



Promoting the trading and commercial interests of Bowness, Windermere and the immediate area.

Report on the Flash Flooding on the 30th September 2017 has had on Windermere and Bowness

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Introduction

On Saturday, 30th September 2017, what had started as moderately heavy rain had by 11:30am turned into a torrential downpour for a couple of hours which resulted in localised 'flash flooding' of businesses and residential homes.

At the meeting of The Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade on Tuesday 3rd October 2017, it was agreed that the Chamber should get responses from those affected and compile a report on these effects with the purpose of getting the relevant authorities to deal with the cleaning of roadside gullies and becks of debris before the winter sets in. This is just the beginning of autumn!

It is acknowledged that there was other localised flooding but this report confines its findings to the Windermere and Bowness area and takes into account the comments passed by businesses and residents.

Methodology

A survey was undertaken by email to all members of the Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade, Windermere Town Councillors – through the Clerk to the Council and residents by way of the local radio on the 4th October 2017 asking them the reply to the following questions by the 11th October 2017:

Businesses:

1. Was there water running down your street/outside your property?
2. Your location
3. Were you directly effected, ie
 - a. water came into my property
 - b. water was adjacent to my property
 - c. I had to close my business until the water subsided
 - d. I had to close my business until I mopped up
4. If 3c and 3d affected you, how long were you closed for?

Residential:

1. Was there water running down your street/outside your property?
2. Your location
3. Were you directly effected, ie
 - a. water came into my property
 - b. water was adjacent to my property

Of those surveyed, **17.8%** replied. The replies to above questions have been collated into Table 1 and are combined and in no particular order of preference.

All recipients who answered the survey were sent a "thank you" message.

Background

The Bowness and Windermere area has long been prone to flooding due to a number of facts, some of which are natural and some manmade:

1. the water table being so close to the surface
2. lack of preventative maintenance of the road side culverts
3. lack of clearing the piping between the culverts

4. the lack of debris clearance of the becks at 'pinch points' on the system and at the grills where the becks go under the road.
5. the age of the main water pipes.

Once again there was a major disruption at the junction of Helm Road and Crag Brow, Bowness when the manhole cover in the road was lifted some 2" above the road surface. This is a regular occurrence every time there is heavy rain, therefore it must be concluded that the repair is never good enough!

The Baddely Clock, Lake Road area was once again flood across the road with the emergency services dealing with the problem.

Comments

Table 1

Respondent	Comment
Resident	<p>1. Yes there was water running down the street and outside my property. The water ran down towards the bottom of Thornbarrow Road, LA23 2EW and accumulated on Lake Road junction with Thornbarrow Road.</p> <p>2 My property is The Flat1, 2, Thornbarrow Road, LA23 2EW.</p> <p>3. Yes I was/am directly affected by water coming into my property. Sodden carpets and wet flooring.</p> <p>It came through the floor into the property. It was clean water i.e. not sewage.</p> <p>Something must be done- the water does not get away from the Lake Road "collection" of water and must back up the underground pipes up Thornbarrow Road under the properties as it cannot get away.</p> <p>I have reported to CCC about this but have heard nothing yet. I have had a builder to look at my property and he says there is no problem with the building it must be the pipes underneath.</p>
Resident	<p>The water was running down his path way into his garden from the beck alongside the Police Station. Beck needs to be cleared of branches etc by the grey metal grill before it goes under the road. Water also running down the steps of the War Memorial in torrents.</p> <p>Gullies in that area are blocked with leaves and gunge.</p>
Resident	<p>The water was running down her path way into his garden from the beck at the back of a listed building adjacent to the War Memorial. Beck needs to be cleared of branches etc by the grey metal grill before it goes under the road. Water also running down the steps of the War Memorial in torrents.</p> <p>Gullies in that area are blocked with leaves and gunge.</p>
Business	<p>The beck which crosses Rayrigg Road opposite 'Laundrama', had built up spouting water 300mm high over a width of 3m. This over flow ran north towards Rayrigg Road Car Park. The water was deep enough to overtop the curb stones. Had to open the 3 gully covers in front of the property to help take the water away – gullies blocked as was the one outside the John Peel Pub. This action took approximately 50% of the flow the remainder ran through my car park and into the beck at the lowest point.</p> <p>The pipe or gulley under Rayrigg Road has been observed, during previous flooding, to be running totally full and overtopping when the</p>

