

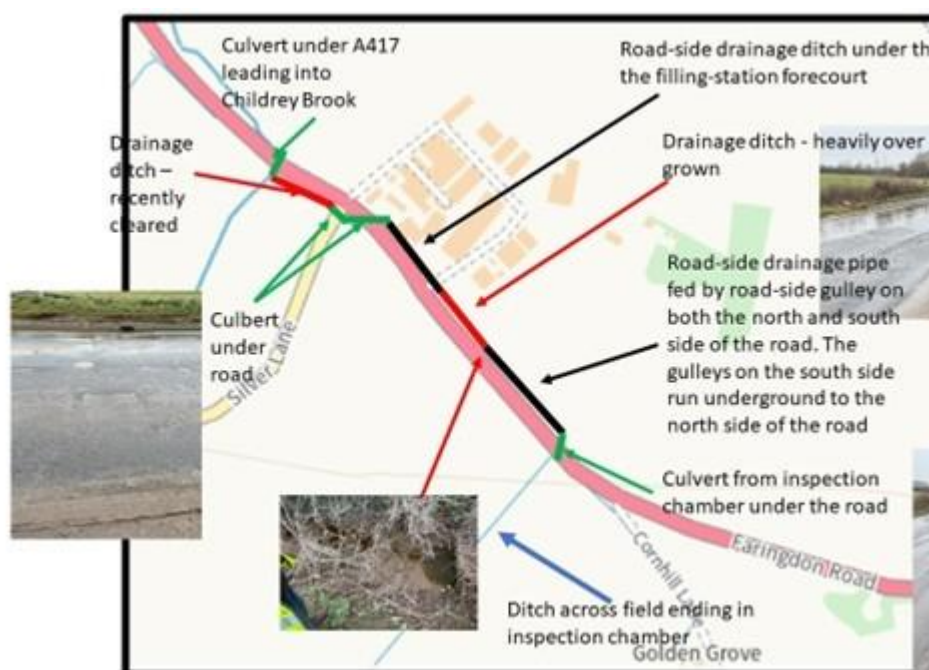
District Councillor Report for Childrey Parish Council May 10th 2025

Flooding on the A417

Part of this awful story has come to a satisfactory end - but only part!

Sometimes the county eventually listens to councillors further down the food chain. I was down there on March 24th with the Future Flood Resilience Group and we talked to two drainage engineers who were investigating the overgrown ditch that runs along the north side of the road and east of Mellor's. They showed us that the direction of drainage was not as we expected (see map pasted in below). The OCC will be clearing out this ditch very soon which should stop water pouring onto the road which can then be resurfaced.

However, I am still concerned about Childrey Brook which in most places is heavily silted.



We had an online meeting between the Vale drainage officers, the county council and the Future Flood Resilience Group last week to try to get everyone to work together towards the same goal. It may be that parish councils will need to get more involved in liaising with landowners who have riparian responsibilities. This is going to lead to further discussions. It is a concern that there is a feeling that officers would rather work on their own without involvement of councillors and a culture change is probably required.

Since then of course the A417 outside Mellors has been resurfaced and they have done a good job. However, water is still leaking onto the road and the gulleys and ditch north of the A417 need clearing again.

Health and Well-being event – The Beacon

On Saturday 27th April a Health and Well-being event took place in The Beacon which was very well attended. This was initiated by the two GP practices in Wantage to try and encourage residents to be

more physically and mentally active as they age – and indeed at any age. This reduces trips to the GP surgery and improves health generally.

Presentations by Future Flood Resilience Group and local policeman Tom Walcott Smith (now Jez Oldroyd).

The Future Flood Resilience Group, the group of councillors and experts looking at the background to the flooding, will make a public presentation on June 10th at 7pm in Letcombe Regis Village Hall have also asked Tom Walcott-Smith to make a public presentation to our villages on the main local problems. This will take place in East Challow Village Hall but we do not yet have a date and will be held by Jez Oldroyd the new community officer. I will keep the Parish councils and villages informed once dates are fixed.

Tourist guide/map

This has been completed and delivered the hard copies to our local pubs and cafes, Wantage museum etc. The Vale will be helping to distribute more widely. I (with support) also attached QR codes to a laminated notice for parish notice boards which will take visitors to the online version.

Childrey Way

This has been repaired at the East Challow end with a Dragon Patcher. Some very temporary emergency repairs have also been carried out using the patched on the A417 near Mellors. We still don't know when the road will be resurfaced.

Road closure (TTROs, Temporary Traffic Restriction Orders).

There will be a several of these coming up as suddenly money is released at the beginning of the financial year but we know that when the money is gone the road work will stop until the next financial year! I will send a list of these coming up in the next month for the website.

Cllr Dr Paul Barrow

Ridgeway Ward

Vale of Whitehorse District Council

May 10th 2025