

WWFAG Report to WWPC

Hydrological Report done, paid for and complete. Now we want to implement it.

Over the Spring & Summer, we persuaded the Environment Agency to come and check the heights of the protective earth bund along the River Dene. They reported that it was all OK, and up to the design level. We asked if the design could be changed, raised, to give us better protection, but answer was NO! Design is to a National Standard (1 in 100 year storm plus 20% Climate Change). If they gave us a better standard of protection, they'd have to do the same for thousands of other places, and not enough funds. Also, if they raised the bund level on the Chapel St side of the river, they would have to add much more protection to the Willow Drive side too. So we can't have better protection within the village; we need to reduce the water flow reaching the village during a major storm event. This applies to both River Dene and the Newbold Brook.

We have visited the Agricultural College at Moreton Morrell to investigate the possibility of putting some 'leaky dams' on the tributaries for the brook there, provided the college authorities permit us to do so, and dependent on funding. Then we have also been to the Shipston Flood Action Group a couple of weeks ago, and seen several of their 'leaky dams', We are then re-visiting Moreton Morrell with some of the Shipston people this Thursday to get Shipston's views on where best to put dams there, and how many etc. This would be the first stage of protecting the Newbold Brook and St Peter's Road area from flooding, not the River Dene. If we get some dams in there, we can use them as examples to show farmers later when we want to do similar for the Dene.

See attached photo for one example of a leaky dam, designed to slow the peak water flow down, while draining out normal water flows. Can be done with tree logs, or with planks.

It will be funding dependant. We have already applied for £5k from the Parish for next year, some of which we would need to do this, though I am also going to be talking to WCC about possibly funding this. Once we have Shipston's advice on what to do at Moreton Morrell, we'll refine our grant application to you to describe better what we actually want to do, and how much it may cost. It will probably be in stages.

We are in discussions with Sheldon Bosley about doing dams on Walton Estate land, but not progressed very far yet We are in discussions with the National Farmer's Union about who owns / leases farms upstream of Walton Hall. This is in early stages, and complicated by need for Privacy and Data Protection Act issues

We have also visited a farmer, David Brightman, up near Gaydon, looking at the large drain which takes water from the M40 runoff and the Burton Dassett hills. That will need a more substantial intervention than we can do, and I'll be talking to Warwickshire County Council and the Environment Agency shortly on this.

We are in discussions with the Environment Agency about partial blockages of Bridge St bridge and A429 bridge overflow culverts, also for the Fishpass, and proposed development of Wellesbourne Hall, which could breach flood defences there.

I have had (virtual) discussions with John Cooknell (Mountford Close) over definition of the extent of the catchment area for the Newbold Brook

I have done an Interview with Zoe and Suzi Wood for the Wellesbourne & Walton Newsletter about leaky dams, which unfortunately didn't make the November or December issues, but might be in the January one.

Councillor Mark Keogh-Bywater knows what we are up to, of course, and can fill in any gaps tonight. He was one of the group that went to Shipston two or three weeks ago, he has seen their examples of 'Leaky Dams', and he knows our plans.

Anthony Wykes



Wooden bridge over a stream