

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY FROM FLOODING

Steventon Community Flood Group have been busy since the last update, and you can find more detail on what we've been doing in this PULL OUT & KEEP edition of Steventon News.

We wanted to start by saying a huge 'thank you' for your responses to the flood questionnaire and local alert sign up. One of our aims is to ensure that the community is better informed about flood risk and actions we can all take in the community – you are helping us to do just that.

The Flood Group is focused on securing equipment and resources to manage road closures and flood prevention (incl. sandbagging) on communal areas etc. it is not within the remit of the flood group to provide equipment and support to all homes in the village.

Whilst the flood group are building up our equipment and processes to be better prepared for future flooding, everyone in the village needs to look at what YOU need to do to protect your own house from flooding. More information on HOW you can do that in this Pull-out.

In this special Flood Group pull out & keep supplement:

- ★ The latest activities of the Steventon Community Flood Group
- ★ How to protect your property and reduce flood risk in the community
- ★ What to do in case of flooding & useful numbers
- ★ Helpful information if you have been flooded



Scan here

to complete the questionnaire or sign up to local flood alerts online. A paper copy has also been delivered to every home in the village.

Get in touch: steventoncfg@gmail.com

Thank you to all those who are volunteering and if anyone would be willing to volunteer their time for any of the groups please email the team.

ALL THE LATEST...

A lot has happened since the last update – including of course a second flood event (Feb 18th).

Our sincere thanks to everybody who responded. It was great to see so many people from all groups assisting and getting involved.

Many thanks to Cllr Sally Povolotsky again for persevering with the council and getting a delivery of sandbags. It was a very useful practice run for what we are most likely to have to do again in the future, and of course with experience we will have a better understanding of how, what, where & when we will have to put our response measures in place.

We will all over the next few months be building up our equipment & systems to be fully ready for the next flood event, and have already secured funds from the Parish Council for important equipment (hi-vis tabards, gloves, ditch maintenance kit etc) and also a permanent storage container for the equipment. In addition to that...

Cllr Sally Povolotsky has assisted us with a £1500 grant from her priority fund and continues to champion the flood group, she has had a very positive call with OCC Highways about the group carrying out authorised road closures in an emergency and the support they will get with equipment and training. We are still trying to get meaningful discussions with Thames Water!

We have now established 4 sub-groups within our Flood Response group to look after different areas of the village. They will be working (throughout the year) with the rest of the Flood Group team, Parish Council, (and outside agencies) to improve the systems we have in the village to limit flood risk as far as possible and to alert residents of potential flood events. An initial proposal for resources we require is currently with the OCC for review.

The Environment and Ecology Group hosted a visit to the village by representatives of the Environment Agency and Drainage Engineers from Oxford Council. The day was wet and rainy and highlighted the context for our recent flooding perfectly. The intent of the day was to educate the visiting parties about our understanding of the issues that affect us. A consequence of the visit was a mutual understanding of the need to apply collective pressure to institutions who may not be following their maintenance obligations in full.

We have also distributed paper questionnaires and Local Flood Alert sign up forms to every household in the village. please complete this if you have not yet done so via the QR code on the previous page or by filling in the paper copy of the questionnaire which was distributed in early March. All information is helpful to building the flood plan, so please complete it even if you were not flooded.



HELPING TO REDUCE FLOOD RISK

Many things can affect the risk of flooding, but individuals and community groups can be aware of certain factors to help manage and reduce flood risk in their area.



AUTUMN LEAVES

Clear autumn leaves from household gutters and drains. Check local highway gullies and remove surface leaves where possible. Report internal blockages through to the highways department.



WATERCOURSE BLOCKAGES

Obstructions that may block or alter the flow of water should be reported. This includes fallen trees, build up of sediment after heavy rainfall, collapsed banks, and non-consented alterations to watercourses such as bridges or garden features like decking.



FLY-TIPPING

Check local watercourses for fly-tipping or other obstructions and report any incidents to the appropriate Risk Management Authority or landowner.



GARDEN WASTE

Dispose of grass cuttings, hedge clippings, leaves, branches, weeds and dead plants in your garden green waste bin or by composting. This prevents them from entering drains and watercourses which could cause blockages.



Image: Northumbrian Water

THE 3 P'S

Wet wipes (even 'flushable' wipes), cotton buds, nappies and sanitary products should not be flushed down the toilet. The only items that can be flushed are toilet paper, pee and poo (The 3 p's).



Image: Scottish Water

FATS, OILS & GREASE

After meals ensure that fats, oils, grease, food waste and scraps are disposed in the bin or compost and not down the kitchen sink. Use sink strainers and fat traps to help collect food scraps and fats.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FLOODING

Emergency actions for the whole community, you can find more at:
<https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/emergency/help/>

- 1 Before flood water enters your home, close and lock downstairs windows and doors. Keep the keys safely to hand and move upstairs.
- 2 Continue to listen to situation updates from your local radio station and via Floodline on 0345 988 1188
- 3 Stay in your property if safe to do so or until emergency services tell you otherwise or the floodwater has gone
- 4 Do not drive or walk through floodwater. If it is necessary to walk through shallow water take care for hidden holes, obstacles or other hazards
- 5 If you come into contact with floodwater, wash any exposed body parts with bottled or cool boiled water before handling food or looking after wounds.

OCC PROPERTY FLOOD RESILIENCE REPAIR GRANT

(UP TO £5000 PER HOUSEHOLD)

Administered by Oxfordshire County Council (not VOWH): Update on grant application process - you must have reported your flooding via the Oxfordshire flood reporting form to be able to be considered for the Property Flood Resilience Grant from OCC (max £5000 per household affected).

You will also be asked to complete an Expression of Interest short form:
<https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/property-flood-resilience-repair-grant-eoi-form/>

For this OCC grant, you need to submit an application by Nov 2024 and have to provide quotes for any planned or retrospective work to be covered by the grant. Don't delay!

USEFUL NUMBERS:

FLOODING

- 01223 849731 -
OCC Out Hours Highways
- 0800 316 9800
Thames Water
- 0345 988 1188
UK Gov Floodline

www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com

- If your in danger please evacuate your home and call 999

PLEASE PUT SAFETY FIRST

Don't drive if you don't have to

Steven^{ton} Community Flood Group