Another wet day in Fifield - update 30

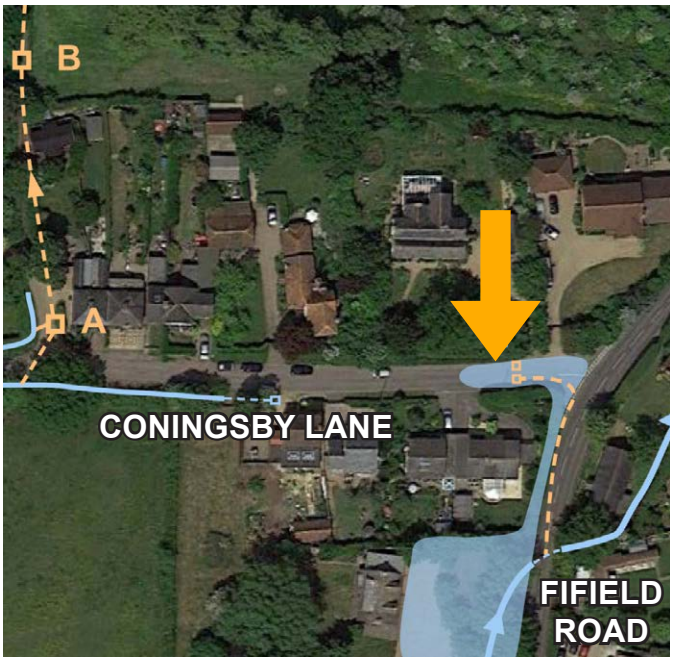
Report on
Heading South in Fifield on Friday 18 June 2021

