

Communities Prepared: the East Midlands Series

Flood Volunteer Parts 1 & 2

March 3rd



Speaker introductions



Paul Robertson heads up community training and development for Communities Prepared

Imogen Smith is the Communications and marketing officer for Communities Prepared

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Stephen Peace is an Emergency Planning Officer with Derbyshire County Council

Katie Harrison-Sharer is an Emergency Planning Officer with Nottinghamshire County Council

Lucy Jarvis is a Flood Risk Engagement Advisor with the Environment Agency in the East Midlands

Housekeeping



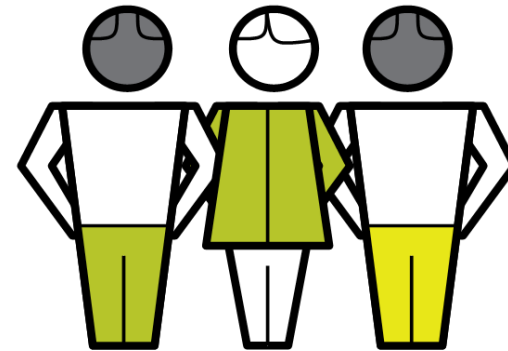
- The webinar will be recorded and sent via email with a copy of the slides after the session. Please note that the recording will be paused for the breakout sessions
- While we encourage you to use the chat throughout the webinar to ask questions or post comments, please note we won't be able to answer questions until the dedicated Q&A slots (in the middle and at the end)
- Please check your video and sound are working (if you're comfortable having these on for the recording)
- Unless speaking, please mute your microphones
- Please display your full name on your Zoom profile (link in the chat on how to do so)
- Please can all CEV Coordinators and/or Lead Flood Wardens complete our baseline survey (link in chat)
- Please be respectful of each other's opinions

Agenda



Part 1

- Climate change and river catchments
- Sources of flooding and factors that influence flooding
- Communicating flood risk and flood risk mapping
- Weather warnings and flood warnings
- Managing flood risks: who is responsible
- Your role before, during and after a flood
- Flood warden PPE



Part 2

- Awareness of hazards and risks before, during and after a flood
- Practical steps or control measures to keep safe
- Procedures to build into your group's activities
- Suggestions to use as individuals within your community

Handbooks



- We will be referring to our Flood Volunteer Part 1 and Part 2 handbooks throughout the training.
- You can download these from our hub for free (link in the chat)
- You will need to sign up or sign into our hub to access them (it's completely free)
- This complements the Flood Warden Handbook you received when you became a Flood Warden, if you don't have a Flood Warden Handbook please contact jo.aspinall@environment-agency.gov.uk

About Communities Prepared



- A Lottery funded community resilience programme, supporting communities across the country to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, a range of emergencies
- Led by the charity Groundwork, we deliver training and support to Community Emergency Volunteer groups
- Our online community resilience hub (**communitiesprepared.org.uk**) offering downloadable resources & advice, is free to join
- We work in partnership with the Environment Agency, local government, emergency services and other responder agencies, as well as charitable partners



Glossary



- **CEV** – Community Emergency Volunteers, recruited, trained and equipped to implement the Community Emergency Plan
- **CEV Coordinator** – Lead Warden Equivalent
- **Community Emergency or Flood Plan** – A guide to what actions a community will take to mitigate the impact of a crisis (usually written by the Local Council with help from Principal Council Officers)
- **FREA** – Environment Agency Flood Risk Engagement Advisor
- **LLFA** – Lead Local Flood Authority - Lead responsibility for managing flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourse – anything not designated main river
- **LRF** – Local Resilience Forum. 44 across UK act as a forum where responders co-operate during major incidents

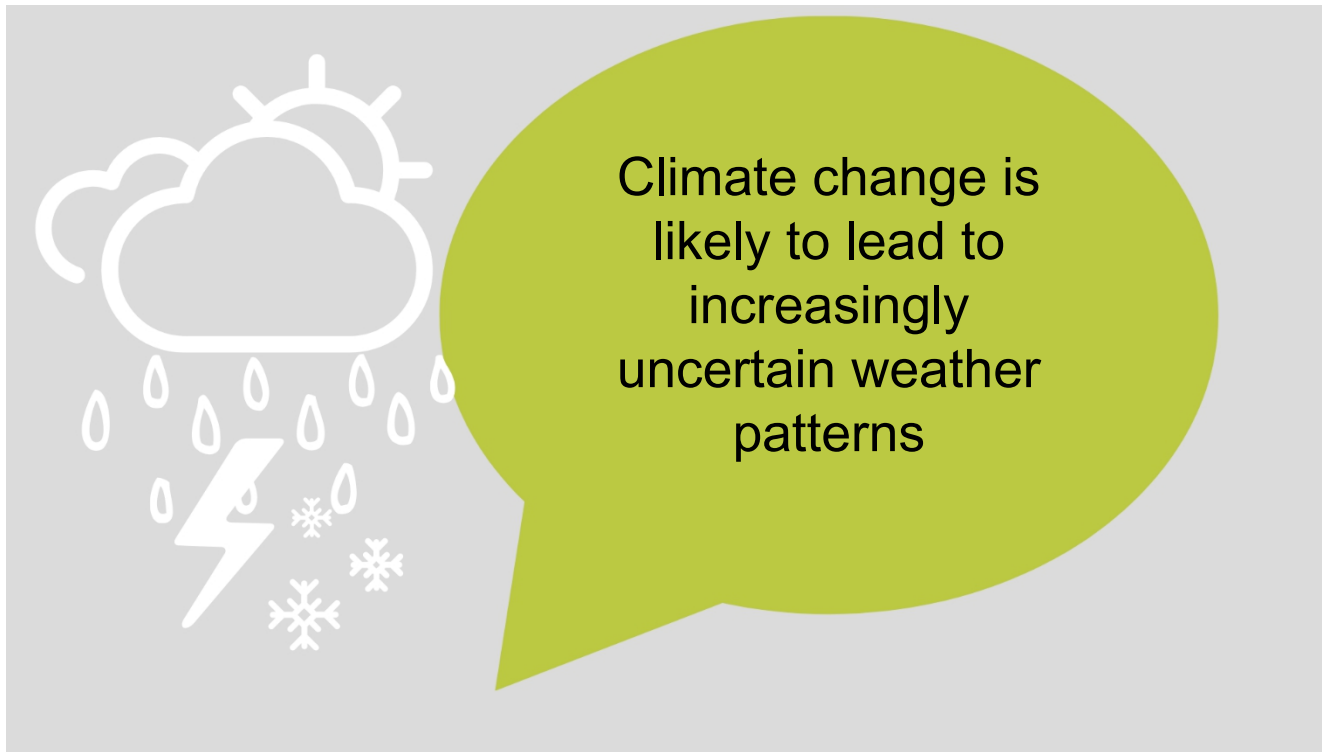
Introduction to flooding



Flooding is beneficial for maintaining ecosystems, such as wetlands and salt marshes

