**Record of the open session with BPC and representatives of Severn Trent held on 20th October 2015**

The County Manager for Warwickshire Mr Pedley was present from Severn Trent along with a colleague. The purpose of his visit was to give an update as to what had caused the flooding/sewerage problems, what had been done and what was going to be done in the future.

He confirmed that it was initially Amey who had done the clean-up and investigations when the incident first arose, this added to the confusion as Severn Trent where being contacted but Amey where doing the site visits.

Since the receipt of the letter composed by Councillor Turner and 3 other complaints it was brought to Mr Pedley’s attention who decided that Severn Trent would take over the investigations.

After their investigations they have found the following:

* The sewage was dumped into a storm drain which runs along Main Street; this was blocked so it was forced into the gulley and ended up on the highway. Then when it rained heavily six days later it caused the waste that remained in the storm drain to be forced out again. Luckily the sewerage did not enter the river due to the Storm drain being blocked. The Environment Agency is aware of this situation.
* The storm drain that the tanker had tipped into is not on any sewer maps so when Amey came to investigate they believed the issue was from the foul drain as when they did their CCTV investigation they did find a foul drain which was blocked so once they had cleared this they believed the problem was solved. Now that the storm drain has been identified it is the responsibility of Warwickshire County Council. Severn Trent has a meeting with the Highway Department in two weeks time so Mr Pedley will discuss their findings with them.
* Severn Trent have checked all trackers on contracted vehicles, this concluded that they were not in that exact area at the time so it was a third party who carried this out. A Guilders lorry was in a road nearby at the time but was on a separate call which had led to reports that Guilders where responsible which is not the case.
* Severn Trent cleansed the storm drain on 6th October 2015 and carried out CCTV inspection and can confirm that all drains are now clear. But the gulley’s will begin to block again from falling leaves, this issue is to be raised with Highways. From their investigations they have identified there to be a shortage of gulley’s along one side of Main Street this is also going to be bought to the attention of the Highways Department.

Looking forward to the future to improve the drainage system and try to prevent this situation happening again Mr Pedley is going to forward the contact details for who would be dealing with this within the Highways department to Councillor Turner so they can be invited to the next parish council meeting to discuss a regular cleaning program to prevent the storm drains being blocked again, installation of further gulley’s along main street to aid the flooding problems that arise after heavy rain.

Concerns from members of the public where raised relating to the clean-up operation being of a very poor standard, properties affected are still left with debris and waste remnants outside their properties. Mr Pedley is going to look into what can be done.

A member of the public expressed their frustration and disappointment on the call management handling of Severn Trent. Mr Pedley is going to look into this and arrange for steps to be put in place to improve this.

A member of the public raised concerns over the smell of sewerage in Marton Road, this has been an ongoing problem for over a year with reports of a broken pipe and blockage outside Brentwood. Mr Pedley said there are chemicals that can neutralise the smell. After the meeting Mr Pedley was going to check the manhole on Marton Road. Another member of the public raised concern over the smell of sewerage coming out of the storm drains in Main Street. Mr Pedley is now going to look into this and arrange for CCTV of the affected areas

Councillor Turner questioned whether there were any legal steps that could be taken with the illegal waste being tipped into the storm drain. Mr Pedley advised that as there was no lasting pollution to the river, the Environment Agency would not take the matter any further.

Mr Pedley will now be our point of contact.