

**BRIDGNORTH FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP**

Report to Council for Meeting of Tuesday 14 December 2021

Members are asked to receive the Bridgnorth Flood Action Group Progress Report and supplementary information from Councillor Ian Wellings and to consider the proposals as set out at the end of this report.

**Working Group Members**

Councillors

Chris Aked ,Sarah Barlow, Julia Buckley, Nicky Cooper, Luke Neil, , Liz Rochelle, Karen Sawbridge, Ian Wellings .

**Thursday 7 October 21 – Set Up and Objectives Meeting**

BRIDGNORTH FLOOD ACTION WORKING GROUP

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)(Nicky)

Town Council would be the 'Enabling' Host

Plans 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 )

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 (?)

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

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

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 .

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

Display other Flood Group Plans (Luke ?)

Rota of availability for Drop- in 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' 'drop-In' meeting is to be held on Saturday November 6 2021 between 10am – 2pm at Low Town Community Hall (Ian to book)

#### Actions from above meeting

WhatsApp Group (NC) ✓  
Viola Waste Collection (SB) ✓  
Maps (LN) ✓  
Flyer Designs (IW) ✓  
Printing (LR) ✓  
Agenda Item £500 (IW) ✓ Approved  
Press Release (CA) ✓  
Flood Parking Ticket (IW)  
Further discussion with L J re DLF

#### **Saturday 6 November 21 – Drop -In Meeting Low Town Community Centre**

In attendance Councillors Wellings, Neil, Aked , Cooper, Barlow and Buckley  
Exhibition of maps , information, intel gathering , etc arranged in main hall.  
Probably 30- 40 members of the Public attended.

25 Provided contact details  
22 in favour of Formal Flood Action Group  
11 willing to serve on a Committee  
1 willing to be an Area Co-Ordinator  
1 possible Area Co-Ordinator  
8 Offered Specialist Skills  
11 to Join the WhatsApp Group

#### Bridgnorth Flood Action Group Drop-in Meeting Attendees Comments

#### What should we do differently ?

Provide a visitors code of conduct when visiting flooded areas .  
(People should be sensitive and thoughtful ie That speed boat)

More cohesive support and communication at times of flooding .  
Develop Local Schemes

Doctors Lane to be cleared of river sludge after floods

Fund some relocation of homes , lower cost than flood protection

Level off low points on Riverside , no barriers

Blocked Drains on Doctors Lane , where flooding on Severn Terrace starts

Check out escape route – Bandon Lane

Help Victims to clear up

Replace Bridge with new single span (future)

Help for Residents post flood

Clear the Old Bylet by Mill St.

Provide free Parking Permits for Low Town Car Park when residents are flooded

Make a ditch or diversion at North End of Riverside

Include people outside Bridgnorth ie Chelmarsh, Hampton Loade we have no voice

No drain caps on land drains off well meadow. River water backflows onto estate

No Monitoring of closed roads to stop traffic ignoring and getting through

Better co ordination of the various agencies required , maybe an incident manager

Parking required when road flooded

Lack of Sandbags

Access to Friar St required from Abbots Way and King Charles Way

No Vehicular access or exit from Abbots Way in Flood

Storm drain at Southwell does not work , first place to flood on Riverside

One source of Information ie The Town Council Web site , instead of sharing Info over other sites

Drains are blocked

Link from Friar St to Bramble Ridge for temporary use in Floods

Flood Guard Barriers for Underhill St.

Do an exhibition of property protection measures and available help

## What went wrong

Drivers ignoring road closed and driving too fast through floods and then getting stuck

Drivers on Riverside too fast and causing wash which floods houses

Need more help post floods , ie cleaning roads , providing skips , more support

Both ends of Riverside gets flooded. This stops pedestrians access to houses between Riverside and Friar St

Ironbridge and Bewdley , but not Bridgnorth . Is the Town important?