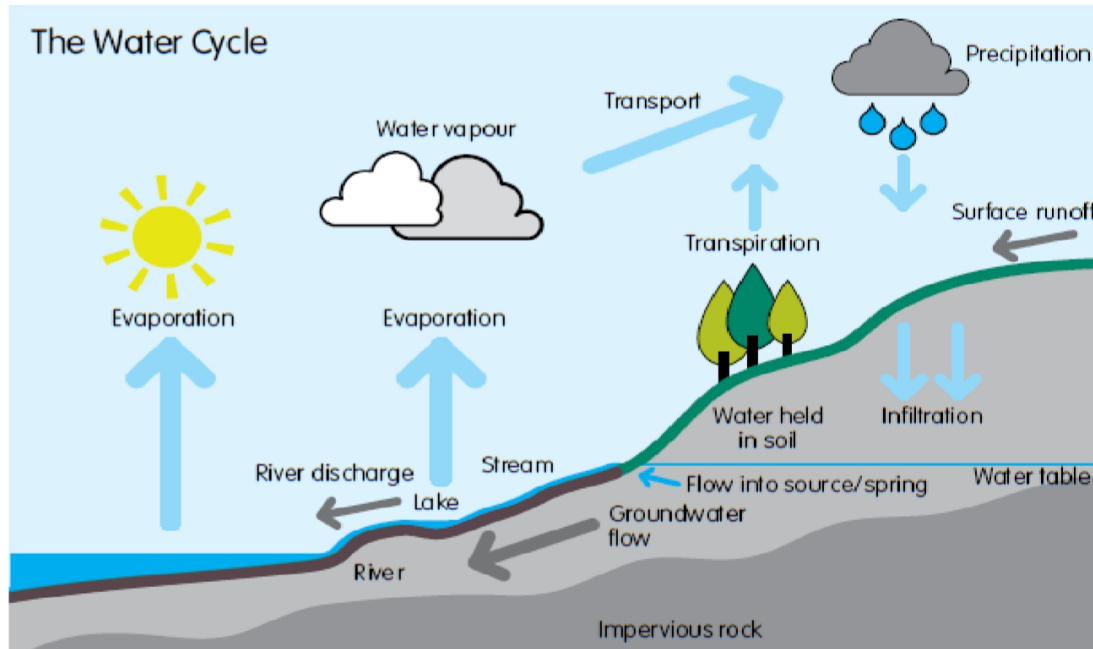
It becomes a problem when it occurs in areas we want to live in, travel across or we use areas that flood

Climate change

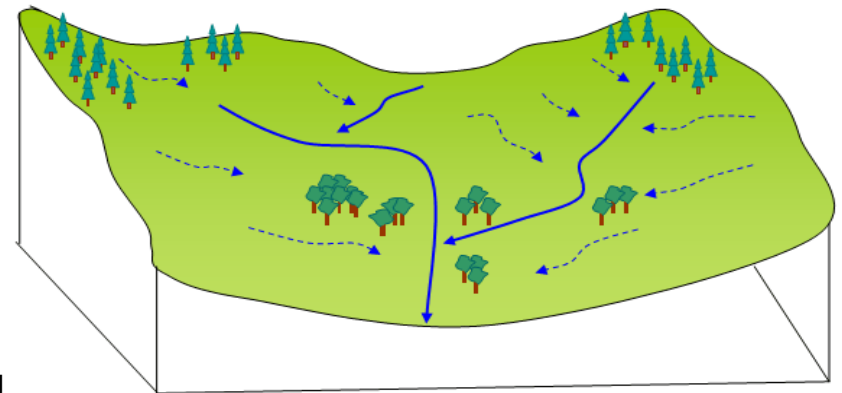


As a community emergency volunteer you have an important role to play in helping your community adapt to and mitigate the worst effects of climate change

An introduction to river catchments



Flooding, other than coastal flooding, is linked to the hydrological cycle. As the climate affects our weather, flooding events are becoming more intense in reaction to this



Source:
<http://www.floodsite.net/juniorfloodsite/images/content/catchmentarea.png>

Sources of flooding

The most common sources of flooding are:

- Surface water
- River
- Reservoir
- Sewer
- Groundwater
- Coastal



**Floods can
happen
anywhere, at
any time**



Factors that influence flooding



Whilst flooding is a natural process, there are both natural and man-made influences that can affect the likelihood of it happening:

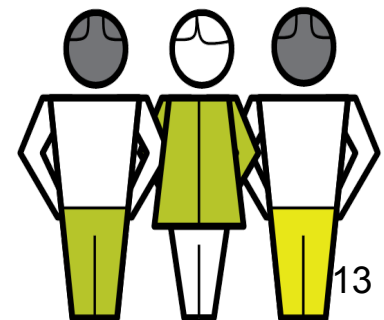
- Ability of the catchment to absorb water
- Changes in agricultural practices
- Blockages
- Tide-locking



