

## News and updates

## Bulletin May 2018

The National Flood Forum responded to the National Planning Policy Framework consultation, details of which can be found [HERE](#). We had a great many contributions from Flood Action Groups and individuals across the country, for which we are extremely grateful.

Planning and development are issues of great concern to people across the country. There are many different issues that people are interested in, so we picked out some key themes and tried to get across why these are important, the frustration that many people feel and proposed solutions



***We want to stay in touch with you but from the 25<sup>th</sup> May under the new General Data Protection Regulation we will no longer be able to contact you without your express permission. We do hope, therefore, that you will say YES to our request.***

As a small charity we are keen to be able to contact the flood community to hear about the issues that are of concern to people and to let you know about the valuable work that we and others do with throughout the UK? Even if you are affiliated to the National Flood Forum we still need you to respond to this request. We will only use your data to contact you and would never pass details on to a third party without your express permission.

**Please click “update your preferences” on the accompanying email to give us permission to keep in touch or call us on 01299 403055.**

If you have any queries please contact [amanda.davies@floodforum.org.uk](mailto:amanda.davies@floodforum.org.uk) or phone 01299 403101.

### GDPR for Flood Action Groups.

We have been getting enquiries from some of our Groups about how they might deal with the new data protection rules coming into force on the 25<sup>th</sup> May. As most Groups keep only very simple data one suggestion we have come across is to send an email along the line of the following:

*Hello*

*We would be most grateful if you could just reply YES to this email to give [Flood Action Group Name] permission to continue to email you. You can of course choose not to receive emails at any time.*

*Thank you.*



**Correction :** The Feature in Februarys issue of the bulletin headed “United Flood Action Groups in Lancashire” - should have read as being by Churchtown Flood Action Group.

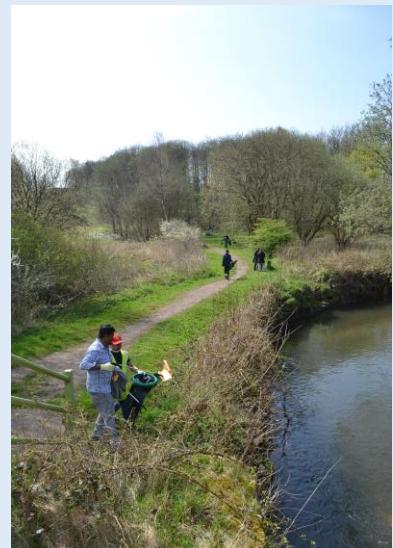
# Clean Up helps the Community and Watercourses!

On the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018, members of the Rochdale community came out to help partake in a litter pick on a stretch of the River Roch. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> annual clean-up day now and is still proving popular!

This was not only to help improve the appearance of the area but to help reinforce the message of taking care of the river to help reduce potential flood risk.

On a rare sunny day, over 20 volunteers comprising of the local community, including local flood action group members and their children, the local Rochdale Environmental Action Group (REAG) and representatives of the organisations Faiths 4 Change and the Environment Agency and of course the National Flood Forum.

Over a wagon load of rubbish was collected and removed from the River Roch stretch, including a very old television that one of the younger members of the group exclaimed – “that’s not a tv – it’s too wide!” obviously now used to the slim flat screen types!



At a local Scout Hut (the local Scouts have also been very involved with promoting local flood resilience!) more flood resilience information and recycling games were also provided that provided frightening insight into how long items take to biodegrade – if at all!

The group was also rewarded with a delicious lunch created by CommuniTea that was very welcomed after all their hard work!



# WELCOMING SHANI LAMBERT

Hello, I am Shani Lambert and I have just begun working for the National Flood Forum as a Community Flood Project Officer for Southwell in Nottinghamshire.

My experience of flooding happened in 1998 when both my Mum and I were at University, I was in my second year and my Mum was in her third year undertaking her dissertation. We only had a couple of inches come into the house and it went out relatively quickly again, but it was enough to cause damage to all our ground floor furniture and a lot of stress. It took several months for the house to dry out, be re-plastered and for things to start getting back to normal again, which is a relatively short time compared to a lot of flooding incidents across the country, but it was the stress that it caused my Mum that was the hardest part. Although my flooding experience was 20 years ago now, I can remember it like it was yesterday.

When the post for a Southwell Community Flood Project Officer came up, I just knew I had to apply. Having undertaken both my Undergrad and Master's degrees at Brackenhurst (Nottingham Trent University's land-based studies campus) just outside the small rural market town of Southwell, I knew the area well. I had also worked with volunteer groups across Nottinghamshire in the past when I was a Community Conservation Project Officer with the local authority and the very first project that I undertook was in Southwell. Consequently, I felt this role was just meant to be!



