

Bloxham Flood Group.

Arranged by Bloxham Parish Council.

Meeting 1. Jubilee Hall Meeting Room Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Present: David Bunn (BPC), Neil Hegarty (BPC), Nick Rayner (BPC) Richard Farmer (Resident), John Lloyd (Emergency Planning Support), Sarah Reay (resident) Tom Smith (Resident), David Green (Bloxham Feoffees), Jerry Wood (Resident) , Tim Seton (Bloxham School), David Ramm (Bloxham School). Keiron Mallon (County Councillor).

No	Action or Note	Owner
1	It was agreed that any actions or improvements to address flooding and the issues during its occurrence would be reflected in a revised Village Emergency Plan In addition to signage and placement (covered below) we need to ensure that all vulnerable residents are - if possible - located.	JL
2	It was agreed that a comprehensive map needed to be drawn up to show the locations of the flooding incidents around the village (including properties fields, roads etc.) impacted in each area. Data to be gleaned from residents, OCC Section 19 submissions and 999 Fire Brigade Emergency Call outs. Residents to be asked (via Broadsheet, FB, Blox Online etc) to email neil.hegarty@bloxhamparishcouncil.com if they were affected by the flood so that we have a full understanding in the village of who was affected. (note - this will be for information and will not drive any additional actions at this stage)	NH, TG, DB, JL
3	Reinforce (through FB, Bloxham O/L Bloxham BS PC Mailing list etc.) the importance of registering flooding and blocked drains and gully's onto Fix My Street and by submitting the Section 19 reports to OCC and EA.	TG
4	In addition to sourcing 3-4 pallets of prefilled sandbags it was suggested that several large 1-ton bags of sand be obtained to block off larger flows moved into position by farmers using Forklifts. Dry undercover Storage location to be decided and agreed. Graham Woodard Farm was suggested by TS to be included in the revised Emergency plan	TG
5	DB told the meeting that CDC had raised the issue of drains and gullies not being cleaned allowing better control of run-off water with OCC and highways.	Info
6	CDC (as agents of OCC) are using Bourton Drains to look at the integrity of the drains and gullies around Courtington Lane/ Workhouse lane. NR to join DB on Friday10th@13:00 for a site visit with CDC. (note - after our meeting this site visit took actually place earlier than planned. We are awaiting any outcomes)	DB/ NR

7	Request to be made to CDC to get Bourton Drains to repeat this investigation and remote camera works for the pipework around Courtington lane, Tadmarton Road and Cumberford area.	DB/ NR Site visit
8	DB told the meeting that a Freedom of Information request had been submitted to Thames Water for them to confirm which drains gullies and pipes they were responsible for, to ensure BPC are talking to the right authority when trying to address these issues. It was also noted that we will need to understand the drain sizes in parts of the network to see if these correlate to performance.	Info
9	Request to be made to CDC to ask them to use their sweepers more regularly to remove straw hay and other detritus, before it gets washed into the drains	TG
10	TS offered to deploy his large agricultural pumps and tankers at any future flood events to help try remove some of the water threatening homes. To be included in the revised Emergency plan.	TS/ JL
11	BPC to look at obtaining a supply of the large, weighted road cones to be sued to close or divert traffic on any future flooded roads. Attention was drawn to the legalities of blocking carriageways without the right police or OCC authorisation. To be included in the revised Emergency plan. TS offered to store the signs	TG
12	BPC to talk to OCC Highways to source 'Road Closed Flood' signs to prevent vehicles adding to issues by trying to drive through deep flood waters. To be included in the revised Emergency plan. TS offered to store the signs. There were several instances of drivers going too fast through standing water - which caused a real bow wave problem for residents as water sloshed into their properties. Drivers to be reminded to drive slowly through the water	TG
13	The meeting was told that the consolidated output and findings from OCC/ EA from the submitted Section 19 reports would take 9-12 months.	Info
14	Concerns around the effectiveness of the SUDS (Attenuation Pond) in the Country Park near the Slade. This seems to be completely ineffective in terms of supporting the management of the water flows in the area.	Info
15	Jerry Wood - a village resident for many years, who had studied geography at University, told the meeting that in his informed opinion what was required was a 3 Step Plan. Causes: Clearly identify the root causes of the issue and the routes of the runoff. Countermeasures: Take each of the root causes and develop short, and long term countermeasures for each step, based on the mantra of "Slowing the Flow". Track and report on the maintenance of drains gullies regularly. Control: Solutions such as ponds, bunds, Vegetation, re-routing brooks and streams to meander rather than be straight.	TBC

16	Once Countermeasures are identified the possible formation of a Flood Working Party to carry out any non-technical actions that can be safely delivered.	Info
17	The meeting agreed that helping residents to be better prepared for future flood events by mounting an educational programme. RF told the meeting about Mary Long Dhonau OBE (https://floodmary.com/) who he had heard on Radio 4 talking about simple and effective flood resilience actions. RF to contact her to see if we could get an educational programme and information sheet together for residents. Covering prevention techniques and what to do in the aftermath of a flood.	RF
18	Sor Brook and Bloxham Brooks to be checked from boundary to boundary to ensure that the Riparian Ownership is clear and that owners have taken the appropriate actions to ensure there are no blockages or obstacles. This may involve residents checking their house deeds to ensure they are clear on their responsibilities.	TBC
19	Meeting with the EA to 'Walk the Brooks' (Sor & Bloxham) from entry source to run outpoint and note any silting, obstructions, restrictions, tree roots etc. Planned for next week (WC13/11/25).	DB +ANO
20	BPC to explore the possibility of deploying S106 monies to help support any Flood Prevention actions.	TG
21	Bloxham School to review the dykes and drains round the Courtington Lane Playing field to see if their effectiveness could be improved still further to help support the actions to reduce flows at Courtington Lane and Workhouse Lane.	TS
22	Date of next Meeting: to be agreed	DB