

Feedback from Carhampton & Minehead Flood Drop-In Sessions 8th & 15th of November

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Brief Overview of Flooding Event

Intense thunderstorms and heavy rain observed on Sunday 17th September. Most intense rain was early morning (rate of 47mm/hr was briefly observed at Brendon Hill weather station at 5:45AM), but this was followed by a prolonged period of heavy rain from breakfast until late morning, averaging nearly a 10mm/hr over this period at the same station)

95 properties are known to have been affected, mainly across West Somerset

- 35 in Wellington
- 22 in Minehead
- 8 in Withycombe
- 6 in Carhampton

Carhampton Drop-In Summary

A generally busy session, with good public turnout (perhaps 40 members of the public), nearly all from Carhampton itself.

Officers from:

- Civil Contingencies Unit
- Somerset Rivers Authority
- Localities Team

Apologies from:

- Environment Agency (all hands were on deck with pumping operations)

Councillors were also present, but names not recorded as they were generally not presenting or responding to issues or concerns

Carhampton Drop-In Summary

7 x Hotspots where infrastructure beside or beneath the highway is blocked

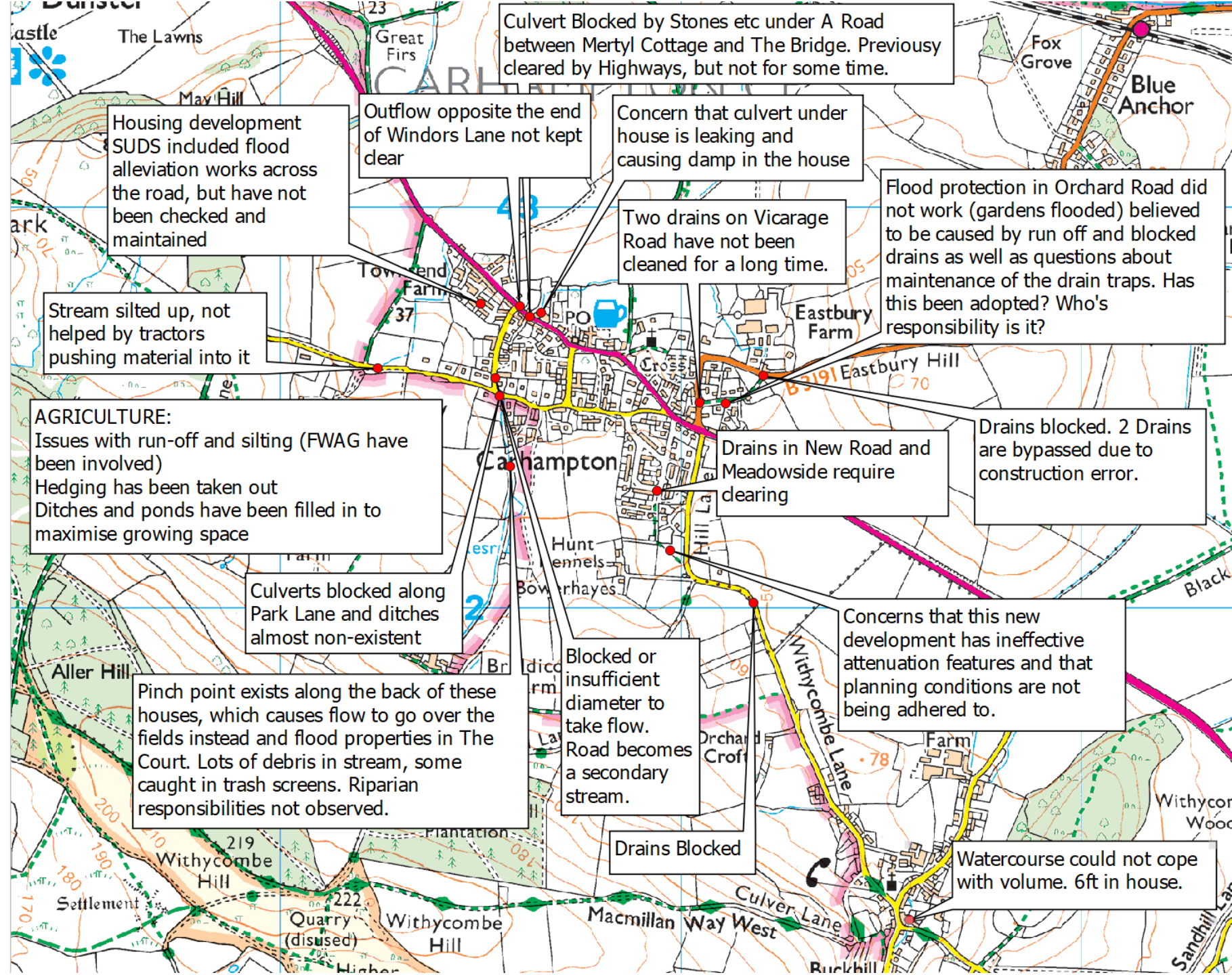
3 x Housing development drainage features insufficient, not being checked or maintained

2 x Comments that agricultural practises are promoting flooding

1 x Contractor error limiting drainage

1 x Insufficient infrastructure to cope with volume of water

Also, riparian responsibilities not being met or ownership unclear



Minehead Drop-In Summary

A much quieter session, with 7 attendees, nearly all from Minehead plus a couple from Withycombe. However, it should be noted that follow-up work with businesses had been completed prior to the drop-in.

