

## **Report to Bibury Parish Council meeting**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Flood Wardens Scheme** – a new flood warden coordinator has been appointed by Gloucester CC and GRCC - Mr Laurence Murphy, Flood & Community Resilience Officer. Contact details [laurencem@grcc.org.uk](mailto:laurencem@grcc.org.uk) Tel: 07707281805. We attend regular 6 monthly update meetings – the last meeting being 2<sup>nd</sup> August in Northleach. This meeting emphasised the need for communities to develop Emergency Plans.

We are looking for new Flood Wardens for Bibury as Wendy and Phil will need to step down over the next 2 years but we would welcome new members.

The Upper Thames Catchment Partnership coordinated under the Dept of the Environment with participation by Glos CC, CDC, Thames Water, FWAG South West, Reading University and other interested parties meets regularly and the next meeting is tomorrow at Down Ampney. They are also a source of data regarding grant funding of river and flooding related projects. Their focus is on river water quality and ecological improvements.

### **Outstanding Issues and Possible Actions**

#### **Surface water flooding issues**

As the Chairman and certain council members are aware progress is being made on the flood risk issues involving Arlington Row. This matter was raised with Gloucestershire Highways who attended site at Arlington Row.

The blocked drainage channels in the car park opposite the Trout Farm and along the Street continue to be a problem and it seems unlikely that Glos Highways have any real interest in clearing these drains and keeping them clear. Mud and debris continues to build up because the drains fail to discharge into the River Coln. Is it worth the village investing in its own petrol engine pressure washer with drain cleaning attachment (or a mains powered pressure washer and a small generator) – costs are variable but would be typically about £800 to £1000 for a mid-range complete unit – obviously a cheaper mains powered unit is impractical unless a small portable generator option is selected. This unit would need to be deployed for say 2 hours per month to keep the drains clear. This has been a long-term unresolved issue.

No progress seems to have been made re-establishing and maintaining drainage channels on the main road at the foot of Quarry Hill.

Aldsworth road drain – no update.

#### **Ground Water Flooding issues**

Nothing to report as river and water table levels remain comparatively low.

#### **River Related Flooding Issues**

1. Tree felling and removal from the river – like many areas in Gloucestershire impacted by ash die back – remains the major issue. There have been unconfirmed reports

That Glos CC no longer require to approve the felling of individual dying ash trees as there are too many for them to consider. I am trying to obtain a written confirmation that this is the case with CDC but our situation complicated as most of the relevant trees at risk are in the Bibury Conservation Area. The Trout Farm advises that they are concerned about ash trees on neighbouring land that are likely to fall onto the mill race and trout farm during a storm and are contacting local land owners accordingly.

2. Bibury Mill Weir – We have not been able to contact Mrs Kennedy regarding the lowering of the Bibury Mill weir by the full 300mm that they have Environment Agency approval or outstanding essential repairs to the mill related sluice gates and channels, there are also tree removal issues.

3. Weed removal from river and water lane needs urgent attention. The National Trust did some limited work on the Arlington Mill leat but a lot more weed needs to be removed. To be clear weeds combined with fallen trees and branches make very effective temporary dams which can rapidly cause subsequent flooding.

4. Litter collection from the river (possibly linked to weed clearance) as part of a village wide volunteer clean up project should be considered as a priority by the Parish Council.

Wendy and Phil Challinor Bibury Parish Flood Wardens  
12 Sept 2023