

Dunholme Road Culverts

For years I and others have raised concerns about the condition of the two culvert channels that allow Welton Beck to pass under Dunholme Road. The culverts are almost completely silted up and are operating at a fraction of their design capacity and pose a serious risk of flooding to the bottom end of the village, as shown on Environment Agency Flood Risk Maps. Years ago children used to play in these culverts and 'tickle' trout, now a duck would struggle to paddle through. Only the 24/7/365 diligence of the late Dave Sykes, who we sadly lost to Covid-19 last year, has prevented severe flooding in the past. On 28th September, after a modest amount of rain, Dave's son was out dragging detritus out to prevent blockage of the culvert entrances.

URGENT action is needed now whilst water levels are low and before heavy winter rainfall starts.

I attended a meeting on site with all interested parties present, including Environment Agency, Highways and councillors, to discuss the problem at least 5 years ago. All agreed action was needed. Highways thought it needed a clear span bridge, as recently installed at Langworth (which immediately solved their flooding on Scothern Lane). That may be necessary in the future but the culverts must be cleared NOW to their original design capacity and I think that would probably solve the problem for the foreseeable future. NOTHING HAS HAPPENED!

Would all residents in low-lying parts of Welton and Dunholme please make urgent representations to the Environment Agency? You are at severe risk. If you are in any doubt check the Environment Agency website maps. I spoke to the parish council on 29th September and was informed that they have no more influence with Highways or the Environment Agency that I do as an individual, so there is no point in residents contacting the council

I would also ask the tiny minority of residents who use the beck as a waste disposal unit to refrain from doing so as one small branch in each culvert lodging under the road will flood the bottom end of the village and would be very difficult to remove.

Regards,

Phil Morris

