

Drainage in Shudy Camps

A note to householders and landowners from the Parish Council

28 April 2021

Local farm owners/managers have recently cleared the ditches around the fields between Mill Green and Main Street. The newly excavated ditches now have the capacity to hold far more rainfall and run-off to prevent the fields flooding, which will flow into the local streams and ditches down Main Street and finally into the River Granta.

Concerns have been expressed that when we get a period of heavy rain, the flow in these ditches will be on a scale (and at a speed) not seen for many years. Any obstructions in their route (such as where they are badly overgrown or choked with debris) may cause flash flooding and possibly damage to properties and roads

In Shudy Camps we have particular drainage problems in Main Street (as well as Nosterfield End). A stream runs the full length of Main Street from a spring in the grounds of Shudy Park; the flow being augmented by run-off from the road and other properties. Just behind "Meridor" a larger stream joins it, carrying run-off from Mill Green and in particular the land drains from these fields. The combined stream runs behind three properties in Main Street, and then runs (partially culverted) in front of "Jasmine House" and down the north side of Main Street out of the village, eventually crossing under the road and continuing down the south side, under Bartlow Road, to join the Granta.

"Riparian Responsibilities" are the duties that property owners have for watercourses that adjoin and form part of the boundary of their land, or pass through it. This note is a reminder of these responsibilities, and a leaflet with more information from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) can be found at:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/The-rights-and-responsibilities-of-a-riparian-owner-leaflet-February-2021.pdf>

Property owners whose land adjoins a watercourse, or have a watercourse flowing through it, have "Riparian Responsibilities". Thus, broadly, if you have a stream on your boundary, you are responsible for maintaining it up to its centre; and if it flows through your property you are wholly responsible for that part of it inside your property. These responsibilities apply both to farmers and domestic landowners. In the case of Main Street, though some of the stream runs alongside fields, much of it runs alongside or through gardens, in some cases with culverts. The CCC leaflet gives basic information and references for further reading. Please read these and if your property is affected please make sure that you take the necessary actions. In particular:

- **Check if your side of the ditch is clear, and if necessary, remove any accumulations of silt, gravel, vegetation and rubbish**
- **Don't dump garden waste in the stream**
- **Avoid introducing structures into the stream that will restrict flow, and remove any that are present**
- **If you have a culvert entrance on your land, check if the culvert is blocked and clear it if necessary. Ensure that a trash screen is placed over it (and kept clear) to stop debris flowing into the culvert and potentially blocking it.**

We can't guarantee that we will avoid flooding, but these are simple things that should help to minimise the risk.

Thank you,

Shudy Camps Parish Council