

BRIDGNORTH FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP

Meeting number 1

7 October 2021

Present

Councillors

S. Barlow (Mayor)

K. Sawbridge (Deputy Mayor)

C. Aked

L. Rochelle

L. Neal

I. Wellings

N. Cooper

J. Buckley

Apologies

Councillor G. Colley

1, Cllr Wellings opened the meeting by describing the aims of the Group (which Bridgnorth Town Council had approved by Resolution) and how he hoped it would be a Community led group with BTC support. The aims were to provide a co-ordinated action plan of essential requirements to be implemented when flood warnings have been issued and during the period of actual flood. Flood assistance to embrace all forms of flooding not just the river ie blocked drains and similar incidents. The Group should major on 'what to do' in the short term with flood prevention secondary .

2. Cllr Neil provided a description of his extensive involvement with such groups and his role in Flood Management Committees.

The Residents Flood Action Group works with the Local Council to provide solutions

Support can be obtained from the National Flood Forum

Suggested that a multi- action group would be more successful

The EA always react to a Local Community, EA to attend next meeting ? (Luke)

3, There was a general open discussion regarding what was required and how to achieve it.

Form a localized neighbourhood WhatsApp Flood Alert Group (communication is essential)

Town Council would be the 'Enabling' Host

Plans (3no) to be provided for first public meeting for residents to mark on their properties and flood risk areas. (Luke)

The following were identified as 'safe havens' if required in times of flood crisis.

Castle Hall, Low Town Community Centre, Rugby Club (Bridge Street),

Parlours Hall, Falcon Hotel . Updated schedule and plan required (Julia)

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Public to assist in identifying areas of high risk

Essential Road signs to be provided by Shropshire Council and Plans provided by BFAWG showing required locations. (Ian)

An action sheet to be prepared . pre-flood , during flood, post flood (VR)

Viola waste services required to advise how they operate during times of flood (Sarah)

Create a dedicated Facebook Page (will require moderator/ admin) (VR)

Produce Posters and Flyers to be distributed prior to Public meeting (Ian , Chris, Liz)

Raise a Town Council request for the sum of £500 to cover printing costs , room hire, publications ,refreshments and the like . (Ian)

Investigate the provision a 'Flood Parking Sticker' for use on SC Car Parks when street parking unavailable. (Ian)

Maintain dialogue with John Bellis Drainage & Flood Risk Manager Shropshire Council (Julia)

Advise on Severn Trent Early Warning Service , Poster from ST for open meeting (VR)

Collate the names of vulnerable residents and volunteers who are willing to check on them (VR)

Display other Flood Group Plans (Luke ?)

Rota of availability for Open Meeting (All)

4, There was considerable discussion regarding the provision of essential sandbags pre flood and Shropshire Councils failure to provide requirements during the last major floods of Feb/March 2020. It was agreed , subject to The Town Councils agreement and approval that Sand Bags (provided by Shropshire Council) be stored at the Cemetery for distribution by the DLF . It was considered essential that immediate response regarding the distribution of sand bags was accomplished by operatives with local knowledge. Expecting operatives from Shrewsbury or elsewhere outside of the immediate area and with at least 60mins travel time plus little local knowledge, was considered unrealistic and impractical in an emergency situation.

(This had been proven by the lack of assistance and co operation from Shropshire Council during the severe floods of Feb 2020)

5, Next Meeting

A Public informal 'get to know you' meeting is to be held on Saturday November 6 2021 between 10am – 2pm at Low Town Community Hall (Ian to book)

Distribution

All at Meeting

L Jakeman

R Williams

iw.7.10.2021 Floods no1