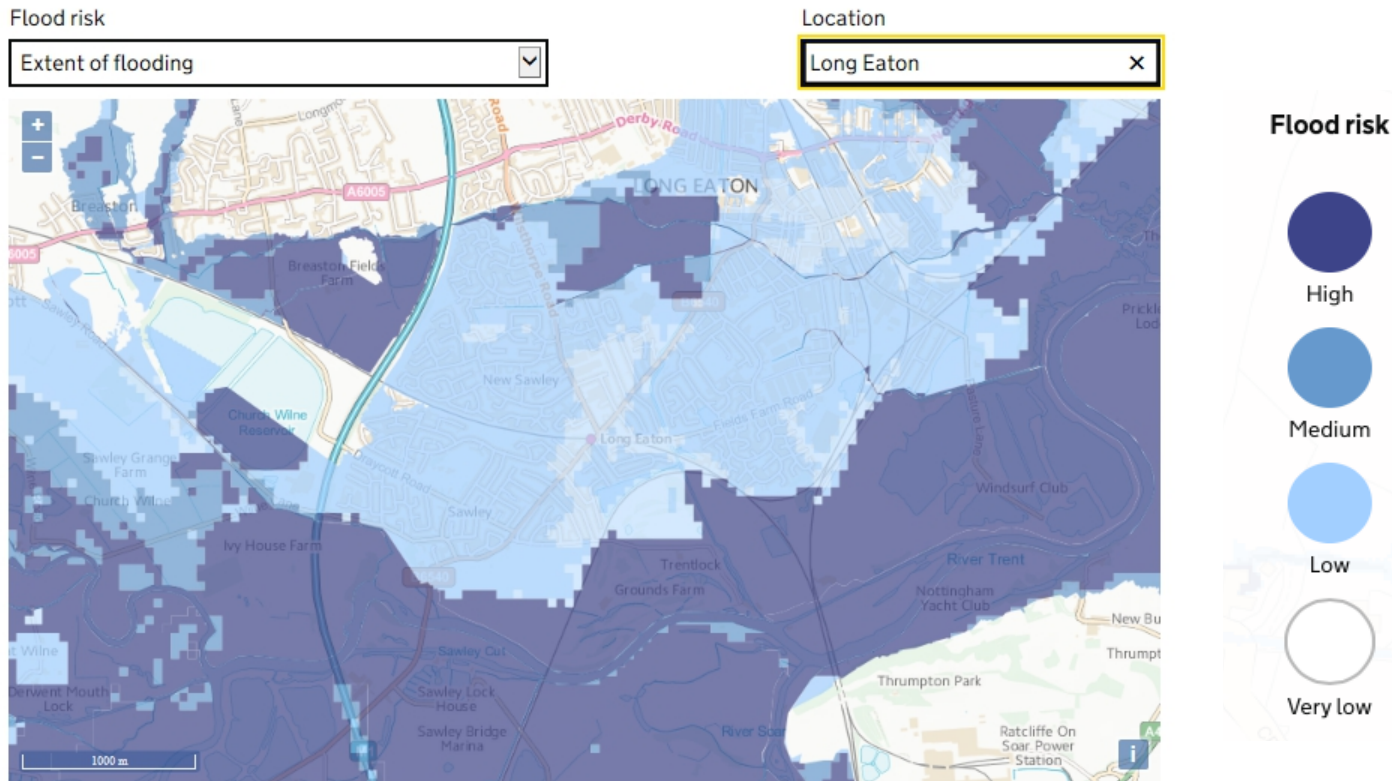
Breakout 1: How has flooding affected you?



- You will be automatically invited to join your designated breakout room (just click the join button on your screen) with a facilitator
- You will have 12 minutes to discuss the different types of flooding that affect your areas, what might cause it and how you might seek solutions
- We will then come back into the main meeting where the facilitator will share responses



Communicating flood risk & flood risk mapping



Flood risk is not just the likelihood of flooding, but the possible damage a flood could do as well

Flood risk mapping

Even flood defences can be overtopped



Flood warning video



Weather and flood warnings



FLOODFORECASTINGCENTRE

a working partnership between  Environment Agency |  Met Office

No Severe Weather	Be Aware	Be Prepared	Take Action



FLOOD ALERT

This means that **flooding is possible** and you need to stay alert and vigilant, making early preparations for a potential flood.

- Monitor the situation through forecasts, local radio stations and monitoring stations.
- Check your flood plan is filled in and your flood kit is complete and ready if needed.



FLOOD WARNING

This means that **flooding is expected** and immediate action is required to protect yourself and your property.

- Continue to monitor the situation.
- Carry out actions detailed in your flood plan.
- Put any property flood resilience equipment into place.



SEVERE FLOOD WARNING

Severe flooding is expected, and is likely to cause significant risk to life and destruction of property.

- Prepare to evacuate and cooperate with the emergency services.
- Get your flood kit before evacuating.
- Turn off utility supplies.

Receiving warning services



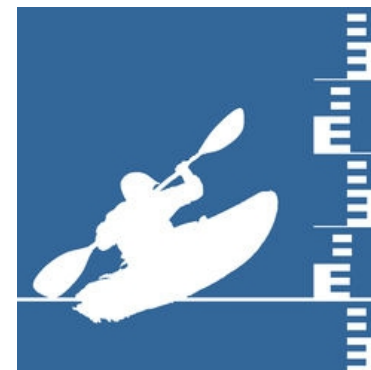
- Sign up to the EA Flood Warning Service
<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>
- Or phone 0345 988 1188 (24hrs)
- You can contact Jo Aspinall to get signed up if your own property is not covered by the automatic warnings.
- <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels>



