

**Bleasby Flood Action Group's report to Bleasby Parish Council's
meeting to be held on Monday, 13th September**

Flooding risks remained minimal throughout the period since last month's report but the Group is now crystalising its focus on preparations for our "winter flooding season".

The Trent Valley Inland Drainage Board has done an excellent job in clearing our drains during the last fortnight of September. Unfortunately the task of accessing certain drains in the parish has become problematic as a result of access being blocked by timbers across gateways, trees planted in inappropriate places and a certain amount of lack of cooperation – even obstructiveness – by a few land holders!

Action Point – Could the Parish Council make a general plea via its "developing" community communication programme for -

- land owners / holders to ensure that they maintain all access points as well as clear trackways to, and alongside drains that have been adopted by the TVIDB, in both their own and the parish's interest to reduce flooding risks.
- Land owners with drains that have not been adopted by TVIDB (by a rate levy), to ensure that they are clean, clear, unobstructed and flowing.
- Walkers to report any fallen trees or accumulated debris which would impede the free flow of water in the parish drainage network.

The Group is glad to report that, thanks to the PC and Cllr Melton, an arrangement was made for an initial meeting between a representative of TVIDB and the Lead Flood Warden. Consequently their Operations Manager, (Mat Everett), met with Peter Cast to discuss our concerns and to explore strategies for reducing flooding risk within the parish and, with special reference, to Station Road properties. This proved to be a very positive and potentially productive meeting and it was agreed that the flood amelioration strategies offered by FAG were worthy of further investigation and that the Drainage Board engineers would be consulted to investigate the feasibility of two out of the three strategies discussed.

Action Point – A letter of thanks to the TVIDB for providing the opportunity to discuss Bleasby PC's flooding concerns and to consider the feasibility of potential flood amelioration strategies.

On Friday, 10th October, two representatives of the Environment Agency visited the Jubilee Ponds to assess the site's suitability for a proposed monitoring programme. They inspected and recorded the ingress of fly-ash into Holme Dyke from the adjacent restored farmland and considered the impact of flooding into, and out of, the carp fishery. At times of flood, back-flow causes Holme Dyke to overflow into the Jubilee Ponds, thereby introducing pollutants and alien fish stock. Alternatively, high water-table levels and heavy continuous rain causes

the ponds themselves to flood, with the consequent loss of very valuable carp fish stock. The Bleasby Carp Syndicate believe that a barrier/bund needs to be created to address this matter.

Action Point – the Parish Council is presented with a number of issues relating to these matters.

- Could any further discussions with the Inland Drainage Board please take account of the need to redirect fly-ash flows away from Holme Dyke?
- The potential pollution of the Ponds from fly-ash needs to be investigated and remedied. It may not be a serious pollutant but any build up in Holme Dyke would certainly impede its flow and thereby add to flooding risk. The continued efficiency of the TVIDB should avoid the latter scenario.

The need to prevent water entering the Ponds by back-flow along Holme Dyke could be considered an advantage in that the Ponds are thereby acting as floodwater retention ponds.

A barrier to prevent fish being washed out of the ponds would need to be designed so that water can pass in both directions but would prevent the passage of fish stock.

Action Point – Both the Environment Agency and Inland Drainage Board would need to be actively involved in any permanent physical changes that might affect water flow. Discussions between the Parish Council and Bleasby Carp Syndicate to establish an effective compromise should be established before any further flooding occurs.

The Flood Action Group are holding meetings during early November in order to prepare for the expected winter flooding. Any requests, queries or suggestions from the Parish Council could be taken to these meetings.

Peter Cast, Lead Flood Warden