

DUFFIELD RESIDENTS FLOOD ACTION GROUP

Date: 27/11/23. Venue: Weston Centre. Duffield.

Meeting notes:

Background: this was the second meeting for resident's affected by/concerned about flooding and future flood risk and management in the village.

Over 40 residents from across the village participated in the meeting. This included Andrew Clements -the new Duffield Flood Warden appointed by the Parish Council (PC), representatives from the Duffield Community Association and Amber Valley Borough Council (all who are themselves residents in the village).

Attendees were asked to introduce themselves, share if they were flooded and their experiences of that. They were also able to raise their questions and concerns which were noted and then discussed.

Residents across the village, including Village Court residents shared how distressing and unsettling the whole episode was and continues to be. What they had lost and the issues they were facing and still had to overcome, including living 'transiently' between friends and family.

The issues raised for discussion were (not in order of priority):

Q? Flood Alerts - how to register and other potential contacts for up-to-date information on river levels etc.?

A. There are different levels of Flood Alerts and Flood Warnings and information on local river levels and flooding.

To register to receive Alerts and Warnings by phone, email or text please visit:

[Sign up for flood warnings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings)

For specific information about the river Ecclesbourne water levels/status please visit:

<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/>

enter your postcode then check flood warnings for our specific area, there's also a link to check river, sea, groundwater and rain levels by entering your postcode again.

<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels/target-area/034WAF431>

Q? What actions can be taken as an individual to protect property going forward?

A. Flood Resilience Plan for the village will be developed in the longer term.

However, there are lots of ideas and advice people might find helpful in exploring how to make their properties and surrounds more flood resilient/resilient. For example:

Resistance and Resilience:

There are two categories that flood protection falls into and ideally buildings should be fitted with both.

Flood Resistance helps prevent water getting into buildings. Examples include:

- Removable barriers on doors and windows
- Temporary seals for doors and air bricks
- One-way valves on toilets and drainage pipes to decrease the risk of sewage backing up into a building during a flood.
- Pump and sump systems which drain water from below floor level faster than it rises.

Flood Resilience ensures minimal damage is done if water does get in. Examples include:

- Using ceramic or stone tiles instead of laminate or wood flooring
- Raising electrical sockets to above 1.5m
- Fitting stainless steel or solid wood kitchens instead of chipboard

- Replacing wooden window frames with UPVC.

Useful tips to protect your home from flooding.

- Special waterproof bags can be used to protect possessions from flood water. These can be large enough to take furniture or even your car. Failing that you could use waterproof plastic bags and elastic bands to cover chair and table legs which will help resist low level flooding.
- Place items that are likely to be easily damaged higher up in a room or keep them upstairs. If you can, keep some spare bricks, blocks or wooden pallets handy to stand items on to keep them off the floor. Make sure you consider your own safety before trying to move any objects and avoid trying to lift very heavy items.
- It is also possible to get water sensors installed which detect rising water and would allow an early warning for you to get to your property and deploy your defences.
- What if the flood is deeper than 1 metre?

If the flood water on the outside of your property becomes deeper than 1m, it is recommended that the water is allowed to come into your home as this depth of water can create significant pressure on your outer walls, causing them to move and collapse and resulting in serious structural damage. At this point, or if water has already found its way in, flood resilience measures will come into effect.

It's difficult to recommend sites to visit however, the National Flood Forum- a national charity that only deals with support and advice around flooding is one you might choose to visit:

<https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>

They have produced this document which is a useful guide/model that is useful to read in the context of organising and moving forward as a resident's group:

https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/flood_event_recovery_services_mar_23.pdf

A participant at the meeting provided the following link to a resource which you might find useful- A Homeowners Guide to Property Resilience you can download.

https://www.landmark.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/FloodGuide_ForHomeowners.pdf

Please note: all links are correct at time of writing; they may change and it's up to you /your responsibility if you use them.

Q? What actions/ideas might be possible for collective /group action going forward?

A. One suggestion was we register as a recognised group with the National Flood Forum if participants decide to coalesce into a slightly more formal arrangement?

Another was residents on different streets e.g. Ecclesbourne Avenue /Tamworth Street & Duck Island, Park Road, Village court etc. work together and develop a mini action plan for properties/street and perhaps utilise larger grants for joint projects. (NB: this list of streets is an example only- there are other streets/properties in the village at risk/potential risk).