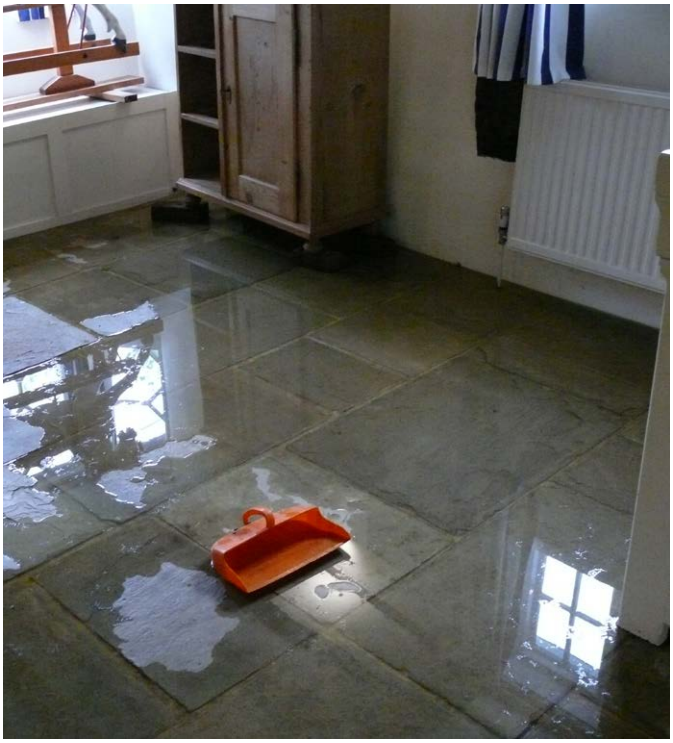
Phoenix Gym - proposed entrance

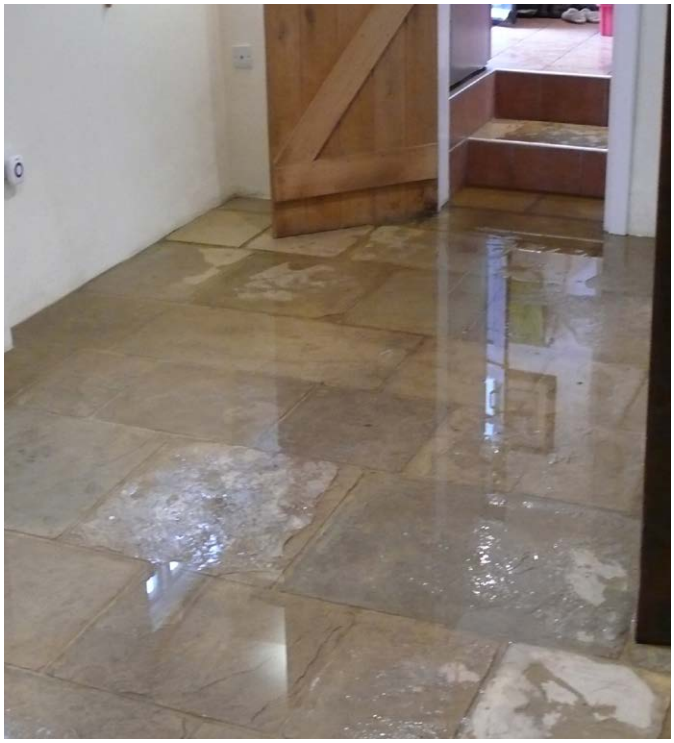
Local Residents had been expressing much concern about several aspects of the work going on at this site. When RBWM investigated it turned out that not only did the traffic lights have no permission but that there had also been no planning application for the temporary building they were planning to erect. Phoenix management said they thought "*it was worth the risk*" ! **OGAFCA** pointed out that the ditch crossing and entrance that was created bore no relationship whatsoever to the approved planning drawings nor any compliance with planning consent conditions. Contractors were instructed to stop work but somehow the pipe they had installed in the ditch got kicked up at one end and consequently blocked the flow heading north out of the village. As the water gradually backed-up southwards into the village the pipe had to be cut out to reinstate the flow.

Coningsby Lane - “wet spot” 4

This “Wet Spot” has benefited hugely from the installation of the new drainage route heading north but the problems have not entirely gone away, Although water no longer gushes down the road to join and enlarge the lake that forms at the junction with Fifield Road water still collects at this low point. Until proved otherwise it is assumed that when the culvert further south is at capacity the pressure causes water to back up into the lane via 2 gullies. The route from these gullies to the culvert is supposed to have one-way flap valves and these are probably silted open. We will discover if this theory is correct when this route gets jetted. Despite the new route heading north there is still sufficient pressure in the groundwater in this area to force water up through the floor of a nearby property. Thankfully this was not as bad as it was in 2001 when 5 inches of water covered the floor. The assumption is that the new route has helped to relieve the groundwater pressure.