Met office App



Flood Alert App

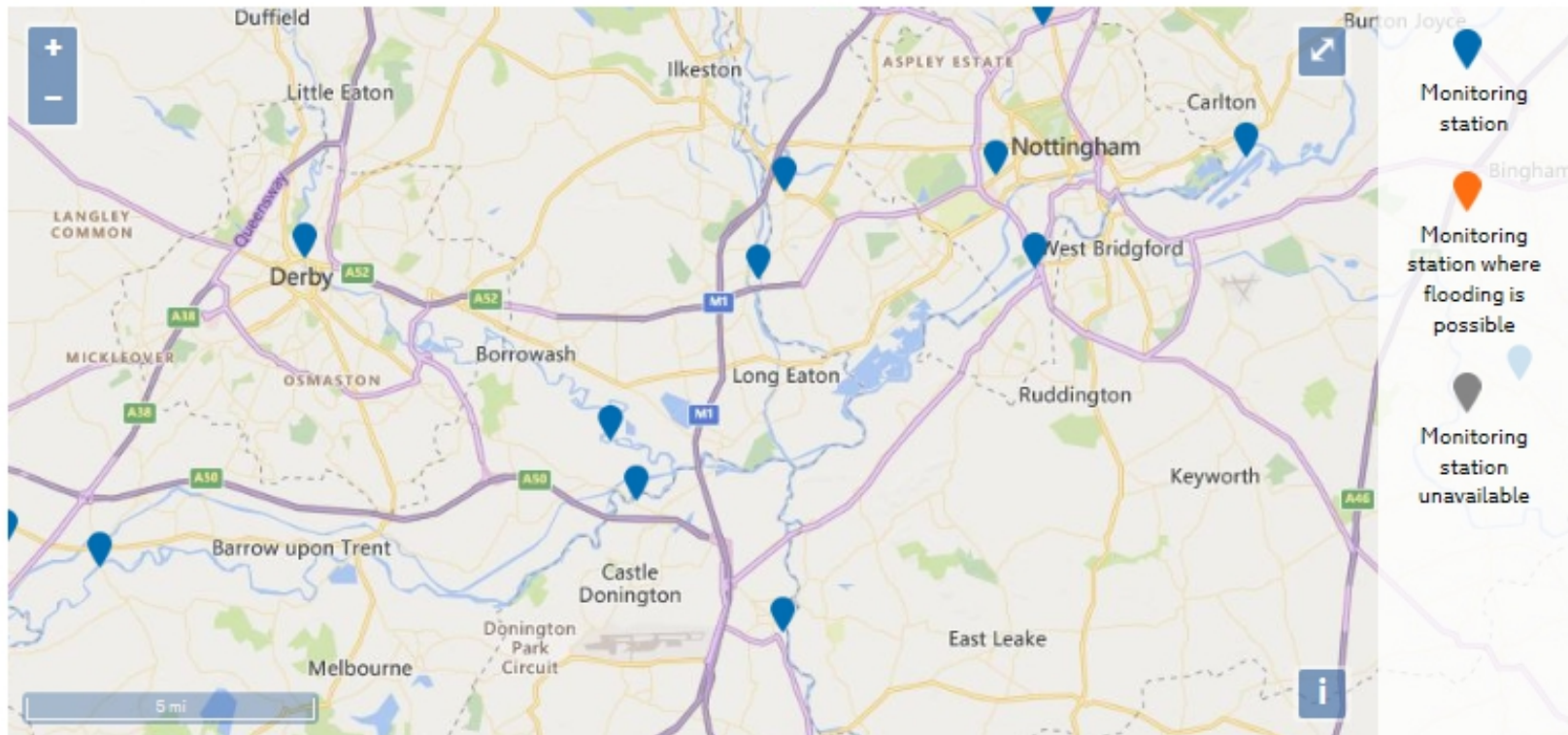


River Levels
App

Online river information

Location

Long Eaton



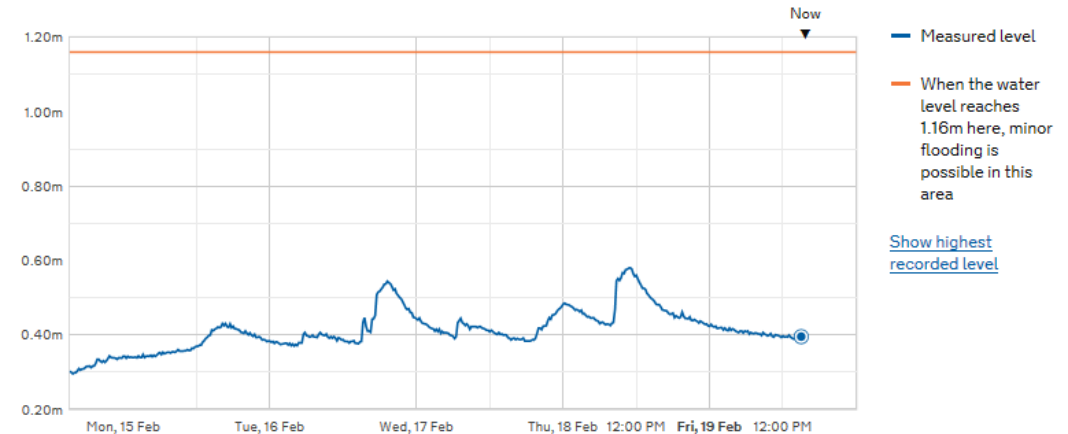
River levels online

River Wye at Buxton

[Check for flood warnings in this area](#)

Latest recorded level **0.40m** at **3:00pm Friday 19 February 2021**.

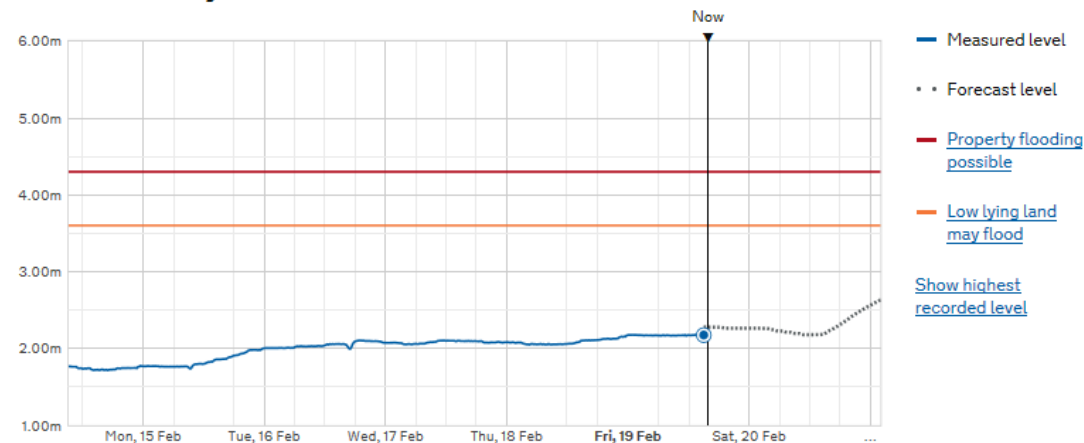
River levels at this location in the last 5 days



River Trent at Colwick

Latest recorded level **2.17m** at **3:00pm Friday 19 February 2021**.

Levels: last 5 days and next 36 hours



Who is responsible?



