

BECKFORD VILLAGE FLOOD GROUP (BVFG) UPDATE TO LITTLE BECKFORD RESIDENTS JULY 2009

Firstly, if you have not already seen it, you can review or pull off a copy of the Highways Agency (HA) Report into the Flooding issues at Little Beckford from the Beckford Village Web site. If you do not have access to a computer then please contact your local Flood Group representative, Steve Brown (details on page 3) & he will arrange for one of us to facilitate access.

This report has been produced by the Highways Agency following demands that they take action to stop the severe flooding issues that arise from the Culvert on the A46. It is also important to understand that although the report has a number of recommendations for the two other troublesome culverts which service the Alstone Brook it is not the final solution & the recommendations are merely suggestions by the HA because the real accountability for the other two Culverts lies with the two other Government Authorities & the Parish Council.

The HA report identified 3 Culverts & numbered each one:

Culvert 1 – Which runs alongside the Brownies House, comes under the jurisdiction of Worcester County Highways (Worc CC)

Culvert 2 – Which runs under the A46 comes under the jurisdiction of the Highways Agency (HA)

Culvert 3 - Is on private land owned by Overbury Estate however, Wychavon District Council (Wychavon DC) will be following through on a solution.

A complete solution for the Parish's Residents is the accountability of the Parish Council (PC) because they the lynch pin, working on your behalf to facilitate the operations of the various agencies.

As a lobbyist group the Beckford Village Flood Group has from day one, made Little Beckford their priority & continues to drive all those accountable to find a **COMPLETE SOLUTION**. We have been successful in ensuring the establishment recognizes the issues & have spent the last twelve months building relationships within the various agencies & driving home the horror of the resident's plight.

In January 2009, we were able to bring together the 3 agencies, the Chairman of the Parish Council & other Land Drainage links including the hydrologist Nick Haycock who gave his services free of charge to support our group through the complicated process. It was at this meeting that the HA produced their report & asked the other Agencies to review, prior to publication & to feed back any comments. At the time, it was decided by the agencies that the contents of the meeting should stay confidential & the BVFG were asked not to discuss the preliminary report until it was made official. At which time a copy would be made available to the Parish Council, as they are the elected official body representing the Parish.

Finally the well over due report has been made available to the Parish Council & they published the findings on the BVFG's web site.

However, there seems to be a void of information regarding the actual actions that are to be taken & by whom.

It is very frustrating for all of us who are eager to get the ball rolling & the BVFG are conscious of the fact that the residents of Little Beckford have not been consulted or asked for their feedback. After all, you know what the issues are, as you are the ones that have witnessed the

flooding first hand albeit on far too many occasions & we consider your feedback to the process invaluable.

So what are we doing for you?

Culvert 1

The BVFG continue to lobby for more information on your behalf & are pushing for a speedier solution & action to be taken. The current drainage scheme must be made fit for purpose & although we have had no details yet, we are aware of a planned operation to do just that.

According to Adrian Hardman your County Councilor “there’s a scheme afoot for culvert 1” & although we brow beat him for a number of hours in one of our members kitchen’s during the Easter Bank Holidays we been issued with no further detail.

The BVFG have written to Dave Lavender at WCC to ask for a copy of the scope of works together with an estimated start time.

In the meantime, we have asked the Parish Council to take a pro-active stance as we are convinced they will be able to influence proceedings because of their position as the first tier of elected local government for Beckford.

Culvert 3

Our feedback from WDC was that this must be the first priority with it being downstream of the flooding etc. so we applied for & have been successful in obtaining a £5k grant to make this culvert “fit for purpose”.

The politics of the situation dictate that all grants must be applied for through the Parish Council & although we did the leg work, the grant will be paid to them & Wychavon DC will expect them to organize the work to be completed with support from the WD C council & ourselves.

We have organized a meeting at Wychavon DC and are looking forward to moving the project forward as quickly & efficiently as possible.

Culvert 2

Feedback from residents indicates that you will still have concerns about culvert 2 no matter what improvements are made to the other two culverts so we are planning to ask the Parish council to do the following.

1. Organize a Parish Council/Public meeting for the residents of Little Beckford which should include the key players from the agencies .

We want you the residents to have a voice in the proceedings as we believe your firsthand experience is invaluable.

2. We have previously spoken to the Parish Council regarding the need for more science & we now feel it is time for them to fund the engagement of a hydrologist. Scientific reports & LADAR data is our key to ensuring a **COMPLETE SOLUTION**.

We intend to raise the matter with the Parish Council & are hoping that that they will understand the benefits of such technology & how it could add value to the village.

House Hold Protection Scheme

We wrote to you earlier this year regarding this scheme & are thrilled to tell you that it appears our application has been successful. We will be discussing the mechanics of the scheme at our planned Wychavon DC meeting with the PC Chairman so will be in touch with you soon to let you know how Wychavon DC & Haycocks Associates will be running the scheme.

What can you do for us?

The BVFG stepped up to plate when no one else wanted to know & this simple bunch of folk are doing their utmost to help you achieve the **COMPLETE SOLUTION** for Little Beckford. All our group members are busy working individuals who regularly give a huge amount of their free time in support of the group's endeavors.

We now need you to get involved & support us at this crucial & critical period. With the residents united & PC & BVFG working together we are a stronger force & our ability to influence will be much greater.

- o We need your support & feedback.
- o We need to know we are representing your views.
- o What else do we need to do?
- o We need your support at Parish Council meetings.
- o We need you to give your views about the drainage system to the authorities at the Parish & Public meetings.
- o Lobbying from different sources is often the most effective so ask yourselves, what can you do to help?

If you would like to get involved or give us feedback, you can contact us via phone or email at the contacts below. We also look forward to seeing you at the next Parish Council meeting on 29 July & Bill & Josephine will be running a Home Produce Stall at the Village Fete on Sunday 13 July, so come & have a chat.

Contacts

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More details on the BVFG including action plans meeting dates and much more can be found on the Beckford Village Website <http://www.beckford-village.org/floodcommittee/index.php>.