

Longstanton Flood Group update @ 25th April 2016.

I am Dave Dalton and am a member of the Longstanton Flood Group. Our home, and some others here, were flooded on October 21st 2001 and again on 8th August 2014.

The Flood Group was formed in April 2015 and has become a Working Group of the Parish Council and the terms of reference for the flood action working group have been agreed with the Parish Council with the primary objective of the working group to assist the Parish Council in keeping Longstanton village and parishioners' homes flood free.

The Flood Group have been having regular meetings and is now affiliated to the National Flood Forum who is concerned with flooding matters throughout the whole country. The National Flood Forum have appointed one of their officers to support the flood group with any issues related to flooding to provide expertise and possibly convene meetings with the various agencies responsible for particular areas of concern such as:

- 1) Balancing Ponds (making sure the planned October 2016 date doesn't slip, as we are led to believe this will benefit Longstanton from future flooding)
- 2) Brooks, de-silting - who is responsible and where should they tackle first?
- 3) Culvert widening
- 4) Vegetation on the banks, growth and maintenance
- 5) Possible containment areas to hold water away from the Village other than the balancing ponds
- 6) Possibly dealing with concerns over the flooding that occurs on the recreation ground towards the far end of Spiggots Close

We have had correspondence with the office of our MP, Heidi Allen to make her aware of the flooding issues in Longstanton and have recently received updated information about progress of de-silting, etc. in this area by SCDC though there was no specific mention of Longstanton issues.

Balancing Ponds

Work has started between Longstanton and Bar Hill on the 2 ponds to be completed by October this year. Two of our representatives walked over to the sites last week and whilst lorries are present there was not a lot to see yet. We agreed to monitor the situation and these will have the biggest impact on reducing the flooding to the village

Longstanton Brook

For the balancing ponds to be 100% effective, the brooks need to be clear so the flow can carry through the village and beyond

Two representatives recently walked the brook from the balancing ponds to beyond Gravel Bridge and there are still some pinch points and trees that need moving out of the brook. Also the trees leaning into the water pick up straw and debris which can slow down the flow of water, as can the gas pipes under the bridges. These issues are to be raised with NFF to get their assistance in re positioning

We have placed articles in the Longstanton Life to keep the village informed about the Flood Group and there will be updated information in the next edition.

The Flood Group website is up and running and can be found at:

www.Longstantonfloodaction.org