	<p>manhole cover was lifted. Road was flood across its width at this point.</p> <p>Public sewer runs at the back of the property and is only 100mm in diameter. This pipe apparently takes the full flow from the Rayrigg Road Car Park toilets 6 wc's) together with the B&B, the chip shop, Laundrama and kitchen, the John Peel Pub and its kitchen. In times of heavy rain a lot of top water, causing sewage flooding and flooding of the B&B utility room. This has only occurred within the last 4 years!</p> <p>Flooding has now occurred at Holly Cottages on 3 separate occasions, each time causing damage and insurance claims.</p>
A very concerned resident	<p>The simple truth of the matter is that the council do not keep the drains clear; they are too busy screwing up other stuff, and thinking of ways to get more money from people to cover their pension schemes. But don't worry the council where I came from is just as useless and wasting millions on idiotic ideas and not maintaining what they have.</p> <p>The drains in Windermere have been blocked ever since I moved here 3 years ago, and I have never seen a drain clearing wagon. After the last floods they said they where clearing the drains but never did. We have a lake in windermere every time it rains but still the council don't unblock the drains.</p> <p>But they have plenty of money to close the parking near the river so they can charge you to park elsewhere, plenty of money to surround it with huge rocks which I am certain cost in the tens of thousands. Money to get elf and safety to do a report to close it after failing to gain support of the local people to use it as a recreational facility, really we can see corruption when it is that obvious, and when businesses close because of lack of parking they'll wonder why the shops are empty and probably increase business rates to close more businesses as happened where I came from.</p> <p>You just need to accept problems are caused by the inept, illogical idiocy of councils around the country.</p> <p>I won't leave my name as councils use their power against people who speak out against them as I have found out to my cost.</p> <p>Yours sincerely. Someone who has lost all faith in councils.</p>
Resident	<p>I live at the end of Limethwaite rd at the bottom of School Knott Drive. We have experienced problems over the last few years with a drain that overflows and floods the road etc. However over the past 2 years this has got worse and the grass, footpath etc now floods which traps elderly neighbours within their homes. On Saturday the water was creeping up over people's doorsteps and so I went on SLDC's website for advice. I rang the Floodline number and spoke to someone from the environment agency. She informed me there were no flood warnings in place. I asked her if there was anywhere I could get some sand bags from as the ones previously left by the council had disintegrated. She said she would note my call and email CCC but she feared it would go unanswered as there would be no one there on Saturday. She gave me a number to ring but also issued the previous advice about no one responding because it was Saturday. I emailed SLDC to report the sand bags and explain the issues and questioned what use it was having a flood line number which only operates Monday to Friday.</p> <p>I appreciate that it was unexpected and resources were deployed</p>