- Defra
- Environment Agency
- Lead local flood authorities
- County, District & Unitary Council's
- Highway authorities
- Water and sewerage companies
- Internal Drainage Boards
- CART
- Us

Riparian responsibility



Anyone who owns land or property alongside a river or stream, or other watercourse including a culvert, in legal terms is presumed to be a riparian owner

Riparian owners have certain rights and responsibilities, particularly regarding maintenance, which could affect flood risk (refer to EA 'Living on the Edge' booklet for more information)

Role of a Flood Warden



Your role before a flood



- Understand flood risk and properties at risk within your area
- Act as 'eyes and ears' of the local authorities – report problems
- Encourage people at risk to register for flood alerts
- Identify vulnerable individuals (keep information up to date)
- Support community plan training and activities
- Help raise community flood awareness
- Understanding flood risk
 - Steps to help protect property ... Insurance, defences and other measures
 - Keeping safe during a flood
 - Who to contact in an emergency and reporting problems
 - Riparian ownership
- Assist with the recruitment of volunteers
- Consider establishing a flood road closure scheme (Notts)

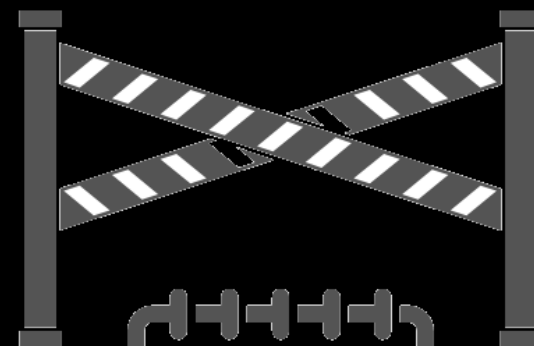
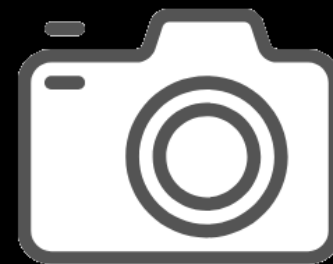
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Your strength as a community volunteer is your detailed knowledge of your local area and the people living within it

Your role during a flood

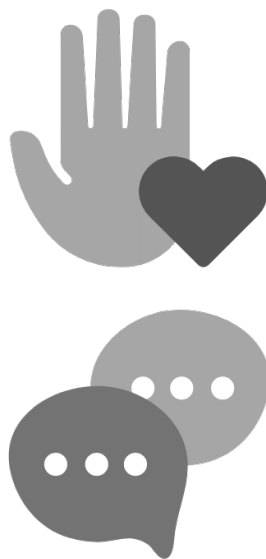


- Prioritise your own safety at all times
- Follow procedures set out in your flood plan
- Relay information to the local community
- Inform relevant authority about issues/conditions on the ground
- Follow guidance from the emergency services at all times
- Provide the emergency services with your knowledge and information
- Collect information about the flood (e.g. photos, images (larger scale images) including first property flood)
- Do not cross cordons unless given permission to do so by the police or incident commander
- Flood wardens have access to Emergency Room number and County Council Emergency



Your role after a flood

- Submit information you have collected
- Help to relay information to the local community
- Support your local community
- Assist at community meetings
- Update flood plan



Flood volunteer PPE

- Hi-viz
- Wellington boots
- Waterproof gloves
- Head torch/torch
- Hand sanitiser
- Layered clothing
- Bottle of water & a high energy snack (recommend not to eat around flood water)



For COVID:

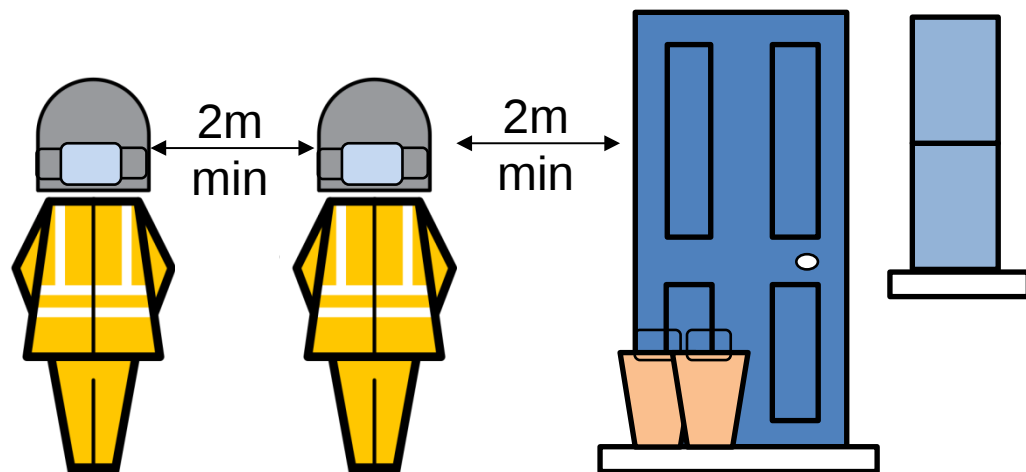
- Branded bib (for recognition) if you are supporting people you don't know
- Face covering
- >60% alcohol-based hand gel



4 rules for a safe COVID working



1. Use a face covering & spray your hands with gel before starting work
2. When checking on the vulnerable, after ringing the bell or knocking on the door take at least 3 steps (2m minimum) back. Do not enter property
3. We recommend that you do not share a vehicle
4. Brief other volunteers outside, maintain social distancing and follow government guidelines
5. When you have finished your rounds, and before eating and drinking, thoroughly wash your hands with hot water and soap for 20 seconds and safely dispose of your disposable PPE in a bin bag in an outside bin



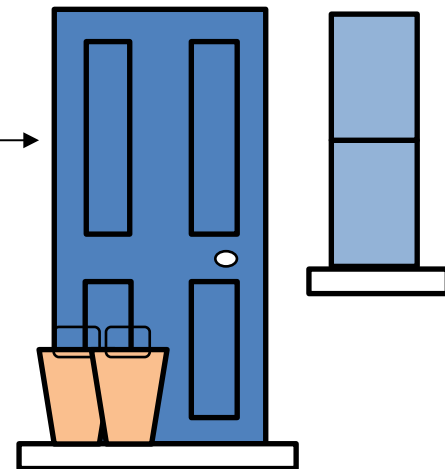
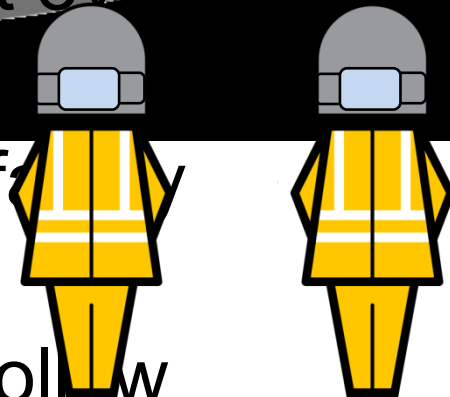
Vulnerable persons doorstep check



- Have they got enough food?
- Are they warm/cool enough?
- Do they have enough medicines to last over the winter?

