

**Notes from the Public Meeting held on Tuesday 31st October 2023
at 10am in The Institute, Roe Lane, Woodborough, Nottingham to discuss
the flood of Friday 20th October 2023**

PRESENT:

Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP, Tom Randall MP, Cllr Boyd Elliott (NCC)

35 residents, including members of Woodborough FLAG (Woodborough Flood Action Group) and members of Woodborough Parish Council

Notes produced by Averil Marczak (Clerk to Woodborough Parish Council)

INTRODUCTION

Mark Spencer MP (MS) introduced Gedling MP Tom Randall, who would be Woodborough's Conservative party candidate at the next election.

MS explained that traditionally Woodborough had done a lot of work against flooding itself, by way of private flood mitigation measures. Lowdham had received more money due to the number of properties flooded, and water from Woodborough goes to Lowdham (this was corrected by a member of Woodborough FLAG, who said that Epperstone and Thurgarton, and not Lowdham, lay downstream of Woodborough.)

MS said that Woodborough needed either to stop water coming in or to speed up water going out. As the latter would have a knock on effect, the answer was to keep water uphill longer. Cash had been put into land management schemes, like leaky dams.

MS suggested that Woodborough would be unlikely to secure a scheme like Lowdham's, but said he was open to ideas and suggestions.

COMMENTS

AM of Woodborough FLAG said that the recent rainfall could not be considered unusual and flooding was not an unusual event. People living with the threat of flooding bought flood barriers and this meant water was now more likely to flood their neighbours' properties. In 2007 the village had been promised a holding tank at the top of the village. If villagers had not spent so much on private flood resilience measures then the number of properties flooding in the village would have been 60 to 70% of the Lowdham levels.

A resident said that he had been flooded by water from the rear of his property and by water from drains and sewers backing up; new infrastructure was needed, no barriers could stop that.

A Shelt Hill resident commented that the highway has risen over time with repeated works and no scraping back. Water off the fields would have drained across the road and away from properties, but the camber of the road now caused the water to flow into the houses.

Water is held near the Nag's Head due to the rise in the road.

A scheme near Westfield Lane nearly went into planning after two to three years of modelling and research by the EA. This scheme could be revisited. The four bunds and leaky dams (recent natural flood management works) upstream of this site cannot hold back enough water in the face of heavy rainfall. There is a limit to what natural flood management can achieve. The measures

needed were bigger than the remit of the Trent Rivers Trust. Engineering projects are needed. This is all about money.

Homeowners are unwilling to admit that they have been flooded because of the impact on insurance and future sale of their property.

A longer term solution is needed. The costs are not just about flooded properties, this affects the wider economy of the villages, affects businesses and makes it hard for people to get to work.

Woodborough has always flooded, but frequency is increasing and the flood water this time was waist high and fast moving. Someone could have been injured or swept away; there were near misses.

Schemes must be facilitated and should not be subject to the whim of land owners. The EA, Trent Rivers Trust and NCC must be able to make schemes happen, and not be subject to veto by land owners.

The water's natural exit route near the Nag's Head is blocked.

Communication issues have put our children at risk. Parents without the full information put their children on a bus to school. The return journey was long and dangerous.

We need to maintain ditches and drains.

There is a systemic problem with EA projects which is well documented. Schemes are funded but not the follow up maintenance.

Charles Wardle asked for permanent flip down "ROAD CLOSED FLOOD" signs to be installed at Pillbox Corner and in Lambley Rd to help to divert traffic at a point when it could easily turn around. MS said that this could definitely be looked at. MS thanked the flood wardens for all of their work.

Chair of Lambley PC, Dawn Edwards, said in future the closure of Lambley and Woodborough could be coordinated, and there would be benefits for the 2 villages to work together.

A villager asked whether the mobile phone emergency signal trialled nationwide a while back could be used to announce an impending flood to the village and MS said that this could be reflected upon.

MS summarised what he had heard and the actions that he would take away:

1. clear drains
2. review the hump on Main Street near the Nag's Head
3. reroute Lingwood lane water around the back (divert Ploughman's Wood rainfall)
4. examine a longer term scheme on the valley

Tom Randall MP thanked residents for inviting him to the meeting; he hoped to be the village's next MP and to take matters forward.

Cllr Boyd Elliott noted the issue with communication to the schools and said that NCC would take this on.

Mark Spencer closed the meeting and said that he would look at coordinating action with Tom Randall and Boyd Elliott. He thanked the villagers for turning up and approaching the meeting in a constructive way.