Officers from:

- Civil Contingencies Unit
- Somerset Rivers Authority
- Localities Team
- Flood and Coastal Team (Lead Local Flood Authority)
- Environment Agency (all hands were on deck with pumping operations)

Councillors were also present, but names not recorded as they were generally not presenting or responding to issues or concerns

Minehead Drop-In Summary

2 x Insufficient infrastructure to cope with volume of water

Riparian ownership unclear

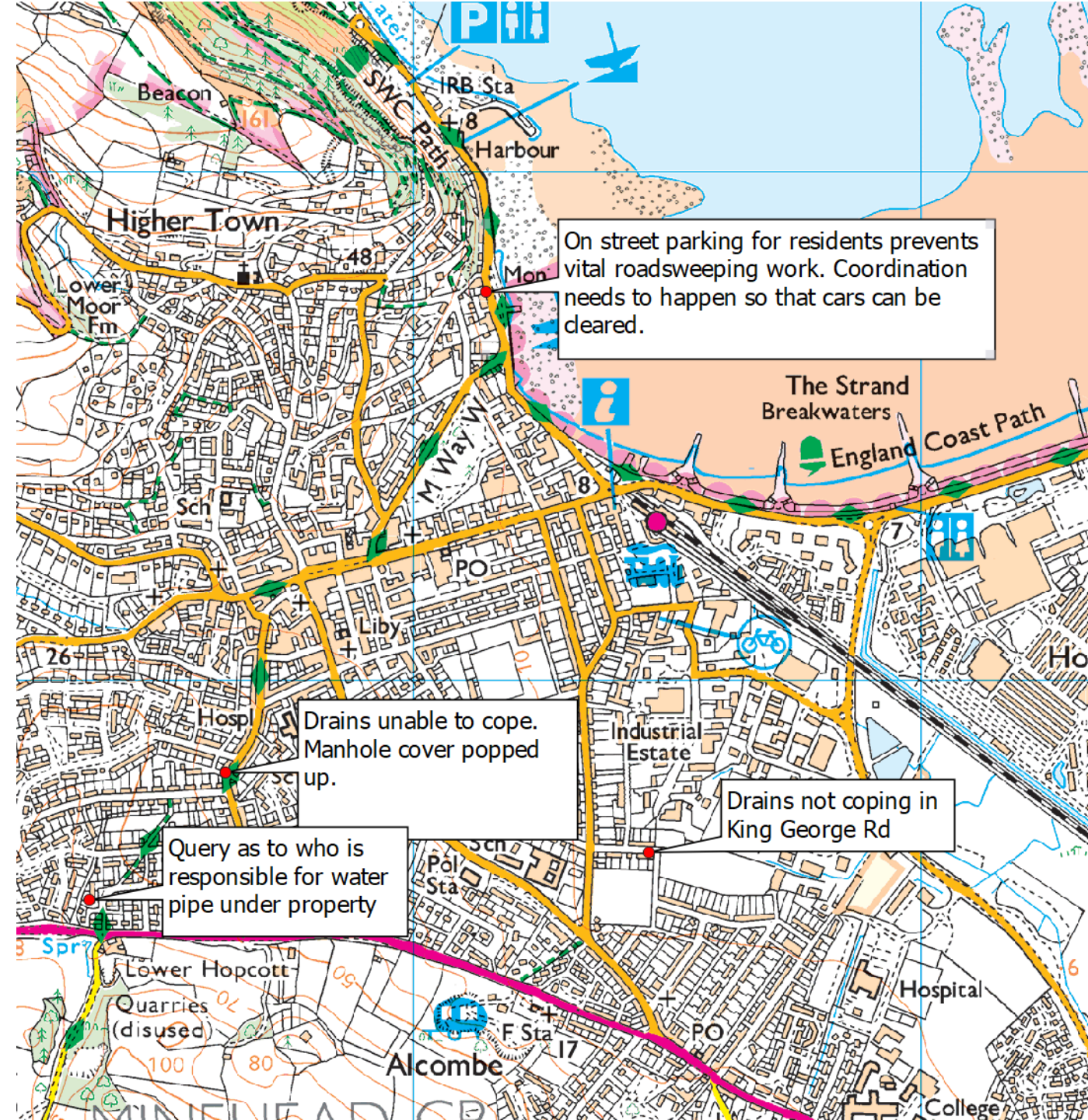
Greater communication sought between road sweeping team and local residents

Additional Points:

Concern over operation of sluice gates at Blue Anchor

Concerns over the impact of future housing development in Watchet on flooding

Concerns that Norton Fitzwarren Dam has not been adopted yet



What Now?

- Statutory “Section 19” investigations into flooding will be undertaken by Somerset Council covering Minehead and Carhampton/Withycombe (as well as Wellington)
- A list of relevant issues has been provided to the Highways Authority for further investigation
- A SuDS inspector will look at the drainage associated with the three small new developments in Carhampton
- RoW team are aware of the footpath at Grange Meadow issue
- FWAG SW (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) have been informed about the concerns with local agricultural practises and run-off from fields
- Wessex Water have been written to about the operation of the sluice at Blue Anchor
- LLFA have a meeting arranged with homeowners where there has been repeated issues with flooding for January.

Additional Learning

- Drop-ins were especially well attended where most effort had been made to broadcast them
- There is known under-reporting of flood events, but information is vital to help get support where needed and to form as fuller picture as possible of what happened and what can be learnt