

Flood Working/Action Group Report for Feb Parish Council Meeting

Drains

There was only 1 reported blocked drain in the village during the recent rains, and that was at the junction of Courtington Lane and Workhouse Lane. This was put on FixMyStreet and reported to CDC who arranged for Bourton Drains to come and clear it the following day. It was reported that it was blocked with “twigs and debris”.

Flood Equipment

CDC advised that there is a funding opportunity that may allow us to get some flood equipment. I have asked for 2 small pumps that can be used by residents for pumping out to below the levels that can be achieved by the Fire Brigade, as well as a number of Road Closed and Diversion signs. We will wait to see what turns up...

Drain Line under Bloxham School Car Park

The latest information I had was that this work is still planned for Easter – but – I hear that this timing may not be met. However the project is still progressing towards the earliest achievable completion.

Cherwell and Ray Catchment Partnership

We are now active members of this group which involves the key players who are working with us and guiding us on our possible NFM projects. The forum is particularly important as it highlights the NFM funding pots that are available, with some of these pots appearing at fairly short notice.

NFM Project in the Slade

We are moving ahead with this project to install leaky dams / flow spreaders within the Slade. It will be funded by an OCC grant, with the Parish Council being the recipient body. Monies will be released against projected/actual costs. We have an outline Scope of Work from our partners – lifting a lot from their previous similar projects and their knowledge of the Slade from our walk through on 19 November - which has been used to develop the initial cost estimate of £8919. This will be refined as we develop the detailed design and final work plans.

Our current thoughts are that we will execute the installation stage of the works using a lot of volunteer labour (with specialised contractors being used as required, e.g. for tree work). Current timings put the work being done in the Slade late summer and autumn. I have talked to Marie Jones about the project, and she will be a key member of the team deciding the final project details. On behalf of the Parish Council I have given the “Owner’s consent” to proceed, and I will act as our project manager.

We are currently finalising our “Expression of Interest” form for submission to OCC to confirm the basis for the funding and that will be shared separately amongst the Parish Council.

Possible Additional NFM Projects

The folks at Thames21 and the NE Cotswolds Farmer Cluster are producing a report identifying locations for NFM opportunities around Bloxham – using their sophisticated mapping/contour data. This report is planned to be finished in March and the output should give us some very good pointers on where we should be focusing for additional NFM projects.

Broadsheet Article

Since we are still getting a lot of queries about what is happening to help prevent future flooding, Jerry Wood and myself are preparing a short article for the Broadsheet that describes the work that has been done and that which is ongoing since storm Bert hit in November '24.

Neil Hegarty
30 Jan 26