



SAXLINGHAM NETHERGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs J King
22 Henry Preston Road
Tasburgh
Norwich
NR15 1NU
Tel: (01508) 470759
e-mail: saxlinghamnethergatepc@gmail.com

The Environment Agency
Eastern Region

7 January 2021

Re: Saxlingham Nethergate: 'Main River' watercourse from The Street to the River Tas

I write to inform you that the river bank retaining walls of this watercourse adjacent to 1 Cargate Lane disintegrated in the flood on the night of 23/24 December and many of the timbers that formed the retaining walls have been washed away. Some of the timbers have formed a serious obstruction of the river channel as indicated on the attached photograph that was taken from The Street looking downstream to the west and some have lodged in various other places downstream.

The obstruction to the river channel has created a potentially serious impediment to the flow of the watercourse and has created a flood risk to properties upstream, two of which were flooded on the night of 23/24 December. The Parish Council asks that the Environment Agency, as the body responsible for the maintenance of the watercourse, takes the necessary steps to secure the removal of the timbers that are creating the obstructions and restore the river bank at 1 Cargate Lane to the condition it was in before the retaining walls were constructed. In this context you may wish to know that we have topographical survey plans of the watercourse as it was before the retaining walls were constructed behind the houses fronting the eastern end of Cargate Lane and these can be made available to you.

The Parish Council understands that the retaining wall was constructed by the owner of 1 Cargate Lane without any formal approval and that the Environment Agency retrospectively approved the works.

On the night of 23/24 December The Street in the village became a river with unprecedented volumes of water flowing down it and turning into Cargate Lane which was also partly flooded. The Parish Council believes that the flooding can be attributed to the lack of maintenance over many years of the ditch that runs alongside The Street and the watercourse from The Street to the River Tas. The watercourse is the responsibility of The Environment Agency and the Parish Council asks that in addition to removing the obstructions referred to above the length of the watercourse should now be properly maintained.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Julie King', with a large loop at the start and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julie King, Clerk
Saxlingham Nethergate Parish Council