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	<p>elsewhere where there was greater damage but it seems like a lot of the flooding could have been prevented if drains were clear and known problem areas had sandbags or knew where they could access them from.</p> <p>It's only the beginning of October and the drains are unable to cope. What have they been doing all summer?</p>
Chamber of Trade Member Windermere	<p>Dear Adrian</p> <p>Am very pleased that a report is being put together. There is just not enough being done, sweeping the streets and gutters should be a weekly occurrence (always used to be).</p> <p>Not seeing enough of this on the main highways or side roads. Most of the drains on Birthwaite Road for example are blocked up, same on Rayrigg Road.</p> <p>I sent some pictures to Cllr. Ben Berry on Saturday showing blocked drains on Birthwaite and the flooding on Rayrigg Road.</p> <p>We weren't affected by the heavy rains but it only took a few hours to flood many areas that really shouldn't flood.</p> <p>We are aware that we live in mountains and we can't compete with nature but if the basics are covered by the highways department, we may stand a better chance.</p> <p>Hope these pictures help, a couple of drains on Birthwaite, completely blocked and the big puddles at the bottom on Rayrigg Road.</p>
Chamber of Trade Member Bowness-on-Windermere	<p>Hi Adrian.</p> <p>Thankfully we did not have any water ingress, but the roads were closed so our guests could not arrive as planned, our pathway and road outside was flooded. I had only said to Dave the week before that we have had such a wet summer, we will flood so easily when the rains come, and they will come..... we need to be prepared people are only just recovering from storm Desmond</p>
Resident	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was there water running down your street/outside your property? yes 2. Your location - Thornbarrow Road, Windermere 3. Were you directly effected, ie <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. water came into my property - No b. water was adjacent to my property – Yes c. I had to close my business until the water subsided – No d. I had to close my business until I mopped up - No 4. If 3c and 3d affected you, how long were you closed for? N/A
Chamber of Trade Member Bowness-on-Windermere	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was there water running down your street/outside your property? - YES 2. Your location – Brantfell Road 3. Were you directly effected, ie <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. water came into my property - No b. water was adjacent to my property - Yes

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	<p>c. I had to close my business until the water subsided - No</p> <p>d. I had to close my business until I mopped up - No</p> <p>4. If 3c and 3d affected you, how long were you closed for? – N/A</p>
Chamber of Trade Member Bowness-on-Windermere	We didn't suffer flooding as such, but the stream running through our grounds overflowed causing the potential to flood had it continued to rain for longer. We also have the issue of the drains on Kendal Road opposite Brackenfield not being able to cope with the amount of water that came down, which then causes problems for us at our front door, so the guests have to wade through water to get in as the drop curb into the our drive and the Burnside Hotel drive has no protection from the water running down Kendal Road straight into our drive.
Chamber of Trade Member Bowness-on-Windermere	Only affected by water rushing down road and drains not coping.
Chamber of Trade Member Bowness-on-Windermere	<p>Hi Adrian,</p> <p>We had a shallow in flood in the cellar, Ash Street generally was awash, and it wasn't pleasant water!</p>
Resident	<p>Sue Jackson has passed your email to me (I work for Heart of the Lakes)</p> <p>My home flooded again this Saturday (we were also flooded in Storm Desmond). I do have some pictures if you wish to see them, I live at Sunny Brae, Brook Road, Windermere.</p>
Chamber of Trade Member Bowness-on-Windermere	<p>Dear Adrian</p> <p>I have been forwarded your email regarding the flash flood on Saturday, our attraction tearoom was effected by this which left us closed due to the whole tearoom being flood and us having to scoop out the water, we didn't take photos as this was an after-thought as our priority was to keep the water from raising to a level that would damage our appliances.</p>
Chamber of Trade Member & Resident	<p>The A591 was flooded at Bannerigg, Troutbeck Bridge and at other locations as happens in times of heavy rain over a number of years and Cumbria Highways has not dealt with this problem or kept gullies clear.</p> <p>Lake Road and Rayrigg Road were flooded in a number of places due mainly to blocked drains.</p> <p>All this affected bus services and vehicular traffic of both residents and visitors.</p> <p>The fire service was out clearing drains which should had been done by the highways department.</p> <p>Manhole covers were being lifted by the volume of water running through the drains including Limethwaite Road/ Fairfield Road, Lake Road/Thornbarrow Road, Lake Road/Helm Road creating problems for traffic and pedestrians.</p> <p>Blocked gullies appear to be the main problem with rain water unable to get away before the heavier rain fall came. The highways authority should be held to account why the gullies have not been cleared as they have been informed on a number of occasions about blocked gullies</p> <p>The surface and foul water drainage in the roads appear to be inadequate to deal with the volume of rainwater and this should be rectified. United Utilities should explain what the problem is and how it is to be resolved.</p> <p>Also a number of the becks/streams in the Windermere and Bowness</p>



