



FLOODS – October was a terrible time for the family’s who live on Uttoxeter Road, Hilton and at Sutton Mill (Sutton on the Hill). Floods aren’t new, we had big floods in 2000 and again in 2012, we will almost certainly have floods again in the future.

There have been a number of positive things that came out of the response to the floods, I was very impressed with Mark Coney’s Parish Council team of volunteers (Chris, Sandra and Rachael), who spent time before the flood manually clearing drains (with the help of a couple of other local residents, including one of Mark’s sons), distributing sandbags and new aqua sacks, advising residents, setting up signs and later helping prevent motorists from getting stuck in the flood waters. We also saw SDDC Environmental Health Officers out on the night distributing extra sandbags.

Jayne and myself, also visited Sutton Mill after the floods and heard of how many local farmers and neighbours had rallied around to help limit the damage on the night, although the sight of the collapsed culvert that led to a massive amount of water entering the Mill even a week after the event was shocking (pictured). Again, words of praise for SDDC Environmental Health staff who jumped into the 4-5ft deep hole half full of water to rig up a replacement sewer pipe to keep waste out of the brook.

Along with the positive feelings from locals pulling together, I was also struck on the night by those who had less responsible behaviours, several insisted-on driving through flood waters in their 4x4’s, despite the signs, cones and some of us stood out in the rain. Not only did this risk others in less able vehicles attempting to do the same, but they had no regard for the residents still battling to stop water overtopping sandbags around their doors, this was less than impressive. This was often accompanied by aggressive language towards those out there trying to help residents and keep drivers safe.

My sympathies go to the 3 homes and 1 business in Hilton with flood damage and of course the residents of Sutton Mill. I am impressed by your resilience in the face of adversity, having visited all of you after the event.

If you need assistance with local issues that you think your District Council can help with, then your local Lib Dem team can be contacted via email at Grahame.Andrew@southderbyshire.gov.uk or Jayne.Davies@southderbyshire.gov.uk