Are friends and family helping them?

Advise them to follow the advice of

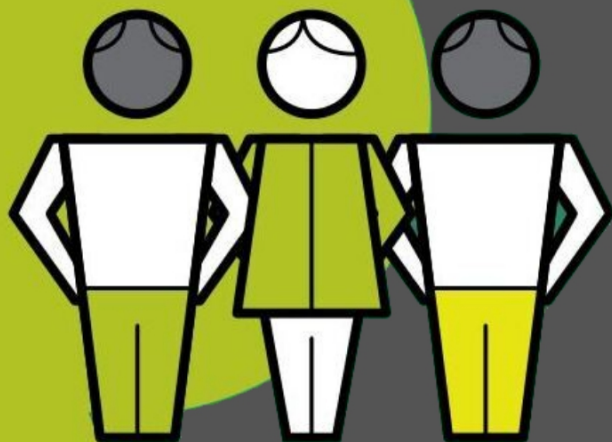


5 min break

- Please stretch your legs and have a break
- Make yourself a quick drink and find a biscuit
- Please be ready to start back in 5 mins



Part 2



Your priorities



Remember:

Your first priority is your safety and that of those around you.

Do not attempt to carry out any activities of the emergency service until you are properly trained.

Always assess the risks to yourself and others before carrying out any activities as a volunteer

The dangers of flood water

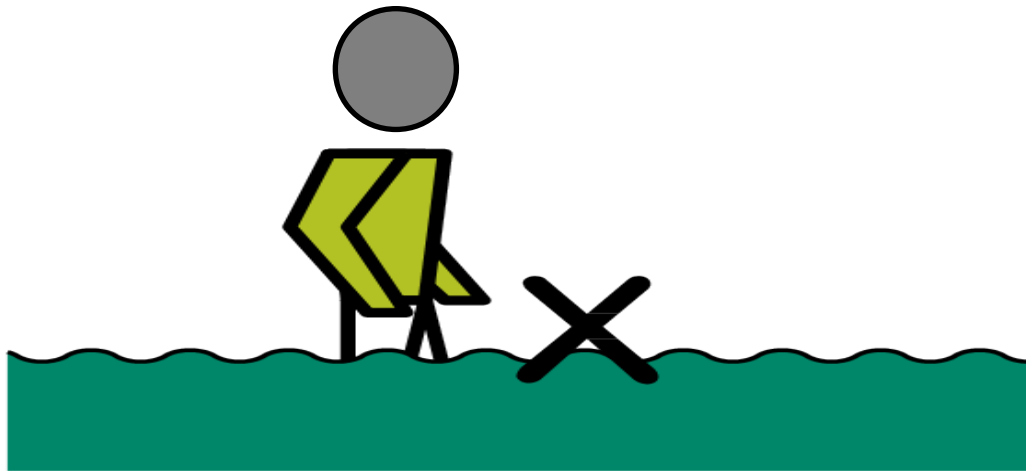


The definition of flood water:

- Any case where land not normally covered by water becomes covered by water

What can I do?

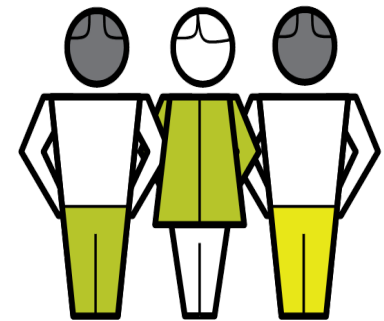
- Assess the risks you might face at all times



Breakout 2: The dangers to flood wardens

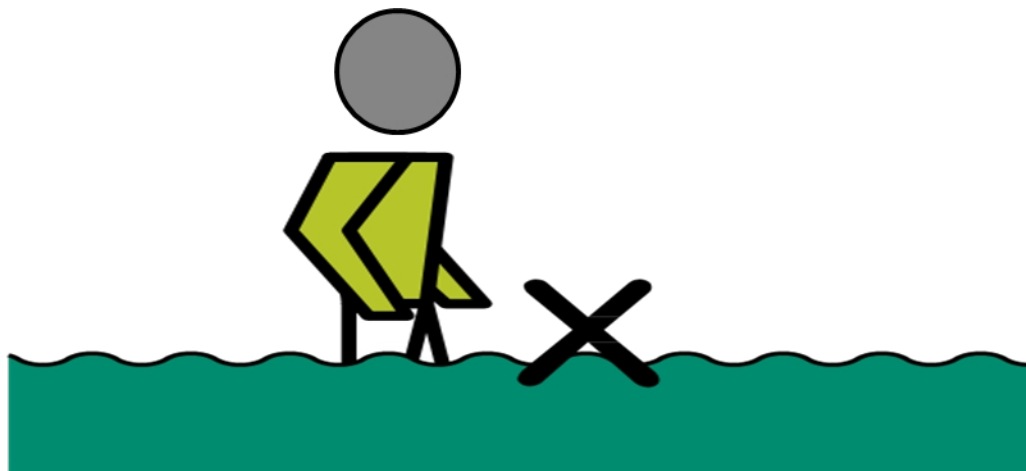


- You will be automatically invited to join your designated breakout room (just click the join button on your screen) with a facilitator
- You will have 12 minutes to identify the possible dangers or hazards to flood wardens associated with working around flood water in your experience. How can you mitigate or reduce the risk of harm or injury?
- We will then come back into the main meeting where the facilitator will share responses



Risk assessment

- Communities with a flood warden scheme should have a risk assessment in place to refer to when carrying out your role
- It should highlight possible hazards and how the risk can be reduced in order keep you safe



