

Buckden Parish Council 12 January 2021

District Councillors Report

Flooding

I have been worried about flooding for a long time. There has been substantial development of many kinds and Grey Water runoff is a bigger issue than before. The recent decision by Cambridge County Council to abandon annual gully cleaning is now a serious issue. Following the rainfall on 23 December and the flooding of all rivers from Stamford to the Cam at Trumpington, there are now very many review panels in place.

To their very great credit HDC, under the leadership of Cllr Jon Neish, Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning and Emergency Planning, have organised a local conference and local flood meetings to evaluate what happened and to sort solutions. Local input is key to this.

I have written to our MP asking him to get the EU Directive, which states that all rivers and river systems, must be left in their natural state, effectively with little or no dredging, removed from UK legislation, post Brexit.

Traffic

I have recently written to Highways England, about a possible northern exit from the Silver Street development site to the B1514. I have pointed out that there is a precedent for this exit, as there are two existing exits from the general site area, which are still clearly visible. Secondly the new roundabout on the B1514 adjoining the HE Brampton compound, gives the opportunity to examine new traffic flows. Discussion of this northern exit was originally refused by HE because they did not want local traffic joining a trunk route. The general concept was earlier discussed with Martin Hassall at BPC for the recent A1 Safety Group meeting.

I have also written to HE about possible truck stacking on the A1 and the dangers of such close proximity to Buckden residences.

I am pleased to report that the County Council has recently involved itself to discuss our various issues which means that hopefully planners are now giving more time to these issues.

Hamish Masson

District Councillor