

## Oldbury Parish Council Notes

### **SGC Drop in Event 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018**

This is probably the most important thing that has happened in Oldbury for some time, so I will concentrate on that event only in these notes.

For those not aware, this drop in event was all about flooding. Flooding in Church Hill, Chapel Road and Church Road. I believe this event is partly the result of the pressure the Flooding & Planning Committee (FPC) have been putting on SGC to take action to alleviate the problems that occurred on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in particular, but on previous, and later occasions also. These areas are listed in this order because that is their order of importance. Church Hill causes properties to flood, the other two are not so severe. Also Church Hill has been under discussion since 2013. We think 6 years is too long a wait for action.

#### Church Hill

There are 2 proposals to alleviate flooding here, one is to lay a new pipe from the bottom of Church Hill opposite West Marsh Lane to the Oldbury Naite Rhine, the other to re-open the ditch from the bottom of Church Hill to the Cowhill Wharf Rhine.

The problem with the first proposal is that the bottom of Church Hill is marginally lower than the peak level of water in the Rhine at high tide when the Pill Flaps are shut. This means that the scheme will not work in all conditions.

The second proposal has a similar problem with levels, however the extra length and width of the ditch means there is a greater capacity for the storage of water.

The FPC therefore prefer the Cowhill Wharf Rhine scheme as indeed do SGC and LSIDB. Subject to landowners consent I think this scheme will be the choice.

#### Chapel Road

The Chapel Road flooding has been caused by the flaps on the pipes draining the road being damaged or missing and the concrete flood wall is also damaged. SGC will be repairing both of these.

#### Church Road

Although several faults have been identified, there does not yet seem to be a total solution identified, the FPC will be following this up a.s.a.p.

#### Flaps generally

SGC and LSIDB have already repaired/replaced a number of these and the faulty ones are still on the list to be done. Some of you may know that we are in discussions about the responsibility for these flaps. The question is whether the riparian owners of the ditches are responsible or not. The matter is nearly resolved, I hope to write with a clearer answer shortly.

#### New Housing Developments in Thornbury

As you know we are repeatedly told that the developments proposed for Thornbury are sustainable and will not increase the risk of flooding. We know that many of you do not

believe that. We have, of course, raised this with SGC regularly. We are told that “the team are thinking of developing a surface water management plan for the Thornbury area”. We have collected some information that may support more research here, we will continue to press hard for action on this.

#### Telemetry

Most of the installation work has now been completed. We now have to understand how we can best gain advantage from the results.

#### Conclusion

After a long struggle I believe we should now see results from our labours. If anyone has any questions or does not understand anything please come and talk to me, if I cannot answer a question I probably know someone who does.

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