Dear Mr.Alston and Mr.Punchard

Ref: Run off from arable land, Martham Road, Somerton

Somerton Parish Council appreciates the efforts made to try to reduce/prevent run off from the arable land on the south side of Martham road. The part cultivation of the slope and the construction of the earth bund was, unfortunately, not completely successful. The volume of water breached the bund on three occasions and repairs using sandbags did not seem to prevent further breaches taking place.

As you know, any run off onto the Somerton to Martham road runs down hill towards the centre of Somerton. Properties along Cottage Road experienced some run off into gardens and householders became concerned that the run off could threaten their homes. In addition the volume of silt blocked some of the road side surface water drains and the ditch network along the north side of Common Road. The silt eventually entered the River Thurne via Somerton South Pump.

We appreciate that the September to December period was one of the wettest periods for many years with a total of 353mm of rainfall recorded in Somerton over the 4 months. Looking ahead, could we ask for some consideration be given to looking for a long term solution to prevent further run off at this location. The adjoining field to the east (Crow Hill) used to also have considerable run off however it is now partly under permanent set aside together with ditches dug to capture any run off.

We do hope everyone can continue to work together on this matter.

Regards

Richard Starling

Chairman Somerton Parish Council

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