

Flood Alleviation Actions and Achievements in Beckford

Since forming in April 2008 the Beckford Village Flood Group has worked with the District Council, County Council, Severn Trent and the Environment Agency. Effectively, as lobby group we have worked to drive much needed alleviation projects but also developed good relations with the Agencies involved to secure long term support and commitment to the Parish of Beckford.

Little Beckford Culvert Progress

- Lobbied for a Highways Agency hydrological survey and after it was commissioned, the group were invited to comment on the findings along with the other inter-agency partners.
- Explained in plain English the complicated findings and communicated this via news letter to the residents.
- County Council Capital expenditure sign off has been agreed.
- Lobbied for a public consultation meeting to ensure the community was given a voice in the proceedings, resulting in a Little Beckford residents meeting being held by the Parish Council.
- Gained support from Harriet Baldwin the Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for our area.
- Encouraged dialogue between all interested parties.
- Helped the PC Clerk apply for a Wychavon £5K grant.
- Recommend to Wychavon and the PC that the grant should be used to action work that was highlighted in the Highways Agency Report.
- Continue to lobby the Parish Council to make progress with works to a culvert on Overbury land that needs urgent attention.
- In the short term ensure residents are properly kitted out with essentials such as sand bags etc.

Severn Trent

- Engaged a company of consultants to do exploratory work at the Manor and Little Beckford.
- Carried out doorstep surveys in Little Beckford and other at-risk properties in Beckford.
- Organised strategic lobbying and networking, which resulted in extensive modelling work.
- Major £7-figure project has now been completed to improve drainage and make village sewerage works fit for purpose.

County Highways

- Successfully lobbied for improvements to be made to Back Lane (flooded 5 times 2008)
- Worked with engineers to produce an effective solution and scope of works and liaised with workmen during the process.
- Project completed early 2009 with no instances of flooding since.
- Group have supplied and continue to supply them with information regarding all

- blocked drains etc.
- Reported culvert and drainage issues in Grafton and lobbied for a solution.
 - Lobbied for improvements on Rabbit Lane and have voiced concerns to Adrian Hardman that resurfacing work should take into account the flooding dangers on that road.
 - The County Highways have raised kerbs at the entrance to properties in Back Lane
 - Engaged in a campaign to clear silted up road drains through a programme of maintenance using the Worcestershire Hub.

BVFG Partnership with Wychavon District Council

- Beckford now in Wychavon top 20 Parishes for action.
- Formal meetings with Wychavon to discuss BVFG underpinning and working together to assist in Beckford flood alleviation.
- Support Steve Jorden and his team whenever and wherever possible.
- A process was defined and agreed to report Watercourses/Ditches not fit for purpose
- Wychavon commitment to regular communication to the BVFG
- Completed food alleviation data sheets and action plans for Wychavon.
- Major rail line blockage removed.
- Posted communication updates from officers on line at the Beckford Web site.
- DEFRA Grant – worked with Steve Jorden to ensure a smooth process supporting and coaching the Parish Council to do the same.
- Liaised with Haycocks and householders during household surveys
- Forged relationships between downstream Parishes (Aston-on-Carrant) to ensure we are ‘joined up’.
- Gained support from Beckford and other affected local Parish Councils in our ongoing project to have the Carrant adopted as a main river by the Environment Agency.
- Worked with Nick Haycock (hydrologist) to understand bigger picture and long term strategy for the Parish.
- Held strategy meetings with Dr Ling Tong (Amey Mouchel), Nick Haycock and Highways Agency to encourage a joined-up approach.