



Highways Operation Centre
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Mrs Clare Cotterell
Via email to:
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Enquiries to
Direct Line
Date

Highways DMT Correspondence Team
19 March 2020

My reference 7065964
Your reference
Email Ete.dmtsupport@hants.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Cotterell,

Flooding and the Maintenance of Ditches and Drains

Thank you for your correspondence to Stuart Jarvis on behalf of Houghton Parish Council with regard to flooding and the maintenance of ditches and drains. I have been asked, as Highway Manager for the area, to respond on his behalf.

We are all sympathetic with the problems being faced by the residents of Houghton Road and have been working hard to establish the root cause of them. In addition, we have also made alternations to the highway drainage in the area, which has helped the situation.

As highlighted in your letter, blockages to drainage ditches are certainly exasperating the flooding problems in this area and our investigations have identified two specific ditches impacting on the flooding situation. As you may be aware, the maintenance of ditches within the highway is generally the responsibility of the adjacent landowner; this is also the case where the ditch crosses private land. Accordingly, we have therefore sent requests to the appropriate landowners to clear the ditches identified as causing flooding issues.

It is understood by Hampshire Highways that one landowner has undertaken this work as requested, however, we will continue to pursue the second landowner. If necessary, and having followed the established legal process, the matter will be referred to our legal team for enforcement, although, this can, unfortunately, take considerable time if the landowner continues to be uncooperative.

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I hope this information reassures yourself and the Parish Council that the matters are in hand and continue to be addressed.

Yours sincerely,



p.p Richard Bastow
Highway Manager – South & West
Hampshire County Council