

Attachment 3 to FC Minutes 16th February 2024

Chairman of QC Flood Committee Report to QC Flood Committee 17 February 2024

1. Following the severe flood in May 2023 a number of initiatives have been undertaken by both the PC and Somerset Council – these fall into two areas:
 - a. Flood Prevention/Mitigation measures.
 - b. Flood Warning measures.

2. FLOOD PREVENTION AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Whilst flooding cannot be prevented and may increase in frequency as a result of climate cycles and global warming, certain measures can be undertaken to control the flow of water which reduces the risk of flooding. This Attachment 3 highlights the use of Alleviation Ponds. Through FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) and YCRT (Yeovil Community Rivers Trust) Central Government funding has been sought for the construction of such ponds and improvements to the river infrastructure in order to improve and regulate flow.

3. FLOOD WARNING MEASURES

An improved warning system of possible flooding is being initiated. (given the very short notice in May 2023 of the flood in QC) The River Cam Monitoring Group, which comprises all of the PCs along the R Cam met on 31 Jan to discuss and implement the installation, by the Environment Agency, of a number of river level monitors along the R Cam which would, when linked, provide a current picture of the state of the river – be set to give warnings of rising levels and these will also be linked to a number of rain gauges to provide better data¹. This project had started with Blackford and Yarlinton and an interim Whats App Group has been set up which relays this information and is set at appropriate levels to give warnings – the picture will be complete when Sparkford, Queen Camel and West Camel monitors are installed. The Weston Bampfylde river gauge will be included in this network².

4. Flood Prevention – Property

The prevention of flooding to private properties remains primarily a house holders' responsibility. Recent events have shown that hitherto properties that have never flooded may now be at risk. Advice is widely available as to what is available to prevent water ingress and actions on warning of flooding. A revised "handout" is being produced for QC and surrounding PC's for distribution to householders covering flood related issues. The QC Flood Committee is able to advise as to what current householders in at risk properties have done and may be useful for those now wishing to take preventative, contingency actions.

¹ RNAS Yeovilton Met Section have kindly agreed to develop an analysis of historical data so that it would be possible for example to know if a level of "x" at Blackford will result in an increased level at QC by what approx. time -

² The Blackford gauge triggered an Amber alert on 18 Feb which gave warning of river levels rising.