Great Alne Parish Council – Project Progress Report

Project Name: CCCF023 - Flood Mitigation

Report Date: February 2025

1) Project Objectives:

This project will:

- Complete the mapping of watercourses and areas of flooding in the Parish – completed

- Maintain a database of all Road Drains, Ditches, Culverts and Grills throughout the Parish (FLAG assets) – completed

- Monitor the status of FLAG assets – Drain Guardian monitoring ongoing

- Develop action plans for each FLAG asset – completed

- Allocate Stakeholder responsibilities for each FLAG asset – completed

- Undertake exploration of known blockages/constrictions – completed

- Undertake remedial works including
  - Road Drain clearing/ maintenance
    Drain Clearing Completed and WCC Report Issued
  - Ditch clearing/ excavations
    Completed, Coffee Pot Wood to be reviewed Q1 2025, Pelham Lane and Spernal Lane awaiting WCC to deliver planned activities
  - Culvert maintenance/ clearing and Grill management. – ongoing

- Report progress to **G**reat **A**lne **P**arish **C**ouncil and **S**tratford **D**istrict **C**ouncil
  GAPC Monthly reporting continuing, WCC Drain Report Issued.

2) Progress against Plan:

Achievements this period:

- Ongoing communications continue with all Landowners and key organisations.
- Spernal Lane ditch over ran 10 days during January and 7 Days in February, caused by excessive rainfall, blocked culvert in front of Linfoot Oaks and Fly Tipping in the dtch (Laminate flooring).
- Parish Ditch and Sump excavation performed excellently during periods of heavy rainfall.
- Ditch in front of Alne Cote Cottage excavated.
- Alne Cote fields – No activity.
- Pelham Lane - No work to date as included in the WCC Works (planned to be completed this financial year)
- Warwickshire County Council contacted several times during January and a meeting held on 5th Feb with WCC Highways Area Manager, Stratford District Councillor and WCC Delivery team leaders – Work agreed (in line with the GAPC WCC Drainage Report) Scheduled to start 13th March.
- Detailed proposals have been issued to the Farmers at the top of Alne Hills following meetings in August. Farmers No Progress. WWT to manage situation.
- Manor Court Ditch verbal commitment to clearing areas of ditch secured. Culvert and drain by the public footpath (to the church) has been cleared by landowner.
- WWT Leaky Dams – No action in this period.
- A single response to the GAPC Drain Maintenance RFP has been received. – No actuion this period. GAPC will decide how to progress during Q1 2025.
- No further work undertaken on the presentational materials to be use in potential WALC meetings scheduled for 2024/2025.
- As at the end of February the Drain RAG Status remains: 90 GREEN, 16 AMBER, 10 RED. Mainly due to leaves washed into drains during January heavy rains.
- Coffee Pot Wood – Met with Woodland Trust and Environment Agency February to discuss any further work, the Tree in the river and the potential to dredge the River. WT agreed to inspect the culvert to check for blockages at sometime in 2025.

- EA explained why they will not dredge the river or remove the tree at the outfall. Very disappointing from GAPC perspective.
- As at end of January Great Alne experienced 110.5mm of rainfall, c212% of average monthly rainfall for January. As at end of February Great Alne experienced 51.3mm of rainfall, c129% of average rainfall for February.

- During January The River Alne, Alne Cote S Bend, Kinwarton Grit Store, Henley Road at Manor Court and Pelham Lane flooded for one day cutting the village off from all areas, Spernal Lane had significant highway water on 10 days

- During February Spernal Lane had significant highway water on 7 days

- Road Drains on Bends to Little Alne continue to perform well during January and February 2025

Actions not completed / deferred

- WWC Highways agreed works not commenced – Spernal Lane blocked culvert at Linfoot Oaks, Excavation of open ditches by WCC Grit Store. Pelham Lane Ditch

- Pelham Lane Ditch - not cleared by Farmer / Tree root not resolved.

- Coffee Pot Wood Ditch alongside Henley Road - not cleared

- WWT NFM activities, not commenced – waiting Landowner responses to proposals

- Hydrologist engagement – No response received from Hydrologist organisations - GAPC to decide if we progress with this activity

3) Actions for Next Period:

Planned actions for next period:

- Continue with Drain and Ditch monitoring/reporting activities.
- FLAG volunteers clear drains.
- Manage Warwickshire County Council teams to ensure agreed works are delivered to plan.
- Contact Kinwarton Parish Council to apportion costs for Subscan drainage works.
- Continue monthly communication with the Farmers/Landowners to monitor progress.
- Continue regular communications with neighbouring Parish Councils to ensure support and alignment with Project plans and outcomes.
- Continue engagement with WWT, Landowners and Farmers to progress discussions and delivery activities/planning Manor Court Ditch improvements.
- Receive feedback from Mr Bloor representatives to understand options for Woodland on Mr Bloor Land
- Support WWT in harvesting required materials and support agreed NFM constructions.
- Continue correlation reporting between, Rainfall, River Levels and Flooding
- FLAG meeting to celebrate success, update team on progress and next steps

4) Risks and Issues:

Risks:

- Warwickshire County Council do not deliver their agreed works during this financial year. This could impact overall delivery of the Project, and potentially our funding stream. Mitigation Actions – Constant communication with the WCC team to ensure clear understanding of any potential delays or cancellation of works. Depending on outcome of communications re-plan the project to maximize delivery.
- Farmer/Landowners do not grant permission for works to be performed. This could impact overall delivery of the Project, and potentially our funding stream. Mitigation Actions – Engage with statutory bodies to influence/enforce delivery of the works.
- Landowners / Farmers fail to deliver their activities during project lifetime. This could impact overall delivery of the Project, and potentially our funding stream. Mitigation Actions – Constant communication with the Farmers/Landowners to ensure clear understanding of any potential delays or cancellation of works. Depending on outcome of communications re-plan the project to maximize delivery.
- FLAG volunteers become dissalusioned due to lack of engagememnt.

Issues:

- Lack of response to Hydrologist RFI/RFP – Resolution – Re-engage with RFI/RFP. If not forthcoming review GAPC financial regulations to ensure any decisions are made within the current GAPC Rules