

District Councillor Tom Bygott

More Flood Alerts for Girton

At 7.48am on Friday 7th February, another flood warning was issued for Girton. Thankfully no houses were flooded this time, but it was a very near miss. I checked the water levels at the Oakington Road Bridge that day, and the water was flowing turbulently past the pipes obstructing the front of the bridge, and very nearly up to the top of the arch. Local residents in Fairway told me that at its height, the water was only just below the bund that protects their gardens from flooding, and that water had started to come up through the stormwater grate into the street in Fairway. Once the water fills the channel to the top of the arch, the available capacity under the bridge is full, and it is at that point that the water starts to back up and very quickly rise. 7th February was another near miss, but it is entirely possible that there will be more alerts, and possibly more flooding this winter.

The District Council had a team of staff working over the weekend filling sandbags, as other villages also had flood warnings issued. It has set up an area on its website to provide advice and emergency contact numbers (business hours 03450 450 063, out of hours 01253 501 055): www.scambs.gov.uk/content/flooding. The Environment Agency also runs Floodline, whose number is 0845 988 1188

Andrew Lansley Supports Replacement of Oakington Road Bridge

Our local MP, Andrew Lansley, has added his name to those calling for the bridge to be replaced. He has been to visit affected houses in Girton and has been monitoring the situation closely. He says: 'My sympathies are with those residents in Girton whose houses have been flooded, or threatened with flooding, several times over the past 18 months. We need to ensure that adequate flood protection measures are put in place to protect lives and property. The project to replace the Oakington Road Bridge in Girton has my full support, and I will be calling on the Environment Agency and the County Council to ensure that Girton receives a fair level of funding towards that project.'

New Post Office Site at the George Inn

A consultation has just finished regarding the new Post Office located at the George Inn at 71 High Street. A number of concerns were raised during the consultation, such as parking and accessibility for disabled and elderly people. In response to this there are plans to fit a handrail at the entrance of the building to help people over a small lip at the threshold. Internally there is a low-level writing desk and space for a wheelchair. The Post Office opening times are 9.30–12.30 from Tuesday to Friday.

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