

NW Hampshire Liberal Democrats

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Cllr P. Mutton
156 Old Winton Road
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Flooding on Northern Avenue

Dear Pam

I am concerned about the perpetual flooding of Northern Avenue between the Folly roundabout and the River Anton bridge. As you are no doubt aware this road has flooded at least three times in the past month. This is significant flooding with water regularly covering both carriageways, causing delays to traffic and damaging both sides of the road. More importantly the flood is a road safety hazard with traffic regularly crossing the carriageway to avoid the water and spray reducing visibility to almost zero. The water, mud and spray make the footpath and cycle path on the north side of the road impassable.

This problem has been reported on a number of occasions over the past month by local residents and the borough councillors but to my knowledge no-one has had a response from Hampshire Highways. I emailed Hampshire Highways on 12th November and more recently on 21st November I attempted to report the issue on the council's website. Here I found the problem was reported as resolved. Apart from an automated email reply to my reporting the matter again I have had no response.

On two (possibly three) occasions, including today, contractors worked on Sunday to pump water away. Today I discussed the matter with the contractors as they worked. While their work is to be applauded I hope you agree it is totally inadequate to send someone out after four days to pump the water elsewhere. Spending all day pumping water from one drain to another is not solving the problem. They advised me the flooding is caused by high water levels in the river coupled with inadequate drainage from the road into the river. Their efforts to clear the water resulted in major traffic chaos around the whole northern side of Andover and yet there was no evidence of any attempt by the Highways department to deal with this.

While I accept that recent heavy rainfall has raised river levels this is not the first winter when there has been heavy rain. It is the first time in the twenty four years I have lived in the here that regular unacceptable levels of flooding have occurred. The area between the Folly and Tesco roundabouts is part of the River Anton floodplain, drainage and infrastructure should be able to cope with this. I would be grateful for your reply by return as to what actions have been taken to resolve this flooding, what further actions are planned to ensure no future flooding occurs, and when local residents can expect a permanent solution to this problem.

Yours sincerely

Len Gates
Vice chairman NW Hampshire Liberal Democrats

Copy by email to Cllrs K. Bird and N. Long, Test Valley Borough Council