# Flood Working/Action Group
# Report for November 2026 Parish Council Meeting

## NFM Project in the Slade

I am pleased to report we successfully completed this project last week (Thurs 29 Oct & Fri 30 Oct).
Notable events since last meeting:-

- Early Oct: Arranged outline details of work for Cotefield Trees – who were flexible, helpful and efficient throughout.
- 8 Oct: Invitation for volunteer sign up issued and then handled by Thames 21.
- Ongoing thru' Oct: Flood Team members helping to identify volunteers for the work.
- 21 Oct: Thames 21, Flood Team members and Cotefield Trees visit the Slade to select trees to be cut down for use in the dams.
- 22 Oct: Cotefield Trees on site in the Slade and cut down the selected trees, trim to approximate lengths, and leave in accessible locations in Slade.
- 27 Oct: Received copies of the Utility search reports, and the Watercourse Permit (from CDC) forwarded by Thames 21.



*Volunteers photo Thurs 29 Oct*



*Volunteers in Action, 30 Oct*

- 29 & 30 Oct: Installation of 6 dams, 3 on each branch of the brook. All tools, protective gear, materials and safety briefings handled by Thames 21. 11 volunteers on 29th, 12 on the 30th.

The project was funded by a grant from OCC, with permit support coming from CDC. Project execution was led by Thames 21, and the work relied heavily on volunteers, most obviously the teams on the two days. But a special word of thanks to Jerry Wood who has done a lot of the background work since Storm Bert to identify and help crystallise this project for the village.
We recognise that these dams will have a beneficial but incremental impact on slowing the flow of water into the village under flood conditions. We hope that their benefit will be enhanced when we identify and execute other NFM schemes. (see later for more info).
Jerry also issued a press release early last week saying what we were doing and why, and this resulted in the BBC coming on the 29th, and ITV on the 30th. Radio Oxford featured the story on Friday morning, which we expect to appear on their website, and might get on the TV news. ITV say that their story will get shown on the Monday 2nd 6pm bulletin.
For additional information on these works see the StopBloxhamFlooding website (see additional info later).

## Drainage to/from the Courtington Lane/Workhouse Lane junction

We reported last month…

*"A meeting was held on Weds 23rd Sep to discuss minimising and slowing the rain water flowing off the Bloxham School playing fields onto this junction. This meeting involved the School, CDC and OCC, the Parish Council and affected residents"*

We received the following update from CDC last Friday on the actions from that meeting:-

| | Action | By whom | Timescale | RAG |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (*Named resident*) to be given contact details of Consultant(s) able to advise on revised levels in garden to divert flood flows | Cherwell | By 02/10/2026<br>Done | Green |
| 2 | When Bourton Drains are on site doing routine work for Bloxham School, they will CCTV the inlet and outlet pipes to the chamber opposite Workhouse Lane | Cherwell/ School | By 30/10/2026<br>Done. TB awaiting survey findings | Green |
| 3 | Fix boards to the sports field gate and rubber strip beneath bottom bar | School | In hand | Amber |
| 4 | Review/install flood resilience to plant store doors | School | In hand | Amber |
| 5 | Increase the heights of all baffle boards | School | In hand | Amber |
| 6 | Obtain quotation for widening the ditch at its downstream end ensuring that the minimum 5 metre run-off strip to the Rugby pitch is retained. Approximate dimensions 50m x 1.5m deep x 1.0m wide | Cherwell | By 27/11/2026. TS has advised school holiday dates when work can take place | Amber |
| 7 | Fix plate to soffit of 300mm concrete pipe discharging from downstream end of ditch. Plate to be fixed so that it covers the upper semi-circle of the pipe section | Cherwell | By 20/11/2026 | Amber |
| 8 | Take levels at downstream end of ditch and cut high level overflow towards sports field to ensure that the ditch cannot surcharge into the adjacent residential property on the opposite bank | Cherwell | TB will do level survey w/c 02/11/26to calculate height of bund that will not transfer flood risk to property on opposite bank. TS has advised school holiday dates when embankment work can take place | Amber |
| 9 | Provide Bloxham Parish Council with | County | By 09/10/2026 | Amber |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Highway Authority protocol for putting out emergency flood warning signs | | DB – has this been done? | |
| 10 | Whilst Bourton Drains are on site, get them to CCTV the pipe through the school transport yard and clear any blockages/partial blockages they see | School | By 30/10/2026<br>Done | Green |

We will continue to chase CDC for progress on these.

## Stop the Flooding website

As noted last month, this website has been set up to act as a community resource – and so will carry more details on all aspects of the village based flood activities. The website is being managed independently from the Parish Council website, and so will be more able to reflect a wider range of inputs and news. We are working to ensure that there is no difference in the underlying information between the two sites, although there will be a much easier route to community engagement on the Stop the Flooding site.

## Drain and Gulley Cleaning

The village was promised a full drain clean during October – but there have been no reports of any gulley cleaning lorries in the village to date. If you see one then please let me know at neil.hegarty@bloxhamparishcouncil.gov.uk.
Residents have reported that they have seen a road sweeper in the village – and these are CDC resources. It is unclear how widely they have worked around the village.
Please continue to use FixMyStreet to report any (& all!) blocked drains that you see or are aware of. If your reports stay outstanding for more than 4 weeks then please let me know and we will chase the issue up as well.

## Additional NFM opportunities around the village.

We have heard from our 'Natural England' farm engagement team that a number of the landowners around the village could be interested in further NFM opportunities – which would really start to boost the efficacy of the Slade project. The route to getting these projects underway will be to:-

- Identify an available project manager (we are dependent upon the availability of suitably skilled Thames 21 personnel)
- Identify funding sources (through OCC, EA, Central Government or others)
- Scope out the project against which we can apply for funding
- Get funding approved

Then we can get the project underway.
These steps will take time – and at the moment we are working to identify a suitable and available Thames 21 resource.
This will be a regular update item

## Miscellaneous Items.

We have had an enquiry to help a final year Brunel Uni student in her research into developing a product that aims to give people clearer, real time information about rising river levels and other changes in the land and terrain around them. We will provide whatever help we can.

***Neil Hegarty, 2 Nov 26***