

Article submitted to The Bridge magazine in November 2021

Harrold Flood Group: The newly-formed Harrold Flood Group are required to do a final round of training on 4th November – a joint exercise with Odell Flood Group – and then we should be operational. We have been given a supply of flood sacks, however it's important that homeowners take responsibility for their own flood protection rather than relying on this; not least because of the speed that the surface water flooding can occur.

Harrold/Carlton Public Flood Camera: We are waiting for the column to be installed for this internet flood camera that will show a view of the road between the main bridge and Carlton – also a view of the flood height board by the bridge. Once the column goes in then we can initiate the camera company to do their install.

Monitoring flooding: If you want to monitor for flooding yourself, then I can send you the links that the borough council use, in addition to their meetings with the Env Agency and emergency services. For example, you can sign up for rainfall updates from the Met Office, Environment Agency Flood Warnings, and check the river level gauges at Turvey and Newport Pagnell.

Borough council S19 Flood Report: As the Lead Local Flood Authority, the borough council has duties under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to investigate a flood event. This investigative report has now been released and covers the flood events (river and surface flooding) from the 23rd December to 26th December 2020 when parts of the borough experienced widespread and exceptional flooding to a level not reached since the Easter flooding of 1998. The purpose of the investigation is to identify the reported impacts and likely causes of flooding, develop informed actions to reduce the risk of flooding in affected locations and/or increase the preparedness of communities for future flood events. This report will be made available in the "Communication" section of our website or on request. In particular, we are pleased to see that the recommendations for Harrold support improvements to the northern flood channel, which the parish council set aside funding for early in 2021.

Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum: After a very long process we are (finally!) at the stage of holding a referendum (vote). The referendum is how the village formally adopts the Harrold Neighbourhood Plan that the borough council will use to help it decide planning applications in Harrold parish. Due to the timing of the referendum (18th November) it's likely to have happened before you read this, which is why we sent information separately to all houses.

Streetlights: The works to upgrade the parish council's 15 streetlights to LED is now complete. With so many lights in varied locations, and with different setups, it's been a complex but satisfying project to complete.

Lych gate latch: The broken latch on the lych gate at St Peter's church has been replaced with a much sturdier replacement – thank you to Councillor Jon Robinson for fitting it so professionally.

Speed sign: The council has purchased a third vehicle activate speed sign for Harrold. You can find these at the New Road end of the village, by the school, and up by the Little Odell junction.

Highways works: The end of October saw disruption on the High St for Highways works to resolve the issue of the flooding of the zebra crossing, to repair the surface outside of the Fish bar, and other carriageway repairs. In September the traffic signals down by the bridge were upgraded. The signalling is now a more intelligent system that learns driver behaviour and can monitored remotely rather than relying on the public to report faults. You'll also be able to have more confidence that the buttons for cyclists/horse riders are working correctly.

Harrold Parish Council Facebook page

If you would like updates on Parish Council activity then please join the Harrold Parish Council Facebook page.

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The next council meeting dates are: 8th December, 12th January and 9th February in the Harrold Centre at 7.30pm.