

**Ordinary Meeting of Harberton Parish Council
Tuesday 11th June 2024**

Flood resilience in Harberton Parish

Item 9.2 Parish Council response to letter from Harberton residents* *For consideration*

Email received on 25th May 2024

Dear Councillors

The Harberton residents most affected by the 2023 Sept 17th flood are forming a group to look at how we can mitigate the effects of future events

In light of the various investigations, reports and opinions that have been expressed since, I am not aware of any input to the discussion by the landowner of the fields north of Screw Lane.

The farmer agreed in March this year to take mitigation actions to reduce the chance of possible future landslips, but what is the Landowner's position?

Specifically, we need to know:

1 What comments they have to make about the runoff and soil erosion from their land that contributed to the flooding of Harberton Village and pollution of a tributary of the Harbourne River? Do they assume any responsibility?

2 What requests they have made to the tenant farmer to reduce the chances of future incidents?

3 What support they are giving to their tenant farmer to implement the mitigation actions outlined by the Environment Agency in their Soil Assessment Report and Peter Cogley's Screw Lane Drainage report?

4 Do they support the Environment Agency's recommendation that at least parts of these fields should be sown to a long term grass crop to act as a buffer to future events?

5 Will they act upon the Environment Agency's recommendation to adopt stewardship options such as planting trees or other natural flood management measures that could also reduce the risk of severe flooding from this land?

Please can Harberton Parish Council take up these matters directly with the landowner/s. The residents of the village of Harberton, particularly those directly affected by the flooding, deserve assurances that the land owner is supportive of their ongoing concerns.

Lastly what is the Parish Council's position, and how much support can the resident's expect from the Parish Council?

We would appreciate a response prior to the next Parish Council meeting on July 9th when we expect a group of residents will attend

Regards,

David Ellison (on behalf of the residents)