

Flood Warden Update – May 2016

Notes for Parish Council meeting

1. General

The Stourpaine Flood Group - SFG (Derek Gardiner, Scott Norman, Mike Coker – NDDC) was formed in November 2015. We are now members of the National Flood Forum and will benefit from the support they give to flood groups across the country. Information about the NFF can be found on its website www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/

The Environment Agency (EA) was contacted to see what financial support it would give to supporting the Stourpaine Flood Alleviation Scheme. The EA has decided that it would not be able to provide any financial help and that this would be left to the community to deal with. The EA has however agreed to provide advice where needed. The SFG will meet with the EA Consenting Officer to determine what work needs to be undertaken to meet the regulatory requirements needed to be able to consent the scheme.

The EA is continuing with its aim to install a flood warning device in the Iwerne at the Havelins / Hod Drive bridge. The aim of this device is to give those at risk of being flooded, a more accurate warning of the likelihood of flooding in the immediate area. The device will be funded by the EA and the maintenance will be paid for by SPC at least for the next five years.

2. Stourpaine Flood Action Plan and Property Level Protection Activities

Stourpaine now has three flood wardens (Derek Gardiner, Scott Norman, Pete Partridge). Given Pete's experience in rescue situations, we are delighted that he has joined the team. Reserve Flood wardens who will support the team are in the process of being recruited but it is hoped that volunteers from the Stourpaine Snow Clearance Team will be willing to help.

The Stourpaine Flood Action plan is in the process of being updated to provide a more action orientated plan. The EA has provided Derek Gardiner with details of all equipment provided to properties under the Property Level Protection (PLP) scheme. Subject to the consent from those who have benefitted from the PLP scheme, the Flood Wardens aim able to use this information to help them during a flood event.

The EA intends to run a trial of how those with flood resilience equipment installed under the PLP scheme react when faced with a flood event. The plan is to run this one day in late June 2016 taking a few houses at a time. This will also give the Flood wardens an insight into how revisions to the Flood Action Plan would work in practice.

3. Wessex Water

SPC has invited John Hole, Assistant Sewerage Manager – South, Wessex Water to the next PC meeting (16th June 2016) to explain how Wessex Water would deal the situation where the sewage pumping station is surrounded by flood water and there is a power cut. This will help the Flood Wardens to better understand how the situation would be dealt with and to add relevant information to the Flood Risk Assessment and Flood Action Plan documents.