

Puddletown River Piddle Update

Report by Richard Green - Flood Warden
October 2023



October 2023 // Puddletown Flood Wardens Report

October has been a busy month for me as we approach the winter months and more unpredictable weather.

September saw wetter than average weather, and that combined with the unprecedented amount of weed in the river, caused a potential flooding issue on 20th September that we quickly managed to control before it caused any issues. (As highlighted in last months report)

Two representatives from the EA helped me to partially clear the weed by hand that evening, but unfortunately the EA were reluctant to take any further action or responsibility to clear the river completely and 2 out of 3 of the bridges arches were still blocked with weed.

DC removed over 16 tonnes of weed from the river on 2nd October as a matter of urgency. I believe EA did agree to foot the bill for this in the end.

I am happy to report the river is now clear, flowing beautifully and river levels remain low for the time being. Let's hope it stays that way!



Flood Prevention + Solutions

Ditch Clearing by The Blue Vinny

I personally cut back overgrowth and cleared the ditch by The Blue Vinny on 30th October. This is an urgent flood prevention method that needed to be completed ASAP as a weather warning of heavy rainfall has been forecast for the coming week. DC had been asked if they could clear it, but there is a dispute over who's responsibility the ditch is - DC / Highways or The Blue Vinny.

Clearing the ditch is a hugely effective flood prevention strategy, and reduces the effects of flooding on The Moor if regularly maintained. Therefore this was a task I felt obliged to ensure was carried out.



Storm Drains

Storm drains along The Moor must be kept clear at all times, especially from Oct-March when flooding is more likely. I liaised with the council regarding this matter in January and they were cleared, but will likely need annual maintenance. I will liaise with them again and raise this on the DC online portal.

Sandbag Store

The sandbag store has historically been at the Blue Vinny. Earlier in the year the sandbags were removed by DC.

We urgently need the sandbag store to be reinstated as a precautionary measure for the winter months.

We also need to look further into securing an official area for our "Sandbag Store", and any other flood defences. Can I propose that we discuss the possible use of the "old pound" next to the pumping station on The Moor. This would be the perfect place to store sandbags, as it is near to where they are needed the most.

Allocating Funds for flood defences

As Puddletown has a history of flooding, which affects so many residents and properties, I think it would be in our interest as a community to invest in flood defences.

As flood warden in Puddletown I have on several occasions had to build flood barriers using sandbags. Sandbags are not the best solution in our case as they are extremely heavy, slow to deploy and difficult to store.

I strongly believe that having our own flood defence system would be of huge benefit to the village community and to those whose homes and businesses are at risk from future flooding events.

As flooding is an ever increasing issue for Puddletown, I request that the Parish Council consider my proposal to allocate funds to subsidise the purchase of a flood defence system for our village.

I have researched what I believe would be the best, most cost effective solution for our needs. This type of flood barrier is lightweight & quick to deploy, this system can be connected and deployed rapidly by just one person. It also requires minimal storage - units stack neatly, and many fit to a single pallet.

I have obtained 3 quotes which have been sent to the Clerk for your consideration.

Milom Lane Flooding

A resident reported flooding across the road on 26th October after ongoing heavy rainfall. This is an ongoing problem which does need addressing. This matter was raised with DC and they will further investigate the cause.