

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, PETER MALTBY

During the year considerable progress has been made with drainage and flood risk matters in Somerset with the Drainage Board involved at every level. The work already done on the Rivers Parrett and Tone is proving its worth. We must not be complacent and know full well that the Somerset 20 year flood action plan has a long way to go. For the future there are four key elements that everyone needs to concentrate on.

Firstly – To work with all other drainage/flood risk bodies in Somerset to solve our problems.

Secondly – More dredging at priority sites indicated by our investigations.

Thirdly – Improving the Sow King Sedgemoor Drain system. This is underway with new culverts under the A372 at Beer Wall already in place and tilting weirs to be fitted this summer followed by widening etc. this autumn and next year.

Fourthly – The Bridgwater Tidal Barrier between Bridgwater and Dunball, the initial investigation contract has now been let.

In addition, an enhanced maintenance programme has been completed in a number of areas that appears to be making a significant difference, particularly in the Penzoy system, Fivehead River, West Sedgemoor and North of Langport.

We are currently 2 years into a 20 year programme that will hopefully make our ratepayers feel more secure to carry on with their businesses and live without fear of flooding in their homes.

Finally, I should like to thank everyone involved with the Drainage Board for their hard work especially the staff who at all times and in all circumstances are polite and courteous.



RIVER PARRETT DREDGING

Following a competitive tendering process the Parrett IDB awarded WM Longreach a dredging contract to remove around 23,700m³ of accumulated silt from a 2.2km reach of the River Parrett. Works started in November 2015 on the site which includes approximately 1km upstream and downstream of Westonzoyland Pumping Station.

About 70% of the material has been deposited on the river banks using a D1 waste exemption and the balance deployed to fields under a mobile plant permit.

The project was funded through the Somerset Rivers Authority and implemented by Parrett IDB using delegated powers to work on the main river under agreement with the Environment Agency.

PAWLETT HAMS WATER SUPPLY

The summer water supply to land in the northern part of the old Bridgwater and Pawlett area (land around Pawlett Hill) is fed via two pipes under the River Parrett from Cannington Brook which is on the south side of the River Parrett and was the old Cannington and Wembdon area.

During a series of spring tides in October 2015 a 100 metre long bank slip occurred to the south side tidal and river banks of the Parrett downstream of Stallingtons Clyce. This slip badly damaged both pipes over an approximate 70 metre length, so much so that the pipe is currently inoperable and will need to be replaced.

The Board is working with a civil engineering contractor, Crestmoor, to develop a repair solution to the damaged section however it will not be possible to have the pipe replaced by this summer's penn as the bank slip will need to be repaired before the pipe can be replaced. The Board is investigating options to see if it is possible to put a temporary solution in place as quickly as possible to provide penning this summer.

BEER WALL PHASE 3 CHANNEL EXCAVATIONS

The Environment Agency (EA) will shortly commence the final phase of the works at Beer Wall. This will involve excavating new channels to link the new culverts under the road to the Langacre Rhyne and the River Sowey.

This will generate a substantial quantity of excavated peat which will need to be removed from site. The EA would like to ask any landowner that is interested in receiving some of this material on their land or for other approved uses to make contact with them to discuss options, subject to necessary permissions being in place.

Contact should be made with Mr Bren Hodkinson at the EA on 0203 0254107.

**Bradbury House
33-34 Market Street
Highbridge TA9 3BW**

Tel: 01278 789906

Fax: 01278 792914

Email: admin@somersetdbcs.co.uk



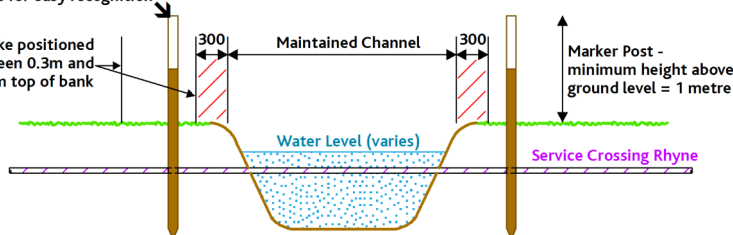
CHANGE OF LAND OWNERSHIP

The Board would like to take the opportunity to remind rate payers that when there is a change in land ownership, the Board must be informed of the changes. This allows the Board to keep its information up to date and provide accurate drainage rates.

