

# LECONFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

(Representing the communities of Arram, Leconfield and Scarborough)

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To: Flood & Coastal Risk Management Team

31.12.19

## LECONFIELD – Flood Alleviation Scheme

Following the serious flooding in several parts of Leconfield in 2007, and subsequent near flooding in 2011 and 2012, the alleviation scheme was installed in 2014.

The scheme sought to alleviate some areas from flood risk, but concentrated on the areas North and North/East of the village. It did not address 2 areas of serious flooding - Harthill Avenue and the junction of Old Road/Main Street A164. Since its inception we have had to battle long and hard with ERYC to ensure that the scheme was regularly maintained and kept free from debris.

It is only recently that we had to inform ERYC that the dyke running in the field from the corner of the Recreation Club, down to the corner of Miles Lane and then the dyke on the verge side of Miles Lane actually need to be included in the maintenance plan.

The weaknesses in the scheme are that:

It only covers one side of the village

Due to the fact that this is a rural scheme it picks up debris during prolonged rainfall so quickly blocks the grilles restricting the water flow.

It is only as a result of residents turning out in bad weather to clear these grilles that has avoided flooding since its inception.

What is not helping the scheme is that the contractors who maintain it flail some of the sides and those cuttings then block up the grilles, and the remote control machine they use damages the dyke sides when the ground is soft.

For some reason the sides of the culvert at the end of the scheme before the water enters the twin pipes, is not being cut.

There is still too much water running South West down Old Road from Miles Lane corner, this then runs underground at the side of 31 Old Road and re-emerges at the rear of 16 Harthill Avenue to run through another culvert to Main Street then under Ash Tree Drive to exit at the Culvert at the rear of Arram Road. The point being that this excessive water should run to Miles Lane and into the alleviation scheme, but it is not doing.

The serious bottle neck to the flood risk in the village is at the 750mm box section culvert at Bridge House and this can be helped if more of this water went to the scheme.

(It must also be pointed out that the proposal to build 69 dwellings at Castle Farm and however many more behind the Post office, where their water will run to Bridge House will not only raise the flood risk, but this area is not gaining from the alleviation scheme).

As you can see we have many concerns regarding the flood risk to Leconfield, and we would like to see more liaison with ERYC as to how best the scheme is managed, we have to say that the Alleviation Scheme has been a positive move in attempting to lessen flood risk and it is fair to say that without it the village would have suffered serious flooding since 2014.

We would welcome feedback from this report and we wish to engage in a close working relationship with both ERYC and the Maintenance team to ensure that the ongoing flood risk can be minimised.