

Drainage Improvement Group End of June 2025

The Natural Flood Management meeting took place during the month and was well attended from residents in the valley.

The meeting was run by Dr Andrew Morsley, who was appointed by bucks Council to investigate the flooding affecting the Warrendene area and to provide NFM solutions for the problem. The meeting covered:

- Meeting with and understanding residents problems from the flooding events in recent years
- Survey of sources of surface/flood water above Warrendene Road
- Liaise with farmers and landowners on flooding prevention
- Formulate and propose NFM solutions for holding back/slowing/stopping surface water flows down Hampden Rd into Warrendene
- Liaison with Bucks Highways for implementation of road drainage improvements

Notes of the meeting were kindly taken by Rosemary Hewitt and subsequently distributed to members of the DIG email distribution list.

Further work is needed by Andrew to develop a complete proposal for Bucks Council and to secure funding for the work. Meanwhile, meetings will be scheduled to hold similar NFM meetings with the residents of Bryants Bottom and North Dean. PaulW has arranged for a DIG meeting with Andrew and Matt Hopkins to discuss points raised by Matt at the NFM meeting on 17th June.

Paul attended a meeting on 25th June between Andrew Raz Embleton and residents of the Valley Rd houses (between Hedgerow and Deeters) that had gardens flooded on 12th May, the day of the hailstorm. It was thought that the flooding occurred owing to poor maintenance of the stream watercourse which runs along the bottom of gardens in lower Friars Gardens. This was proved later when Andrew visited a number houses in Friars and was able to see and record the problems in the watercourse requiring maintenance work. This will be discussed further with DIG and decisions made on how best to move forward with an action plan.

A Friends of the Chalk stream meeting was held during the month at HVVH. At this meeting, attended by several Hughenden Valley residents, Paulw gave a short presentation to attendees on the current Hughenden stream status. The focus of my presentation was to talk about the issues we typically face locally of flooding from the road or stream and also the sewage issues we encounter most winters.

We heard subsequent to the meeting that the planned restoration of the Hughenden Chalkstream may be reduced in scope with effort concentrated only on work on two elements, the ponds in Hughenden Park and also the field below the pumping station. This sounds disappointing.

P Woodford
30 June 2025