Q? Progress /updates if any to date from various parties?

A. The new volunteer Flood Warden (Andrew Clements) is now in place and was present at the meeting. Andrew provided an overview of his developing role.

EMAIL: floodwarden@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Alison Mc Dermott provided feedback that a Flood Liaison group has been established consisting of John Shoemith who's taking the lead on this within the Parish Council, the Flood Warden and herself & they are liaising with relevant Officers in AVBC/DCC. They have requested a meeting with the Environment Agency and will be presenting information to them and other relevant bodies and will feedback directly to this Residents Action group. It was suggested that the group reconvenes in two months' time. N. Dalby will circulate the next proposed meeting date.
EMAIL: alison.mcdermott@ambervalley.gov.uk.

Margeret Matthew-Higgins, Chair of Duffield Community Association (DCA) gave an overview of the DCA's work and role in supporting residents and community life in the village, including support and information for those affected /concerned about flooding.

<https://www.duffieldvillage.co.uk/>

As part of gathering information and facts to present to the Environment Agency and relevant bodies, it would be helpful if residents uploaded their photos and video clips of flooding /water levels etc. anywhere in the village and direct surroundings from Storm Babet and any other future events to this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@DuffieldFloods/shorts>

Please make sure you annotate your images with date, time and location information so its possible to build up an informed factual record which is important going forward. Thank you.

Q?. Offers of support from the community – what are they/is anyone keeping track?

A.P. Schofield has offered space for the storage of sandbags and material to fill them.

People have offered furniture and other items e.g. carpeting etc. but until individuals' specific needs are known, when they need them etc. this remains an area that needs more development. Is there anyone reading this who'd be able to take a bit of a lead on this?

It was suggested that the Duffield Parish Council (DPC) could have a stock of empty sandbags and sand stored readily available to residents when needed. For info. The DPC have confirmed this is in place – any residents that want sandbags please contact the DPC Clerk:

Telephone: 01332842740 Email: clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Q?. Financial Support:

A. There are several grants available to those affected by the Storm Babet:

Alison McDermott encouraged those who plan, but haven't yet, applied for the £500 'Community Recovery grant' available from AVBC, to do ASAP. You should phone 01773 841335 to let them know your property was flooded internally (excluding garages, cellars and sheds) because of storm Babet. Once your details have been verified, you will be sent an invite to complete the flooding information form. You will then be informed if you have qualified for the grant payment.

In addition, any Households internally flooded and deemed to be unliveable for a period greater than 48 hours can claim a 100% council tax discount for a minimum of 3 months. To be eligible the property must be unoccupied, with resident(s) moving to another property. AVBC have already processed the discount for affected properties, if you are unsure this has happened your property call them on 01773 570222 to discuss eligibility.

Going forward affected residents may be able to apply to the Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme for £5000 towards. NB: full details of this scheme and how to apply is not yet available. As it becomes known details will be updated on the AVBC website here:

<https://www.ambervalley.gov.uk/council/emergencies/flooding/storm-babet/financial-grants/>

Businesses that were flooded are also eligible for business rates relief and £2500 through a 'Business Recovery Grant' for further information please visit:

<https://www.ambervalley.gov.uk/council/emergencies/flooding/storm-babet/financial-grants/business-recovery-grant/>

<https://www.ambervalley.gov.uk/council/emergencies/flooding/storm-babet/financial-grants/>

Duffield Community Association has established a Fund to support those affected by contributing to uninsured losses. To apply for this fund, follow the link below NB: **Closing date is 15th December 2023:**

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=G7ziMYPn9kKJSvGetzVt-Rs0hTPgKOpOo4sLrJe-Ab9UMehJskJUN0FJNFpDWVMYVFY2TUJDNDM2US4u>

OR – collect a PAPER COPY from DUFFIELD NEWS.

Q? How could we get updates from professionals /those in the know and share that information locally/in a timely fashion?

A. In addition to central Government, County and District Council websites, both the Duffield Parish Council and Duffield Community Association web pages have sections containing Flood related information:

<https://www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

<https://www.duffieldvillage.co.uk/>

For those who use Facebook, the Duffield Village Network is a useful vehicle to share timely and relevant information. You do need to join as a member to add a post.

Thank you to everyone who attended this meeting.

Next meeting date: TBC by N. Dalby.