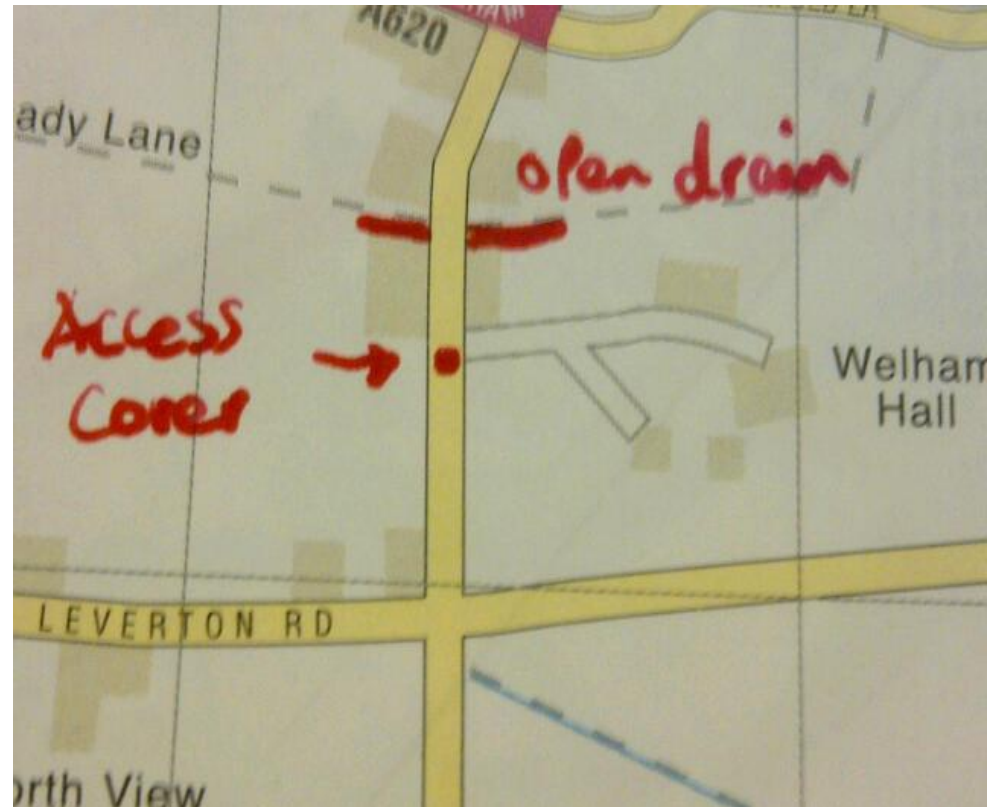
Specific risk assessments



- Identify key hazards in community
- Note reference points, house numbers, street lighting numbers, landmarks
- Identify properties with potentially vulnerable residents / risk of flooding
- Record – mark hazards on street maps, keep a photo log
- Make risk assessments available e.g., keep in appendix of community flood / emergency plan

Marking local hazards

- Mark specific hazards on local maps and store within flood / community plans



Dynamic risk assessments

- Always carry out a dynamic risk assessment each time you're doing your flood warden duties on the ground
- Continue to take into account changing circumstances – e.g., what are the current weather conditions, what is the visibility like, are there large volumes of traffic on the road
- Is it safe for you to carry out your duties in current conditions?



Drowning



It only takes 6 inches or 15 cm of fast flowing water to sweep an adult off their feet!

What can I do?

Don't enter flood water

Hostility: animals and humans



Inconsiderate driving, restricting vehicle access and road closures, alongside the stress of flooding, can be a flash point for hostility

Domestic animals or livestock can be dangerous and unpredictable, especially if under stress



Submerged hazards



Example

- Mud, s
- Drain c
- Rocks
- Steps

What ca

Always ensure you can see the surface you are walking on.

Do not enter flood water

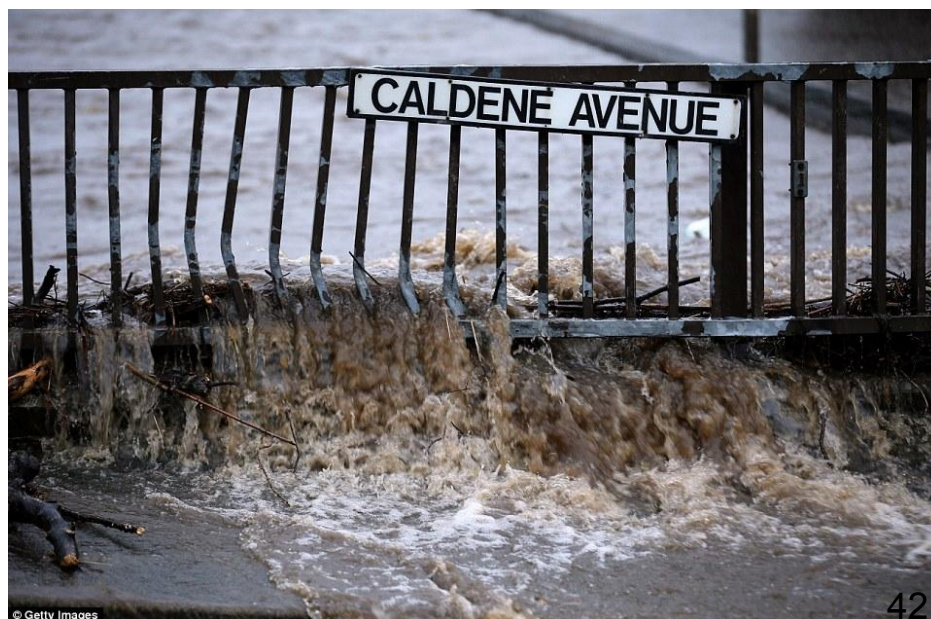
Notify emergency services if you think someone is trapped by flood water.

Strainers



Strainers can be natural, such as submerged trees or branches, or man-made – such as fences, gates or benches

Strainers are submerged items with gaps in them that will allow water to pass through but are too small for you to pass through



Vulnerable structures

Damage may be caused to buildings, roads, riverbanks and other structures, making them unsafe

Prolonged rainfall can lead to the ground becoming saturated, raising the risk of landslides

Do not underestimate the power of flood waters

For more details, please refer to page 18 of your handbook



Driving and flood water

- One third of flood deaths are drivers
- 60cm or 2 feet will float a car (1ft for a small car)
- Egg cup of water will ruin an engine
- Mud, silt and standing water will create slippery surfaces



The dangers of receding water

Do not attempt to unblock drains during a flood or remove drain covers at any time unless you have been adequately trained or authorised to do so.



