

Dear, Joanna, Chris, Samira, Andre, Joan and my neighbours at Brook House and Tudor Cottage

I am pleased to report that I have agreed with Surrey County Council that they will clear the tree roots from the Withies Lane blocked drain and that this work has been scheduled for November, subject to no new emergency work required elsewhere. This should resolve the lack of water flowing down the water course which has been gradually reducing for some years. However, please note that Surrey CC are not legally responsible, so the work will be done as a goodwill gesture for which I have expressed our appreciation.

I have had very helpful discussions with Tor Peebles who is head of flood risk management at Surrey CC and with one of his senior team, Guy Whittaker, who is Senior Flood and Climate Resilience Officer. There were lots of apologies for the lack of response which was due to a change in their admin system. Matt Furniss has also been very helpful in making these introductions. The responsibilities for the water flow along Withies Lane are complicated and Guy has provided me with a guide to the legal rights and responsibilities of land owners with water courses through their property and also water courses adjacent to their property, as is partly the case here. A copy is attached.

I have undertaken to make sure that all the land owners involved (some 15 households and Loseley Estate) together with the Parish Council are fully briefed so that there can be discussion and hopefully agreement on how best to manage and maintain this watercourse in the future. I don't think this can be sensibly and constructively conducted through emails and written correspondence, so, over the next few weeks I intend to meet, explain my understanding and offer some suggestions on the way forward to the following:-

1. Compton Parish Council – Joanna, can you please let me know when there is a meeting I can attend?
2. Samira Stevenson as liaison for Withies Lane residents
3. The owners of Broadstone Cottage and Waterhaw
4. Hugh Thomas of The Withies Inn
5. George Chapman at Loseley Park Estate.

After that, I hope there will be much better understanding and an agreed approach to looking after this water course – but that will be the end of my involvement other than as a riparian owner of 2 Brook House!

Please do give me a ring if you want to discuss any aspects of this

Best wishes

William