS. The pragmatic and sound advice from a local farmer, if carried out, would alleviate a lot of the problem. *‘Hold back the water from the surrounding high ground with attenuation lakes, ensure that the drains and established water courses through the village are cleared and re-instated where previously filled in, and ensure a clear run into the Watton Brook’.*

To add more detail:

The flood waters typically run down to the junction of Chequers/Bell Lane/Overton and tip into Cley Lane where it forms a lake. This is the low point in the area. When the ditches fill to capacity, water is unable to escape because of a slight rise in the road where the ditch disappears into a small-bore pipe (see photograph). On 23<sup>rd</sup> December, the water level in Cley Lane rose to a height of 18 inches in the centre of the road, flooding some of the more established properties, a number of which had only just been renovated since they flooded in August. This has been acutely stressful for both those that have been flooded and also for their very supportive neighbours.



Off Cley Lane is the recently built Wildflowers Estate where a surface water solution has been found. All surface water from properties in Ladybird Lane is piped into the drainage system previously installed for the Amys Close development which we believe terminates on the Allotment site (asset not yet adopted by Anglian Water). This water does not therefore affect Cley Lane. The remaining 4

new properties are in Cley Lane and have attenuation tanks which slowly releases rainwater into the ditch, renovated (deeper/wider) as part of the build. The new houses on Sanctuary Crescent also accommodate surface water in attenuation tanks, slowly releasing water to the rear stream running into Watton Brook. All these new houses have foundations that are some half a metre higher than the older cottages and bungalows and less likely to experience flooding.

Throughout the village we have blocked road drains, ditches that have been filled in, ditches that go nowhere, ditches that are poorly maintained and inadequate bore piped ditches that cannot be maintained. All this contributes to the overall flooding.

Example: The Cley Lane ditch terminate here, into an inadequate bore pipe. Totally incapable of handling flood water.



Since 2016 we have experienced at least 4 serious floods that have damaged properties and has caused hardship, most of those that have suffered are elderly and yet nothing has been done to alleviate the problem. Those residents that have suffered now need positive reassurance that a practical solution will be made as a matter of urgency, so please no more excuses just some positive ACTION. Finally, these residents feel isolated and ignored that's why they have contacted myself; good communication is paramount in these situations so a personal visit from our elected council representatives would help.

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