

260303 – Item 16 - FLOODING ON THE A382 AND WRAY VALLEY TRAIL

Councillors will be aware that after a particularly wet January and early February, including **Storms Goretta and Chandra**, there have been multiple incidents of flooding on the A382 and Wray Valley Trail.

Flooding on the A382 has occurred in patches from south of Bradfords to just south of Wray Barton. The road has been closed on a number of occasions, particularly during and following Storm Chandra on 26–27 January, and there have been other occasions where ordinary cars have not been able to get through. It is thought that there was property flooding near Wray Barton. After Storm Chandra, Devon County Council closed the road, but this was several hours after flooding had already made the road impassable to vehicles.

Vehicles became trapped, as many people were not aware of the risks of driving through flood water, posing a significant risk not only to drivers but also to emergency services and vehicle recovery organisations.

The flooding has also been very disruptive for travel to work, school and business, at a time when one of the main routes (the B3212) out of Moretonhampstead has been closed for major repairs.

The Wray Valley Trail has been affected by standing water for longer periods, from opposite the sewage treatment works south towards Wray Barton. This is particularly prevalent around the culvert under the A382.

The Parish Council has previously identified drainage issues in these areas as a priority for the Local Highways Officer. Poor drainage also leads to ice forming in cold weather and faster deterioration of the road surface.

There have also been drainage issues and surface water lying for prolonged periods on the A382 towards Chagford, with large potholes opening up on this stretch.

Lustleigh Parish Council has also recently discussed flooding on the A382.

After Storm Chandra, the Clerk used Facebook to invite residents to report flooding issues and will report any further issues raised at the meeting. The Clerk reported incidents of flooding on the A382, Pound Street, Doccombe (where properties were flooded), and at Chagford Cross.

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, county councils (and unitary authorities) in England are designated as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for their area. In this role, they are responsible for taking the lead in managing “local” flood risks, which include flooding from surface water, groundwater, and ordinary watercourses (smaller streams and ditches). Their role includes:

- **Investigating flood incidents:** Following significant flood events, they are required to investigate which risk management authorities have relevant functions and

whether those authorities have acted.

- **Asset management and registers:** They must establish and maintain a register of structures or features that have a significant effect on local flood risk, including details of ownership and condition.
- **Highway drainage maintenance:** As the highway authority, they are responsible for maintaining drainage systems on public roads, e.g. gullies.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Moretonhampstead Parish Council:

- Urges Devon County Council to undertake an urgent engineering assessment of ways to reduce flooding in the areas identified and to explore opportunities to clear or improve watercourses with adjoining landowners.
- Asks Devon County Council to consider what actions could be taken to improve their response times to significant flooding incidents, e.g. road closures.
- Provides the Environment Agency with details of the flooding that has occurred this winter and requests information on what flood funding might be available to improve the resilience of the A382, given its critical importance to our community.

2. The Parish Council continues to pass on communications through our comms channels (e.g. from the police or other public bodies) on the risks of driving through flood water and other public safety information during flooding events.

Paper by Cllr Short and Cllr Fileman-Wright

Clerk's Note:

The Clerk has spoken to the Highways Officer, who confirmed that the A382 has been assessed. The Engineering Department has plans to stabilise the stream, while another department has plans to resurface part of the road. However, this work cannot be carried out until the B3212 has reopened. A further team intends to clear the ditches and address tree-related issues.

However, all of this work comes at a significant cost and is therefore unlikely to be undertaken quickly. The Highways Officer has been absent from work but is due to receive an update upon her return, when she will update the Parish Council.

It should be noted that even after all of these works are completed, they may not fully prevent flooding due to the location and topography of the road.