

Report from Drainage Group for Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting on 21 November 2018

Since the last Steering Group meeting on 6 November, the Drainage Group have the following to report:

- 1. Affiliation to the National Flood Forum:** We are now affiliated and I have received a pack from the Forum which contains much useful information. For example, there is a joint government and insurance industry initiative to make insurance available and affordable for homes affected by flooding. The initiative is called FloodRe and they work behind the scenes taking on the high flood risk elements of the home insurance. They collect an annual tax from home insurers who will contribute £180m to a fund each year that FloodRe manages centrally. A resident's home insurer passes on any high flood risk part of the policy to FloodRe and they then take responsibility for this part. And if a valid claim is made to the home insurer, FloodRe will reimburse the insurer from the central fund.

I plan that we put the word out about this to those residents internally flooded suggesting that they get in touch with their insurer to ensure they know about this fund and set the premium at an affordable level.

The pack also contains useful information about companies that provide flood defences.

The administrator at the Forum emailed me about an elderly lady in Hellesdon anxious about flooding. I spoke to this lady on the phone and learned that she is in her 80s and her garage has been flooded several times with water flowing off the main road and she is worried it may get into the house. She told me that she had a visit in the summer from Nathan Harris and a colleague from the NCC Flood team and that he had suggested a flood barrier. She was understandably sceptical about this as she would be unable to physically move it and has no nearby neighbours or family to help. She was very with it and had asked her builder to do a number of things as she had not heard from Nathan and County Hall does not put her through when she phones. I said I would try and contact Nathan but told her not to be too hopeful.

I did email him and was pleasantly surprised to get a reply the same day. In it he suggested a number of alternative measures and today he sent me the details of companies who would visit her and give a free quote. He does have her on a list to receive some of the funding they have if they get together enough properties in the area that need protecting but acknowledged that would not be in the short term and she had the right to do things herself for her peace of mind.

I spoke to her again today and have written her a letter with all the information from Nathan. She is very grateful.

I think this is a good example of the way the Forum can put residents in touch with one another and of how important it is to have a personal relationship with the officers as we now do.

- 2. New Contact from NCC:** I had an email from a NCC Highways Engineer, Paul Gallup, who has been tasked to follow up on Mark Ogden's Flood Investigation Report by doing a feasibility study.

The study is "to ascertain who owns what (whether NCC, Parish, Anglia Water, IDB etc.), who is responsible and potentially putting together general ideas of what to do. I have not been briefed to put together a detailed design or to cost up any potential works."

He along with John Cotton (Ben Rayner's replacement) will meet with the Drainage Group hopefully on 30 November to use our in-depth knowledge of the patch.

We think this is progress and if the grant from the EA comes through then the costings can be done and hopefully work can commence!!

Liz Whitcher
Chairman
Drainage Working Group
19 November 2018