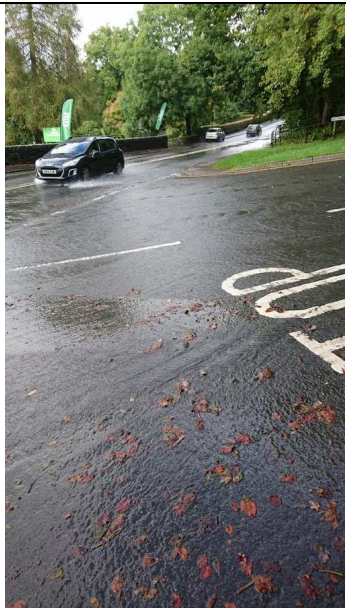



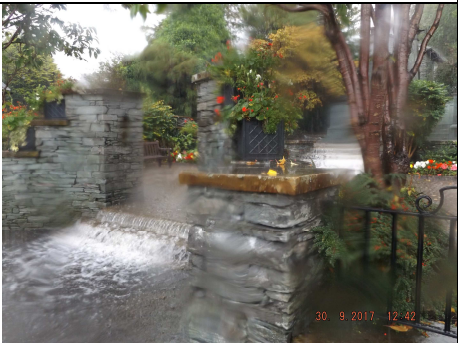


	<p>areas overflowed causing flooding as by the Bathe House on Lake Road was this due to culverts and streams not being cleared is this the responsibility of the Environment Agency as well as adjoining land owners.</p> <p>Any future new buildings whether commercial or residential should be required in the Windermere and Bowness area should be required to have sewage treatment plants and rainwater harvesting to reduce the pressure on the current surface and foul water drainage systems which are not able to cope in these downpours this should be dealt with by the LDNPA.</p> <p>These floods have affected some properties with flooding both commercial and residential and indirectly everyone in the disruption of travel.</p>
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Conclusions

1. Cumbria Highways Authority have to justify why gullies have not been cleared and issue a timetable of clearing and road sweeping for the area so that residents and businesses can see if this has been adhered to.
2. United Utilities to explain what the problems are with the surface and foul water drainage systems and how these are going to be improved and the timetable for this.
3. The LDNPA should introduce a policy to help alleviate the problems with drainage where by all new properties have to provide sewage treatment plants and rainwater harvesting facilities.
4. The Environment Agency to address the constriction points on the streams and culverts and have a programme of inspection and clearance of these.
5. County Highways Authority to clear the pipes under the roads between the road side gullies in order to give a free flow of water. In a lot of cases because these are not cleared, this is cause of the overflows.
6. Action needs to be taken to get the Minister, Michael Gove, MP to release the £25million allocated to South Lakes for flood defences following the December 2015 floods. Not a single thing has been built yet and businesses, residents, and motorists need the assurance that action will replace words. It is accepted that a large proportion of this money would go to Kendal, Staveley and Ings but Windermere and Bowness need a substantial amount to stop this continued flooding of the area.

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Photographs of Flood Areas

 <p>Birthwaite Road</p>	 <p>Birthwaite Road</p>	 <p>Rayrigg Road</p>
 <p>Rayrigg Road</p>	 <p>Blocked Drain</p>	 <p>Rayrigg Road</p>
 <p>War Memorial, Bowness</p>	 <p>Droomer Drive, Windermere</p>	 <p>Lake Road/Thornbarrow Road, Bowness</p>

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War Memorial, Bowness



Lake Road, Police Station



Blocked Drain, Helm Road, Bowness



Blocked Drain, Helm Road, Bowness



Blocked Drain, Helm Road, Bowness



Blocked Drain, Helm Road, Bowness



Blocked Drain, Crag Brow, Bowness



Blocked Drain, Crag Brow, Bowness



Blocked Drain, Crag Brow, Bowness