

Whyteleafe Village Council Newsletter

Spring 2015 - Flood Special



Message from the Chairman:

As I write this, we are just short of a year since Whyteleafe was hit by the severe floods of 2014.

We are still not back in our home, but thankfully, I think elsewhere in the village the damage has been repaired and where there were lakes, we now have dry land.

As we all know, water can do an amazing amount of damage and our challenge now is to protect our community in the years ahead.

To this end, the Council has decided to set up a Flood Action Group.

We already have other Councils and service providers lined up to help but to make the most of this opportunity we are asking for the help of local residents and businesses.

So please come along to the first Whyteleafe Flood Action Group meeting on Monday 16th March (details below).

Mrs Celia Rudland



Woldingham Road in 2014



Godstone Road (A22) in 2014

Invitation to:

Whyteleafe Flood Action Group meeting

Monday, 16th March 2015

at St Luke's Church, Whyteleafe Hill, CR3 0AA

7:30pm (doors open 7pm)

Why create a Flood Action Group?

By forming a Flood Action Group a community gains a representative 'voice' enabling it to:

- address concerns directly to the agencies involved
- stay informed about maintenance work and monitoring
- get regular updates on potential flood risk
- help keep neighbours and the wider community informed
- help shape plans to safeguard against future flood risk.

The 2014 floods in Whyteleafe and Tandridge...

Overall, 104 properties in Tandridge were flooded with 51 of those as a result of the Caterham Bourne.

15 properties had to be vacated and 10 households lost the use of basic facilities such as toilets for more than a month.

What has been done so far?

The Caterham Bourne feeds into the Beddington branch of the River Wandle, Croydon. It only normally emerges in response to high ground-water.

In 2014, the extreme rainfall led to flooding not only of houses and businesses but also the A22 which had to be closed for nearly 2 months.

Since the floods, Surrey County Council has installed two water storage areas alongside Woldingham Road and Wapses

Lodge Roundabout with sluice gates to retain 15,000m³ of water if need be.

Woldingham Road has been resurfaced with new drains and a new footway added.

Other works have included a comprehensive survey of the Caterham Bourne culvert, through Whyteleafe, to ensure unhindered flow. This has helped with the drawing up of a Caterham Bourne Flood management plan.



Kenley to Whyteleafe railways 2014



River Bourne in 2014

What's happening at the moment?

Surrey County Council is working to install a third water storage area near the Woldingham viaduct (subject to landowner agreement).

Croydon, Surrey and Tandridge Councils, with the Environment Agency, are working together on a Defra funded project to identify measures to mitigate the flood risks over the mid to longer term.

The Environment Agency has installed water level monitoring to help inform all parties of potential flood risk.

Tandridge Council has also prepared advice specifically for businesses in respect of Business Continuity planning (visit the Tandridge Council website for details).

The deadline for applications of the Repair and Renew Grant has been extended to 20 March 2015. The scheme provides up to £5,000 to homeowners and businesses that had suffered flooding during the winter of 2013/14 to help fund flood resilience measures to reduce the impact of any future floods.

What's going to happen in the future?

Surrey County Council (SCC) and Tandridge District Council have submitted a £4.2m bid to the Coast to Capital Local Economic Partnership (with a further £0.7m from SCC) to provide:

- a new rural drainage system from the M25 to Wapses Lodge
- a new urban drainage system from Wapses Lodge to the Croydon border through Whyteleafe
- resurfacing of the A22 between the A25 and Wapses Lodge
- resurfacing of footpaths and other improvements from Wapses Lodge to the Croydon border.

What can you do?

Join the new Flood Action Group. Register your interest by contacting the Clerk (see below)

Thank you to...

...all the staff of the various agencies that helped in 2014 and that continue to support our community each and every day.

Your Council

Celia Rudland (Chair) 020 8668 8595 **David Lee (Vice-Chair)** 07702 850698

Sakina Bradbury 01883 343417 **Mark Bristow** 07907 977140

Mark Coote 020 8665 0848 **Beth Rose** 07889 061330

Simon Bold (Clerk) 07939 403414 or email: clerk@whyteleafecouncil.org.uk

Council meetings: 9th March, 13th April, 11th May, 8th June, 13th July, 14th September 2015

www.whyteleafecouncil.org.uk