



Norfolk County Council

Via email

George Freeman MP

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My ref: ENQ452467-H9P2S1
Your ref: ZA33360

20 January 2021

Dear Mr Freeman

Thank you for contacting Norfolk County Council (NCC) on behalf of your constituent, Mr Bunce, regarding recent flooding in Saham Toney.

I am very sorry to hear that the flooding affected Mr Bunce and I have liaised with both the Council's Highways and Flood and Water Management Teams to investigate the matter.

The Flood and Water Management Team recently visited Saham Toney following the flood events on the 23 and 24 December 2020. This was carried out in conjunction with the Norfolk County Councillor Edward Connolly to understand where the issues are.

They shall be following up on a number of actions to assist in resolving maintenance issues with the appropriate landowners/property owners in the area after having received correspondence from the Parish Council about the need for maintenance of watercourses. They are also aware of an issue with a piped section of the watercourse in Clay Lane that is part of a wider ditch system and causes a constriction to flow in times of greater flow. Water Management will be discussing this with colleagues in Highways to determine who is responsible for this culvert.

In addition, Highways have confirmed that they intend to carry out initial gulley cleansing within the area.

Please note that Water Management have carried out a considerable number of detailed investigations into flooding incidents across the county and as a result are aware that flooding issues are often complex and many parties are often involved, or need to be involved, in any solutions.

As an example, there is a much larger catchment that drains into Saham Toney and as such NCC are currently working with landowners upstream of Saham Toney to identify opportunities for 'slowing the flow' to reduce the amount of surface water entering the watercourse system that contributes to flooding. Water Management will update residents in due course.

Notwithstanding the above and as you can appreciate, we know many drainage systems are at capacity as the heavy rain has been falling on already saturated ground and full

water courses, leading to surface water taking longer to drain away than usual.

We understand that Saham Toney is at risk of flooding and there is a need to carry out measures to reduce the risk to residents. We know the heightened risk to Norfolk from flooding and coastal change when compared to much of England so NCC are setting up a task force to work with our MPs, local councils and other agencies to make sure we have the money and resources to deal with this growing problem.

I trust that the above information is useful for you and your constituents. Should you wish to discuss the matter further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.B. Myhill'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' at the end.

Roxey Bradley-Myhill
Complaints Case Officer
Complaints Team