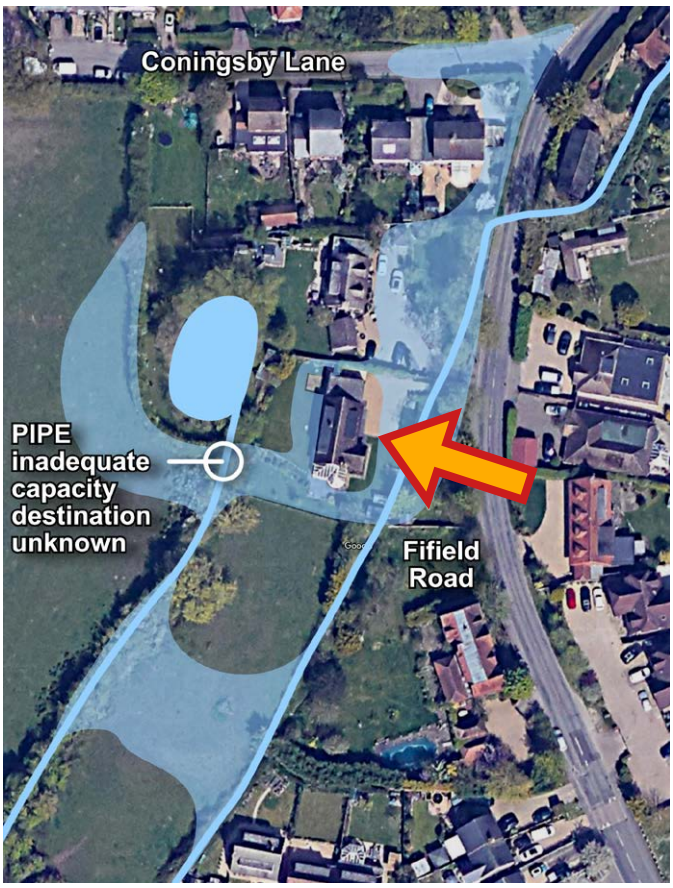






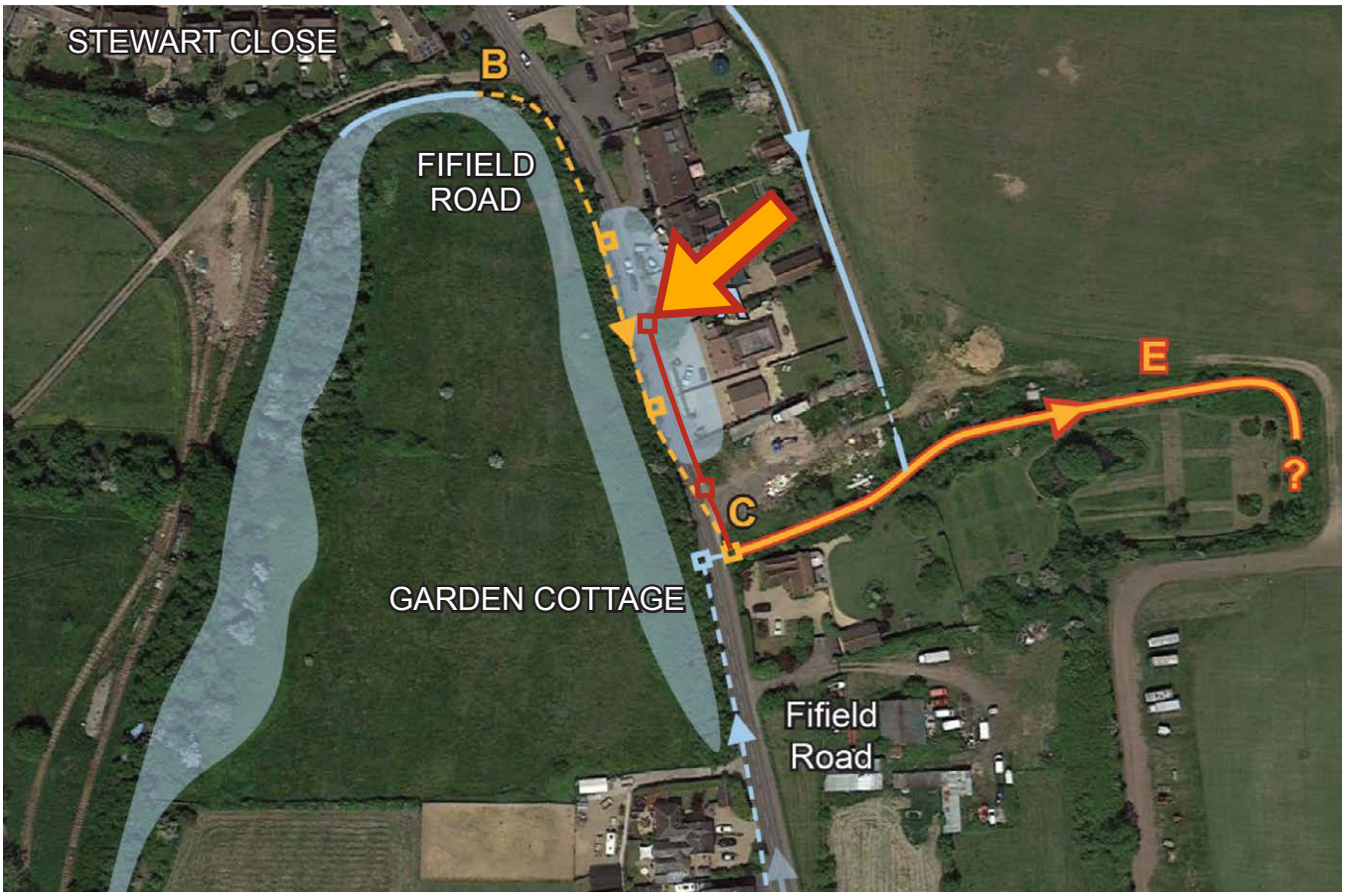
Fifield Road Culvert - “wet spot” 8

A little further south, at the culvert under Fifield Road, Residents of properties at the pinch point of water heading north from the Drift Road all trying to get through the culvert suffer in the way they always do.



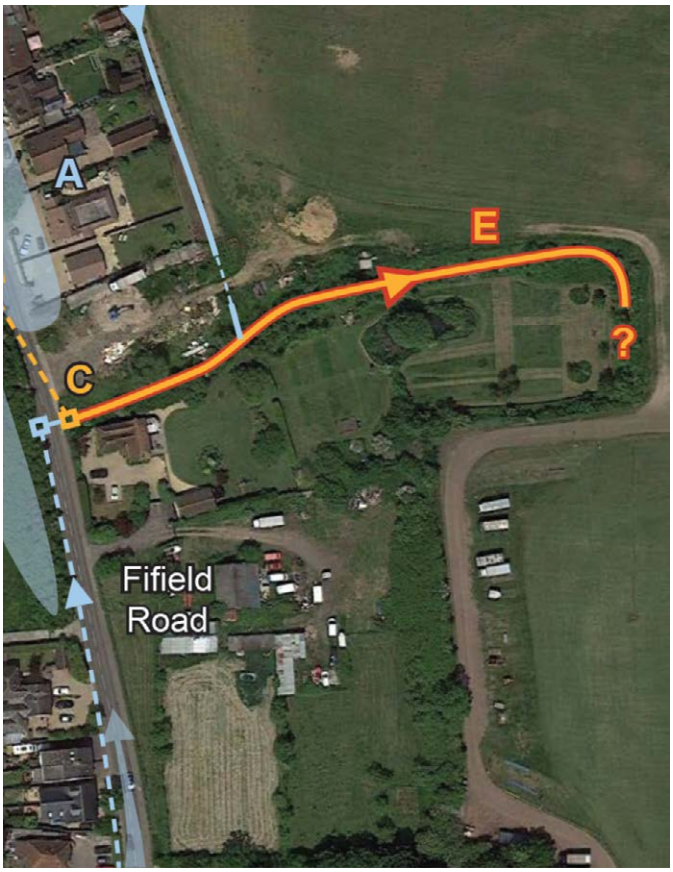
Stewart Close to Garden Cottage - “wet spot” 7

Moving on south through Fifield we pass Stewart Close and arrive at another flood apparently caused by a drain route that has been blocked for a VERY long time but ignored. This route begins at a gully outside the entrance to ***Chesapeak***. I stood in the water just in front of the parked truck below left and looked for signs of escaping water but there was nothing except a very slow and lazy circular drift which suggests that some very tiny volume of water *might* be escaping. The next page illustrates the unfortunate experience of a nearby Resident. All these images rather belie the comment of a local resident on Facebook referring to “so called flooding in Fifield”.



Fifield Road building site - “wet spot” 7

Just a little further south a building project is in progress which includes a crucial ditch taking water away from this area of Fifield. On this day the torrent flowing along this ditch was impressive. But it is very difficult to imagine how the amount of water in this ditch could ever be accommodated by the 600 mm concrete pipes that will be installed to do the same job.



Fifield Inn - “wet spot” 7B

A few more strides further south and the ditch at the Fifield Inn is overflowing again. The pipe under the car park entrance heading north has been blocked for years and although OGAFCA has been flagging it up since 2010 absolutely nothing has been done in 11 years. So when this happens the car park fills until customers can no longer park and water flows along the road heading north. It is true that, as RBWM contractors claim, after a while some of the water finds a gully some of it can get down. But that misses the point that a local business paying substantial rates is severely handicapped.