Details on page 13 of the
handbook

The dangers of contaminated water

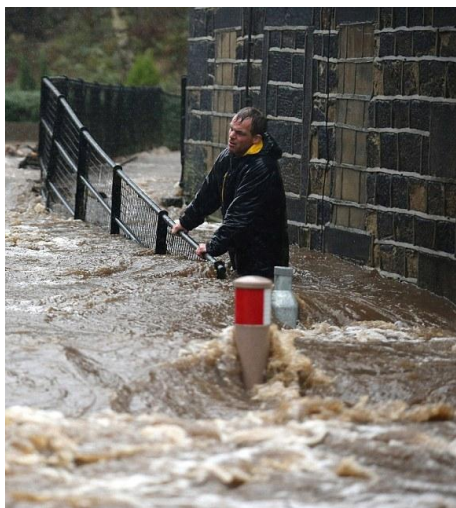


Details on page 11 of the
handbook

Hypothermia

Normal body temperature is 37°C

Refer to page 17 in the handbook for the signs of hypothermia



Hypothermia occurs when the body temperature falls below 35°C

Be alert for signs of hypothermia in yourself and others



Electricity and gas

- **Electricity:** After flooding, electrical hazards may exist long after the water dissipates
- **Gas:** Flood water can damage the controls of gas appliances. Safety features can become blocked even if the gas controls appear to operate properly



Do not turn the power back on until it has been inspected by a qualified electrician

Details on page 14 and 15 of the handbook

Manual handling



While attending to your responsibilities as a Flood Warden, people might expect you to help move items with them

What can I do?

- Politely tell people that's not your role and you have other duties to attend to
- If it is unavoidable, do not lift heavy or awkward items
- Ask others to help
- Use correct lifting technique
- Filled sandbags are very heavy

Manual handling



- Traditional sandbags are heavy – there are lighter alternatives
- Reduce load –do not over fill
- Two person/team lift
- Lifting aids e.g., trollies
- Following instructions given from Highways when lifting / carrying road signs
- Pre-position equipment near to flood locations to save carrying distance



Working near roads



During flooding, people will want to remove people and property away from the affected area as quickly as possible and will not always be concentrating on their driving and the road ahead

Poor driving conditions and decreased visibility in bad weather can exacerbate this problem.

What can I do?

- Wear hi-vis
- Request road closure
- Implement flood signage scheme



Emergency exit routes



Flood water levels can continue to rise long after rainfall has ceased

What can I do?

Avoid being trapped or cut off if flood waters rise unexpectedly

Always consider an exit route and a safe location to retreat to if necessary

Rivers can be dangerous



Even when there is not a flood, rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs can be dangerous under normal circumstances due to hidden objects and 'cold water shock'

Do not attempt to
enter deep water

Equipment



After a flood, equipment such as footwear, clothing and gloves may become contaminated with sewerage and other pollutants

What can I

- ~~Lead?~~ **do?** outside until all items are thoroughly washed before reuse
- Store any potentially contaminated items separately
- Contact your local authority for advice on how to dispose of contaminated items that cannot be cleaned to an acceptable standard

Slips, trips and falls



During and after a flood event the area around you will be wet, slippery and probably contain mud and other debris.

What can I do?

- Take extra care when walking on wet, slippery or uneven ground
- Avoid walking in these conditions if possible
- All



Other important considerations



- Data protection and managing sensitive information
- Tourists and visitors
- The press and media
- Criminal activity

A large, light gray speech bubble with a black outline is positioned on the right side of the slide. It has a tail pointing towards the bottom left. The text inside is centered and reads: 'Be alert to the possibility of criminal activity during or after a flood event'.

Be alert to the possibility
of criminal activity
during or after a flood
event

Be **prepared!**



It may be a good idea to place a safety checklist such as this one in your grab bag:

- S** - stay out of water
- H** - hygiene aware
- O** - operate local emergency plan procedures
- W** - work in pairs where possible
- E** - escape route and egress
- R** - risk assess and aware

Recap



• Flooding
is
affected
by

Avoid walking
through flood
water

Do not place
yourself at risk
at any time

Do not attempt to
operate or repair
flood defence
structures or
equipment

More information



- Follow Local Authority social media and online guidance
- National Association of Local Councils <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/>
- Business in the Community BERG
<https://www.bitc.org.uk/business-emergency-resilience-group/>
- Business Efficient Resilience Toolkit <https://www.getbusinessresilient.co.uk/>
- Know Your Flood Risk <http://www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk/>
- Flood Re – Household flood insurance advice <https://www.floodre.co.uk/>
- Community Flood Plan
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-flood-plan-template>
- Communities Prepared, www.communitiesprepared.org.uk
- EA Riparian Info Booklet
https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/EA_Guide_to_rights_and_responsibilities_of_riversid
-
- Nottinghamshire County Council
<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flooding-help-and-advice>
- Derbyshire County Council
<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/flooding/flooding.aspx>

Next steps



- If you're not already a member of our online community resilience hub, find out more and sign up for free at **communitiesprepared.org.uk** for advice, resources and our members' forum
- We will email you a recording of the webinar along with the slides, a link to a short evaluation survey (link in the chat) and full details on our training and support available
- If you are a Flood Warden, please ensure you are signed up to receive Flood Alerts and Flood Warnings
- Keep your Environment Agency team up to date with your contact details at email: jo.aspinall@environment-agency.gov.uk

Coming up



CEV Coordinator

10 March, 6-8 pm



Comms & Marketing

17 March, 6-7:45 pm



Fundraising

24 March, 6-7:45 pm



Keep in touch



Keep in touch



communitiesprepared.org.uk

communitiesprepared@groundwork.org.uk

floodresilience.eastmidlands@environment-agency.gov.uk

emergency.planning@derbyshire.gov.uk

emergency.planning@nottinghamshire.gov.uk



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Q&A



- This is an opportunity to ask questions
- You can either post your question in the chat for us to read out or write in the chat that you'd like to ask it and you can unmute to do so
- We will also be available immediately after the webinar if you'd like to stay on or you can email us to arrange a follow-up call