

GAYTON DRAINAGE ISSUES

JAN/FEB 2021



Flooded garden on Winch Road as photographed 17-01-21
(flood water seemed to be 100% surface water & no sewage).



On 18-01-21 whilst the Winch Road garden was flooded as shown on the previous photograph, this is the main surface water ditch that takes surface water from Back Street, Winch Road and Springvale. It runs roughly due west from the village and starts near the sewage pumping station where the underground surface water pipe crosses Winch Road and discharges at the top of this ditch (just out of shot nearest the camera).

The ditch is maintained by King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board and as can be seen, is very clean and well maintained. The fact that the ditch is running freely with masses of capacity and the outfall is not running anything close to full bore indicates that there may be a problem with the village surface water system. This could be unrelated to the school site discharging into that system. The pump used appears to have been a sludge pump the rubber diaphragms of which allow sludge, slurry and solids up to 40mm or so (depending upon spec), to be pumped. (Update of 03-2-21 – the site manager has assured Gayton PC clerk Sarah Bristow that they would not have caused an issue).

Nevertheless, this is not a finger pointing exercise and it is readily accepted that it may not be the school discharge, but given the village has not previously experienced the sort of surface water flooding seen recently, it is worth investigating.



Winch Road and shows the water as it discharges into the underground pipe and away to the ditch on the previous photo. Again, this ditch is maintained by King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board and as can be seen is clean and well maintained and has masses of spare capacity.

This is the overflow of the main ditch taking water from Gayton Hall parallel with Back Street and out under the road culvert on Winch Road as you head south out of the village towards East Winch. This photo is taken near the junction of Back Street and



The above shows drainage ditches to the west of the village draining Acorn Drive and Lynn Road being cleaned out on 10th November 2020 by Gayton Estate. The amount of silt removal and widening of the channel is clear to see.



The above shows the same ditch post cleaning on 4th January 2021 (the wood in the distance is the one the digger is working alongside in the previous photo).



Photoopposite, taken 02-02-21 shows the ditch running from Gayton Hall to the Winch Road culvert. Again, the ditch is maintained by King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board, it is clean and well maintained and has a lot of spare capacity.

Photos appear to show that the surface water system is working well and KLIDB and private landowners are doing a good job in

maintaining waterways. What appears to be the problem (in terms of surface water drainage), is that water is not able to discharge quickly enough into ditches to drain the village (primarily from Winch Road/Springvale area it seems). A matter to discuss & investigate with NCC Highways and Anglian Water.

Conclusion & recommendations –the photos and captions within this report excludes foul water drainage which is a separate system and different issue. However possible surface water ingress and sewage overflow after/during periods of heavy rain & high groundwater levels need discussion & investigation with Anglian Water. Foul drainage is possibly the more serious issue given health implications of lack of household facilities and/or untreated sewage discharge onto public/private land. The issues with foul drainage are covered in some detail by Gayton resident Charles Muff in his report to Gayton PC and other local councillors of 27/01/21 which should be read in conjunction with these notes. Neither this report, nor that from Mr Muff are claimed to be definitive and proscribing a way forward, rather both are designed to highlight issues and assist Gayton PC in holding the relevant authorities to account and resolving the issues. Our residents deserve no less.

To that end a series of draft recommendations are proposed below which may form the basis of questions and actions going forward. The intention is for PC members to add/remove/redraft and for Gayton PC to agree by majority the questions and actions that are taken forward.

Recommendations:

1. Request that NCC clear all pots/gullies. Many are blocked.

2. Request that NCC camera all the Gayton surface water drains to check for leaks blockages and problems. Footage to be made available to Gayton PC.
3. NCC to make available map of system to Gayton PC.
4. Borough requested to sweep roads to clear verge debris that can block drains.
5. A joint meeting is organised with Grimston & Pott Row PC to understand mutual understanding of issues and perhaps a joint approach to Anglian Water and others.
6. Consider asking James Wild MP to be involved.
7. NCC representatives requested to attend future PC organised public meeting to address drainage issues.
8. BCKLWN (Environmental Health) requested to attend future PC organised public meeting.
9. Anglian Water requested to attend future PC meeting.

Following questions to be asked of AW.

Questions for Anglian Water

1. Can the system cope with the village as it is now and how will it cope with the 150 or so new homes being built or likely to be built at Hall Farm, old Gayton Mill site, Allen's Garage on Lynn Road and site behind, Manor Farm and behind the Rampant Horse? (For PC info, all these developments have specific planning conditions relating to foul drainage and drainage capacity).
2. Has there been investment in the system, are the pumps new and/or in good order and is AW alerted automatically to any breakdowns?

3. Why can heavy rainfall/high groundwater still be an issue if the system has been relined?
4. Why are certain properties still having problems?
5. Can the wet well at the pumping station be enlarged? (Basically, this is the tank at the pumping station into which the village system empties to be pumped away).
6. Is there anything that householders can do to help prevent system breakdowns? (The village was leafleted by AW after the 2018 public meeting and villagers warned of the dangers of pouring FOG (fats, oil and grease) down the drain) and the pump blocking caused by disposable wipes and nappies being flushed. These materials can merge to form dense "fatbergs" which block pipes, pumps and the whole system).

AWBeales 03-02-21