

FLOODING IN APPLEBY MAGNA - WHAT IS HAPPENING?

May 2021

It has been a couple of months since our last update, so we wanted to write to you to let you know what's been happening. Regardless of the nice dry weather, we all know this is likely to be a break from the norm, rather than our revised weather patterns, so we are keeping on the pressure and working hard to ensure we make progress for this village, and its residents.

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

The Resilience Group has continued to meet the following organisations every month:

- Leicestershire County Council (who are the lead local flood authority for NWLDC area)
- Severn Trent (who manage the combined sewer system)
- Environment Agency (who are monitoring water quality)

Lots of assessment work and investigations have taken place, and remain ongoing by both the EA and Severn Trent. The EA continues to monitor the contamination. You may have spotted the two 'Sonde' units situated at the end of Old End and the end of Duck Lake (sometimes the solar panel which powers them is the easiest thing to spot!). These were installed around 6 weeks ago and are owned by the EA. They are replaced every month to ensure the readings remain accurate, and can detect ammonia levels from fields and pollutants from sewage. Severn Trent have continued to monitor the impact the rainfall has on the system and have in 8 locations effectively 'filled in' holes (usually around or within manholes) where rainwater run-off was entering their system. The main ones that have been completed are around Bowleys Lane. You may also have noticed that Severn Trent replaced a previously leaking manhole cover in Black Horse Hill. This was originally planned to be replaced on 6th April, but thanks to the Resilience Group, this work took place several weeks earlier. For anyone who can remember the amount of sewage in Black Horse Hill earlier this month, you will know what a huge difference this has made.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

For a long time many of the residents have wanted to try and get the brook along Duck Lake and Old End into a better condition. Many residents have themselves got in, and removed all sorts of debris. Whilst the brook being clearer will not create a significant improvement in it's capacity at peak flow, as the saying goes, 'every little helps'. Therefore, we are delighted to confirm:

Environment Day in Appleby Magna Saturday 8th May 2021 - 10am until 1pm

On the day we will be joined (and managed) by Keep Britain Tidy. Their Waterside care advisor for the Mease catchment is available to join us for our socially distanced event. This event will contribute to the national Great British Spring Clean campaign. We have arranged dedicated areas (outside of course) for the briefings to take place, tool pick up/drop off etc. Whatever we collect will be picked up by NW Leicestershire on Monday 10th May, so we must thank them in advance for supporting us with this endeavour.

Full details will be provided on what to bring, and what to expect when you register your place, so please do email us if you are interested in attending at: resiliencegrouppapplebymagna@gmail.com. Please confirm the names of those who are attending, and for anyone under the age of 18, their age.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

The Resilience Group will always need your support, including who we contact, how we act and what we record:

1. Please report all flooding issues to the following authorities. The more people that report it, the more impact we can collectively achieve.
2. Call Severn Trent on the incident number 0800 783 4444 (record the log number)
3. If there is sewage coming up to road level and then going down the drains on the road, call the Environmental Agency on 0800 80 70 60. Inform them of the issue and quote the Severn Trent log number. Please advise them that raw sewage is going into the brook which goes straight into the River Mease and is having an impact on the River Mease SAC (Special Area of Conservation).
4. Please send an email to the below email address with the above reference numbers, along with any photos and/or videos you have to the Resilience Group email address: resiliencgroupapplebymagna@gmail.com

Lastly, the Resilience Group need to understand your views and questions so that they can best represent you when talking to various organisations. Please contact us at: resiliencgroupapplebymagna@gmail.com with anything you want us to ask on your behalf, and any ideas you have for what could be done, both short term and long term. Please include your name, and house number and road number when you email.

NEXT STEPS?

Due to Covid-19, the Resilience Group have had to move to online communications only. Please make sure you encourage your friends and neighbours to email the Resilience Group to ensure they have everyone's contact details, so they can send regular updates and obtain your views. If you know of a neighbour who cannot email, please can you either send an email on their behalf and/or print out this newsletter for them.

THANK YOU!

Finally, the Resilience Group want to thank everyone in the village for their great determination to make things better, for the amazing community spirit and for working so well together to help us all overcome this challenge.