Fig. 1 - Diagram showing acceptable way to mark services crossing maintained rhynes SEE NOTES BELOW

Use 3" to 4" round wooden fencing stakes driven securely into the ground and marked white for easy recognition

Stake positioned between 0.3m and 1.0m from top of bank



Notes:

The Board will not usually grant Land Drainage Consent for services to cross watercourses.

Where existing services do cross watercourses and the Board has chosen not to enforce the removal of the crossing the Board requires that all services are marked as shown in figure 1 above.

Marking service locations in this way will help reduce the risk of damage or loss caused by the Board's contractors while carrying out channel maintenance.

The service owner should check the marker post annually and renew or re-paint as necessary.

The Board or its contractors will not be held responsible for damage to any services that are not clearly marked or have not been consented.

MINEHEAD WORKS

The Parrett Drainage Board has been working to reinstate rhynes and attenuation ponds in Minehead after years of no maintenance. The watercourses and ponds, off Seaward Way in the town, have not been maintained for a number of years, partly due to limited funds. Given the importance of maintenance in reducing flood risk an agreement was reached between West Somerset Council and the Drainage Board to joint fund the work. In the autumn pioneering work was undertaken to part clear years of reed growth from two large flood attenuation ponds. Over the winter further work was completed to clear adjoining rhynes, by hand, due to there being no machine access due to development encroachment in the maintenance strips. Future years work under the same joint funding agreement will see the condition of these vital drainage channels and ponds improve further and hopefully facilitate improved access.



EXPENDITURE

The Board has resolved to set the rate for the current financial year:

Parrett Drainage Board: 6.449p in the £

TELEMETRY

We now have several water level monitoring stations operating across the Board area. The information is available to us online and used by the Board to adjust structures when needed. This information can be accessed from your own computer and is available on the Consortium website:
www.somersetdrainageboards.gov.uk/operations/telemetry

ENQUIRIES

For general enquiries please call:

01278 789906

(09.00hrs -17.00hrs Mon-Fri)

Out of hours: 07887 687746

Email: admin@somersetdbs.co.uk

www.somersetdrainageboards.gov.uk

For enquiries please contact:

Clerk/Legal: Nick Stevens

Engineering: Iain Sturdy

Finance: Stephen Gee

Rate Collection: Carrie-Anne Porter

Kendra Kingston

Environment: Phil Brewin

Flooding incidents out of hours should be reported to the Environment Agency on:
0800 807060

PROSECUTION

It is an offence, punishable by a fine of up to £5,000, if any person without the consent of the Parrett Internal Drainage Board, interferes with any sluice, or other water control or structure or appliance for controlling or regulating the flow of water in, into or out of a watercourse (Section 66(6) Land Drainage Act 1991). Neither the Axe Brue nor Parrett IDB's will tolerate tampering with Board sluices or structures.

ANNUAL CHANNEL CLEANING

This year the Board will maintain approx. 571.000m (355 miles) of watercourse as part of the annual cleaning programme.

MEETING CALENDAR 2016/17

Dates of the Full Board meetings are:

Tues 21 June 14:15pm

Tues 01 Nov 14:15pm

Tues 07 February 2017 14:15pm

SDBC Annual Meeting 18 October 7pm

Venue to be confirmed

For the complete meetings calendar:

www.somersetdrainageboards.gov.uk

MEMBERSHIP

(all elected members are unpaid volunteers)

District	Member
Allermoor	P Maltby
Bridgwater & Pawlett	M Young
	W Barnard
Cannington & Wembdon	C Day
	J Irish
	A Rowe
Chedzoy	R Horsington
Currymoor	R Barrington
Dunster	A Fewings
King's Sedgemoor	A Bradford
& Cary Valley	B Bryer
	D Vigar
Langport	R Coombes
	M Heywood
	J Lock
	T Stanbury
Northmoor	M Bere
	J Winslade
OMW	P Betty
	M Winslade
Stanmoor	P House
Stockland	C Passmore
West Sedgemoor	G Theed

Appointed Members

Cllr D Alder, R Archer, Cllr A Bown,
Cllr M Caswell, Cllr R Caswell,
Cllr D Durdan, Cllr I Dyer, Cllr A Fraser
MBE, Cllr A Gilling, J Healey,
Cllr S Kingham, J Lang, Cllr M Lewis,
Cllr B Maitland-Walker, Cllr A Moore,
Cllr C Morgan, S Parker, Cllr L Perry,
Cllr J Roundell Greene, D Spicer,
Cllr P Stone, J Taylor & Cllr N Weeks.