

Mayors Diary Boroughbridge - Feb 27th 2017

Well the week started off reasonably quiet but expensive as Nell decided to pinch my spec's and whilst running proudly around the house she managed to damage the lenses. So a trip to the opticians. Must keep those doors shut!

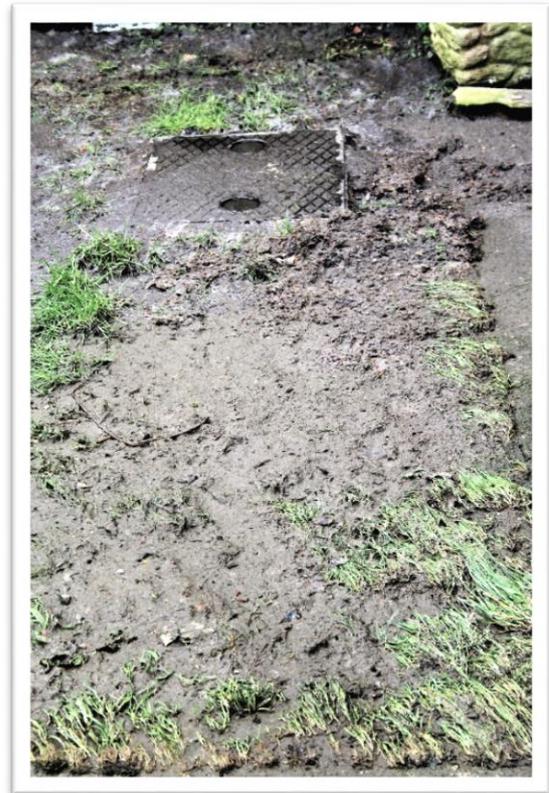
Storm Doris appeared to be a bit of a non event for us, but heard that some of my ex work colleagues were travelling down south to help restore electricity supplies. Well done guys not an easy job in those conditions.

On Monday morning, I had a trip down to the council office to check on preparations for my civic service and on progress of the decorating of the tourist information room. Everything under control there. I was also curious to see if I had any reply from Yorkshire Water. As I have previously mentioned many people are concerned on how the waste water system in the town is going to stand up to nearly 700 new homes when it has and is still failing to cope with the present-day population. No response as yet. But unfortunately the plot thickens. Last Thursday I received a call from a worried resident in Springfield Drive who informed me that his back garden was covered in sewage along with other nearby residents. This happening only 3 weeks since the last sewage flooding incident on Springfield Road and Ladywell Road.



On making some enquires myself I was informed that some residents had been told it was a blockage in the main sewer leading to the treatments works at Aldborough. Later that day it emerged that sewage was causing issues in some nearby bungalows housing some of our elderly residents, and sewage was present on the Primary Schools football pitch. I rang Yorkshire Water myself to try and find out exactly what was going on. The call centre staff were very helpful keeping me informed of progress but would not comment as to the possible cause until mid-afternoon on Saturday when I received a phone call informing me that he had my letter and would be replying. He informed me that the blockage, was due to wet wipes. The same reason as the last event. Not what the guys at the sharp end were saying. He then proceeded to tell me that

everything was fine and that people needed educating on what to put down the loo! I reminded him of the sewer collapse that closed Springfield Road and Drive for many weeks many years ago granted but that was not wet wipes! I will wait for his reply before commenting further. I know that over the years we have been plagued with sewage flooding out in to the road, peoples gardens and the Primary School field and I know that most of it goes unreported. Can everyone please report all sewage floods and blockages to Yorkshire Water otherwise they do not see it as a serious problem and will continue to do nothing about future proofing the Towns waste water systems. If the system is not coping now how will it cope with the possibility of 700 new homes. A question Yorkshire Water are failing to answer.



On a more pleasant note Pauline and I attended Menwith Hill's winter reception on Friday night. A lovely evening. Great hospitality, good company and lovely food.