

Flood Working/Action Group Report for April Parish Council Meeting

NFM Project in the Slade

OCC have sent us a Funding Agreement for the Slade NFM project. It has been reviewed by a number of councillors and comments on the document have been sent back to OCC. There are a number of points that we (BPC) need to review, namely:-

- Do we have the ability within our banking system to keep this money and the project accounts as Restricted Funds and not part of the General Funds?
- Do we have the required insurances in place, namely
 - Public liability insurance with indemnity of not less than £5mi, and
 - Employers Liability Insurance with indemnity of not less than £10mi, both in relation to one claim or a series of claims arising from the project?
- We need to confirm that we, BPC, have a Distinct Legal Personality

Once we resolve the outstanding issues then we will start the execution of the project. Within the Agreement, the “Project” is defined as being:-

NFM installations designed using modelling tools such as SCALGO, Leaky barrier design tool and the Cherwell studio NFM developed by the North-East Cotswolds farmer cluster. Confirm tree surgeons to carry out works (if needed – some smaller trees can be felled by volunteers with appropriate training). Plan the volunteer days, including securing dates & event support contractor (ESC) support. Write risk assessments. Purchase, hire or borrow equipment as required (whichever is most cost-effective). Run two volunteer days to install the dams.

- *River restoration officer 1 day/week, 6 months*
- *Catchment manager line management*
- *Organisational overheads (training, office space, equipment)*
- *Tree felling (sub-contracted)*
- *Tools & equipment*
- *Volunteer event costs*
- *Event support contractor fees*

Throughout the project we will be relying on the expertise being provided by organisations such as Thames 21, North-East Cotswold Farmer Cluster and BBOWT, with support from the EA and OCC (who are all represented within the Cherwell and Ray Catchment Partnership). The individuals (and organisations) we have been dealing with to date all have experience of executing projects such as ours.

Village Drains

There were no reports of blocked drains this month.

Flood Equipment

No further progress on this

Drain Line under Bloxham School Car Park

CDC have provided this update:-

- They have invited tenders for the upsizing of the surface water drain that runs through the school’s transport yard. These are due to be returned by 21 April.

- In addition, they have instructed Cherwell's Legal Team to contact the School in order to draw up the Agreement between it and Cherwell will need to enable the construction of the replacement drain.
- They are still aiming for the School summer holiday period which runs between 29 June and 28 August in which to construct the replacement drain

Neil Hegarty, 13 Apr 26