Friar St 2way during floods , Wireless TLs too short range. Old set found and installed

Dangerous flow at north end of Riverside during last floods

What about carparking during an emergency . No one way valves in sewerage systems so allowing ingress of water contributing to any flooding.

Called Council out to clear drains , no change . Plot remains flooded when drivers come through.

Cannot believe Shropshire Councillors wouldn't even come and show their faces here . Why are they paid ?

No main flood defences for Town

Traffic Management , Town Car Parks , Traffic Lights , Co ordination of the 4 \*\*\*\*\*?

No practical help when waters have flooded us from any agency (Council)

Where are Kirsty Hurst Knight and Christian Lee ???? They are paid Councillors for my area.

Railings to river needed to prevent fall risk opposite No 40 Riverside. I've repaired them but there is a dangerous gap . Rob Andrews.

Dirty river in my home for last 2 years . Not even a knock on the door from Shropshire Council. Spent 10's of 1000's with no expert advice from anyone. Fed up with Shropshire Council.

NO FLOOD DEFENCES

Please can the Environment Agency come and talk to us about why River isn't dredged

No Support

No Sandbags

Need skips post floods

Who has the Bollard key for Friar St. - Greyfriars escape route . did it go missing ?

Temp Road Signs on Riverside did not make sense , in the wrong places . Road Closed but no Diversion signs , where are we supposed to go to get out ?

## What went Well

Julia Buckley and Sarah Barlow contacted and they helped get Sandbags

Council did come out when asked

Excellent Flood Alerts from EA

Good Flood Alerts

Flood Alerts by text and email

Police did knock on door. Year 2000, Sandbags delivered by Bridgnorth District Council

Fire Brigade checked and EA checked when flooding happened

PFR scheme offer and grant to local residents

Generally good redirecting of local traffic eventually

Flood Alerts and updates from EA excellent

Local Fire Service excellent help – Thank you

Sand Bags delivered on a Pallet to riverside eventually

## Anything Else ?

Practical Help to lift furniture etc upstairs and fit flood defences

Maintenance of evacuation route and install personal safety barriers (Severn Terrace)

Post flood event clean up of roads and pathways

Stand by portable Generators for electrical back up to run pumps if electric supply fails

Find a solution to a large puddle that develops and blocks the top of Bandon Lane (cant get out on foot , its by the sub station)

## **Wednesday 17 November 21 Zoom meeting with Shropshire Council**

In attendance Councillors Wellings , Neil and Buckley

John Bellis , Drainage and Flood Risk Manager at Shropshire Council.

General discussion as to what BTC were hoping to achieve and what assistance Shropshire Council could provide.

Shropshire Council subscribe to the NFF so no charges will be applied to Bridgnorth Flood Group application. (?)

SC will provide 2 Pallets of Sand Bags delivered to Bridgnorth

SC will provide Temporary Road Signs , Traffic Lights and Barriers if required, Bridgnorth Plan can include outlying areas such as Chelmarsh , Hampton Loade and other riverside locations.

Action

Contact NFF to confirm SC Membership and request attendance at a future meeting. (LN)

Provide Street Maps for Temporary Traffic Signs etc (LN and IW)

Contact SC re delivery of Sand Bags and discuss storage etc with L J and B I (JB)

Contact SC Highways via John Bellis and arrange meeting with them (IW)

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Working Group Meeting followed by Public Meeting**

Further details of these Meetings to be presented verbally at the Full Council meeting of Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

**Members are requested to consider the following Proposals :-**

***That Council consider and approve the deployment of the Direct Labour Force (DLF) In providing pre flood assistance to previously effected & identified vulnerable properties (namely the distribution of sandbags ) on receipt of an official warning from the Environment Agency of the imminent danger of serious Flooding in the Bridgnorth Area.***

General Comment

A Generic Health and Safety Plan and Risk Assessment will be required , able to be amended and actioned as 'site specific' by a BTC nominated supervisor at the time and location of the Flooding incident.

The Safety and wellbeing of all Town Council Employees is to be pre-eminent at all times.