

FLOODING

1. The Clerk, Cllr Sawyer and Cllr Preston met with Cllr Peter Hemmerman from Market Weighton Town Council to discuss the recent flooding that affected Goodmanham Road. Cllr Hemmerman has been involved over a number of years with the Environment Agency regarding the flood management scheme that primarily aims to protect Market Weighton.

Current Situation

2. Surface water drainage is provided by Mill Beck which flows into Market Weighton Beck. Mill Beck is fed by a variety of springs in the Goodmanham area. In addition it will be directly fed by run off rainfall.



- Using the former railway embankment, the Environment Agency have constructed a flood barrier to protect Market Weighton (which has flooded in the past). The land to the rear of this (including the football pitches) is described as “Millbeck Reservoir”, and is designed to fill up if there is a threat of flooding. Mill Beck is culverted under the embankment at point A (see photo below) with an adjustable penstock dam controlling the water flow.



- The stream then flows to the dock pond and is then culverted under Market Weighton at point B (see photo below). The stream emerges at the rear of former Asda.



Flooding this year

5. Earlier this year the “reservoir” filled up, eventually closing Goodmanham Road for some weeks. During this period the area around the duck pond was sandbagged and pumped to protect nearby houses. Once the reservoir had filled the Environment Agency were regularly on site to manage the situation, liaising with the emergency planning team at ERYC. It was only possible to release water from the reservoir gradually otherwise properties in Market Weighton would have flooded.
6. This winter was wet, and the flow from the springs high.

Issues

7. Whilst the water flows were high the water levels massively exceeded previous levels with Goodmanham Road flooding for the first time. It is unclear whether earlier adjustment of the penstock dam could have reduced the water build up.
8. The main pinch point is the culvert under Market Weighton. This will be c 200 years old and has limited capacity (see photo above which was taken when water levels were low). The duck pond is heavily silted. It is unclear if this culvert is clear. There appears to be disagreement between ERYC and the Environment Agency regarding responsibility of this culvert.
9. Goodmanham has poor alternative routes to Goodmanham Road. If a changing climate leads to this being closed more frequently there should be a review of the suitability of the alternatives.
10. Market Weighton Town Council are happy to work with the Parish Council to review the situation and press for improvements/ mitigation.

Jeremy Sherlock
Parish Clerk
April 2021