

## CFAG Newsletter September 2024

We are nearly at the anniversary of Babet and the autumn weather is starting so CFAG and the Parish Council have been working together to reduce the risk of further serious flooding.

### What have we done so far?

- Gathered information from over 50 households and obtained details from nearly all the properties that were flooded. (23 flooded inside in Charsfield!).
- Obtained a library of photographs, before during and after Babet.
- Analysed the water catchment of the Potsford 'River', and quantified how much water had to flow through the village.
- Studied the current state of the Brook and the various obstructions
- Investigated ways to monitor the water level in the Brook with the EA
- Fed back all our findings and concerns the official investigation team on the 9<sup>th</sup> May and currently await the 'Section 19' Report.

### What are we doing now?

- Creating a 'Flood Watch' and early warning mechanism to assist with being prepared for another event.
- Creating an 'On line' information point with live views and rainfall records.
- Reacting to the findings of the S19 report and preparing to lobby the agencies and landowners to take action to mitigate our flooding risks in the short, medium and long term.

### Taking personal responsibility and being prepared.

Whilst all the above will help nothing is going to work better than each household that had been flooded or thinks they might be flooded next time taking action to prepare as part of a Personal Plan. Neither CFAG nor the PC are experts so we would strongly recommend that you obtain a Flood Resilience Survey for your house. These cost in the region of £500 but this cost can be reclaimed from the Government Grant \*(if you were flooded internally).

*\*Up to £5000 can be claimed from the 'DEFRA Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Scheme' towards the cost of your personal plan. Also some insurance policies will pay up to similar amounts. In both cases as Flood Resilience Survey is required from a suitably qualified surveyor.*

Many things might be suggested in the survey from flood boards on doors, one way valves in the drains, pumps and ensuring your electricity stays on, etc

Once you have a plan (even if it's just to put out sandbags) you have to plan how it can be enacted. Will you need help etc. This needs to be thought about and planned.

The National Flood Forum provides a helpful guide as well covering all aspects including your personal safety. Check out here: -

<https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/about-flooding/preparing/checklist-action-plan/>


We are developing a list of useful products that you might want to consider purchasing for your plan. This will be sent out later.

## Sandbag day

One of the lessons learnt from Babet is that distribution of sandbags whilst the water is rising is far too late. If you think you will need a supply they will need to be on hand and dry ready to be put out. They are heavy so expect to need help, so this task might be best shared with a neighbour. It is unlikely that the emergency plan will be able to deliver any bags so best be prepared with your own.

Steve Moor is organising a collect filled bags service, at cost, for £3 each from his house (Potsford House) on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 11:00 to 13:00. They are white rot proof polypropylene bags which are fairly spill proof as well so can work well indoors. Best stored though, out of sunlight in the dry. If you want some please e-mail using [Floods@potsford.com](mailto:Floods@potsford.com). If you are unable to collect, we will see if we can get somebody to pick up and deliver but this may cost a little more.

## Summary of Suggested Actions

1. Check the advice on line about being prepared.  
<https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding>  
and  
<https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/about-flooding/preparing/checklist-action-plan/>
2. To better understand the best way to protect your property from flooding risks and to enable access to the [PFR grant](#) consider getting a Flood Resilience Survey undertaken.
3. Make a plan, write in down, and share it with neighbour. Consider what you can do now and what you might do as soon as you can. Procure and check any items you need. (Remember that you should rehearse a plan regularly to check everything works.)
4. Please let CFAG know (by email to [flood@potsford.com](mailto:flood@potsford.com)) the following: -
  - a. Do you want any sand bags on the 12<sup>th</sup> October and will you be able to collect them?
  - b. Have you got a personal flood plan organised yet and have you got help arranged in case you are away or its too demanding (e.g. lifting sandbags)
  - c. If we are able to create a flood risk alert which way would be best to receive it: -
    - i. What's App Group
    - ii. Text Message
    - iii. Email
    - iv. Web Site
  - d. Would you be interested the 'Local Flood Watch Group' This is mostly a case of taking observations, and logging information and joining in a WhatsApp  Group. Please supply your mobile phone number and what you can easily monitor in your locality.