

## Report for Rendham Parish Council.

### **Flooding at Rendham Village October 2023.**

The following information was obtained from an email sent by the Environment Agency to Mr Dan Poulter MP on the 19/12/23.

Between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 East Anglia suffered high volume rainfall from storm Babet triggering a major incident on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Levels of rainfall recorded were as follows:

50 - 60mm North Essex

50 - 70mm across Norfolk

60 - 80mm across Suffolk

25 flood warnings were issued in East Anglia for Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

1130 impacted properties affected from all sources of flooding. 900 properties experienced internal flooding (the final number will be higher).

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The river Alde is designated as a '**main river**' just north of Dennington, it then flows through Bruisyard Street and on toward the village of Rendham in an easterly direction.

Bruisyard Road and part of the B1119 (Bridge Street) at Rendham have properties that border the river, 15 of which were affected in some way by flooding. Most of the properties had only the gardens effected by fluvial flood (water from the river).

20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> October 2023 Garden House, Bruisyard Road suffered damage to the garden and internal damage to outhouses from both fluvial and \*pluvial flooding (\*surface water, overflowing ditches etc); 2 Willow Cottages suffered significant damage internally to the property from fluvial flood which also effected the garden.

4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 District Cllr Owen Grey and Rendham Parish Cllrs held a site meeting at both Garden House and 2 The Willows to assess the damage and needs of the property owners. 2 heaters were provided on loan to No.2 Willow Cottage.

5<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Dist. Cllr Grey having visited Rendham and a number of neighbouring villages within Framlingham ward effected by storm Babet, sent a letter to SCC, SDC, EA, DEFRA, Anglian Water, Water Management Alliance, T. Coffey MP, D. Poulter MP underlining the problems encountered and requested action as follows:

- \*The Alde, Deben and Ore comprehensively dredged and cleared of debris.

- \*Other watercourses regularly cleaned and maintained.

- \*Greater attention and investment in holding water to alleviate pressure on drainage systems. More ponds and reservoirs.

- \*Property development on flood plains and water meadows banned.

8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Dist. Cllr Grey & Dist. Cllr Langdon-Morris sent a report to T. Coffey MP, D. Poulter MP and various other interested bodies, summarising the impact of the recent flooding on Framlingham and the nearby Parishes/Villages. Copy was sent to all Parish Clerks.

10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 notification of financial aid for flood affected properties in Suffolk. (750 properties to date)

- \*£500 for homes (2,500 per business) to assist with initial recovery costs.

- \*100% discount on council tax/business rates for a minimum 3 months

- \*Flooded property owners can apply for up to £5,000 help to make properties more resilient to future flooding.

No.2 Willow Cottage has made application for all of the above, council tax discount has been approved. For £5,000 grant a specialist surveyor must be engaged by the owner of the property.

24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Reply to the Dist. Cllrs report of the 08/11/23 from Mr Verrier (Area Director for East Anglia / East) Environment Agency. In the letter he stated that both he and Mr Phil Duffy (SCC) would welcome a meeting at the council offices at Melton.

This letter was forwarded to P.C.s by Cllr Grey/Morris. 29/01/24 It was thought the overall reply unsatisfactory and would pursue the meeting with Env. Agency.

26<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Garden House resident had meeting with team from the Environment Agency (2 x Field Operations officers and an Asset Performance officer) Parish Cllr Norman also attended. The resident showed the layout, present condition, damage that had been caused and further proposed threat of the river if left in its present condition in relation to his property. He requested that the river be maintained and further investment in better drainage and ponds.

Cllr Norman took the E.A. team to see 2. Willow Cott. and meet the resident. The general terrain, flood plain and ditches were all noted.

Conclusion of this meeting: It was agreed that the Environment Agency should be maintaining the river Alde at Rendham and will be updating their records accordingly. The E.A. budget for the area will be looked at (additional work at Saxmundham was presently being carried out), if the budget for 2024 allows it was proposed that a 'cut and clear' would be scheduled for September/October 2024.

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## Rivers and waterways who is responsible:

### Information from the Environment Agency and Suffolk County Council guidance notes and present regulations:

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Guidance notes issued by DEFRA to the regulatory agency (Environment Agency) require that the (E.A.) carries out maintenance, improvement or construction work on a '**main river**' to manage flood risk. A main river is the responsibility of the E.A. The river Alde is designated a '**main river**' by the Environment Agency and shown on their main river map (published 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017).

The E.A. publish, updates and amends the river map and carries out works with regard to Sect 193E of the Water Resources Act 1991, whereas Lead Local Flood Authorities (for Framlingham ward it would be Suffolk County Council), District Councils and Internal Drainage Boards carry out work on 'ordinary watercourses'- those not designated by 'main river' map.

Within the guidance notes under the heading Factual Changes, the E.A. amends sections of the main river map to reflect changes in the environment or to correct inaccuracies. These changes only correct the line of the main river and do not change who has legal power to carry out flood risk management work. The E.A. must publish notices of proposed factual changes (1.1) and consider contacting landowners when the map is being amended to show the correct course of a culvert. (1.2)

Any work to be carried out on a 'main river' will be carried out by the E.A. otherwise a permit/permission is needed to work on river or flood defence including flood plain/defence. There are charges to obtain flood risk activity permits. There are cases where a permit is not needed however you must check if the necessary activity is exempt and read the conditions that need to be met, these will be found under: **[www.gov.uk/](http://www.gov.uk/) Flood risk activities: Environmental permits.**

\*You must register for the exemption.

\*Meet the requirements in the description and conditions for that exemption.

\*Check for protected species.

\*Apply for a bespoke permit if outside standard rules of exemption/exclusion.

\* Risk assessment and management plan may be required.

\* Emergency work: You can work without applying for a permit to manage the impacts when there's an imminent risk of serious:

Flooding.

Damage to or preventing land drainage.

Harm to the environment.

But you must write to the E.A. as soon as possible afterwards, explaining what happened and what you did.

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### **Riparian ownership of a watercourse.**

You normally own a watercourse that:

\*runs next to or through your land

\*on the boundary of your land, up to its centre. The deeds to your property will indicate ownership. Check the **main river map** for main river designation. (find on google: main river map uk).

Suffolk County Council have published a guidance booklet on riparian ownership. [Suffolk.gov.uk/riparian ownership](http://Suffolk.gov.uk/riparian%20ownership) explaining the rights and responsibilities of riparian owners.

**Definition of a watercourse.** Any channel through which water flows. River, Brook, Leat, Stream, Ditch, Drain, Cuts, Goyle, Culverts, Dykes, Passages, Sewers (other than public sewers within Water Ind. Act 1991).

**Dealing with blocked/flooded ditches.** Watercourses typically found along the borders of land or property to assist in the drainage of surface water may become blocked, overgrown, and in bad cases may even cause flooding. It is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure the watercourse remains clear and does not cause nuisance. If the landowner has neglected to clear the blockage after being notified of the issue, it can then be reported to the Lead Local Flood Authority (Suffolk County Council).

Useful addresses:

Environment Agency: Icen House, Cobham Rd, Ipswich. IP3 9JD. Tel: 0370 8506506. ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk))

Suffolk County Council: Lead Local Flood Authority. Individual/Team name. Riverside, 4 Canning Rd, Lowestoft. NR33 0EQ. ([www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)).

Chartered Institute of Water & Environment management: [Tel:020 7831 3110](tel:02078313110).  
Email: [frontofhouse@ciwem.org](mailto:frontofhouse@ciwem.org)

Internal Drainage Board: ([www.ada.org.uk](http://www.ada.org.uk)).