The project I will be delivering in Southwell is part of the European Interreg FRAMES programme, working in partnership with Trent Rivers Trust who will be delivering on a Natural Flood Management programme outside of the town whilst I work in the town with the Southwell Flood Forum, delivering on the aims and objectives of the group and helping the wider community to gain a better understanding of living near and with water.

I am really excited to be delivering this project in my home county and am looking forward to being part of the Team and working with the Southwell Flood Forum.

When I am not working I am a keen gardener. Having gained my BSc in Conservation and Countryside Management and my MSc in Biodiversity Conservation I love looking after wildlife and specifically designed my front garden with bees, birds and butterflies in mind – I have an English Cottage garden where every plant provides either food or shelter for the bees, birds and butterflies with several fruit trees planted for good measure.

And when I am not gardening, people can find me on the archery field practicing my favourite sport. I took up archery in 2008 and haven't looked back since, I absolutely love it and have been competing in competitions since 2009. I have been lucky enough to have competed in American at a competition that is held between the State of Oregon and Nottinghamshire, at the World Masters Games in Auckland New Zealand and will be travelling to the Pengang this year for the Asian Master's Games.

# CASE STUDY

**Present and Future Flood vulnerability, risk and disadvantage: A workshop to test theories between communities at risk and their levels of flood resilience.**

## Background

The report, 'Present and future flood vulnerability, risk and disadvantage: A UK assessment' by Sayers and Partners for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, highlights how floods interact with social vulnerability across the UK to create flood disadvantage, an issue which will be exacerbated by climate change. The report and its associated data can be found at <http://www.sayersandpartners.co.uk/flood-disadvantage.html>

Some 6.4 million people live in flood prone areas in the UK, with around 1.5 million of these living in vulnerable neighbourhoods (which include people on low incomes, with poor health and other factors that mean that floods are likely to have increasingly severe impacts). Sayers et al (2017) reported that over 50% of the population exposed to flooding in the most vulnerable neighbourhoods can be found in just ten local authorities. Furthermore, the number of people living in flood prone areas is set to increase to 10.8 million people by the 2080s, assuming a future scenario of high population growth and a 4C° increase in temperatures due to climate change.

The report highlights a series of recommendations for policymakers including:

- Adopt new indicators to highlight the risks faced by the most socially vulnerable (including a new Neighbourhood Flood Vulnerability Index (NFVI), a Social Flood Risk Index (SFRI) and a measure of Relative Economic Pain (REP)).
- Use these new indicators to better target support for the most socially vulnerable in flood investment decisions.
- Ensure flood risk management policy actively supports inclusive growth.
- Better reflect the disproportionate long-term flood risks faced by vulnerable neighbourhoods in national and local planning policy.

## Purpose of the Pilot

This pilot aimed to test the outputs of the 'Present and Future Flood vulnerability, risk and disadvantage' project to establish if they can be used in a practical way at a local scale to help target flood risk management interventions with disadvantaged communities. In doing so, it considered:

1. Does the output data from the 'Present and Future Flood vulnerability, risk and disadvantage' project make sense?
2. Is the methodology tested in the workshop a useful approach that can be replicated?

## Mapping and the Workshop Approach

Pilots in Rochdale and Kent were selected to test these questions, as these correspond with areas identified in the report as suffering particular flood disadvantage – cities in economic decline, coastal areas and places where capital schemes are unlikely to meet cost: benefit criteria for flood risk management schemes. Half day workshops were held in each area. The workshops brought together data used in the Sayers et al report from the University of Manchester, local data on flood risk and social indicators, and local knowledge from both a flood risk management and a social perspective to consider how it could support targeting of local responses.

During each workshop, newly analysed data sets from the University of Manchester were presented. The data provided by the University of Manchester was in an excel format. For these data sets to be utilised effectively in both workshops it had to be transformed into visual maps. The National Flood Forum took the Excel spatial data and joined it with Ordnance Survey maps in the open source mapping software 'QGIS'. The data was mapped at the Lower Super Outputs Areas (LSOAs) scale.

During both workshops, the mapped data proved to be an essential discussion starter regarding flood disadvantaged communities. However, participants highlighted a number of problems including: the data being outdated due to its census origin, crucial datasets had been left out of the analysis (i.e. mental health problems, owner occupiers, unregistered for housing, transient populations and populations within prisons) and the data generalised smaller communities due to the descriptive legends and the lack of finer scaling.

## Recommendations

1. The methodology outlined in this report brought practitioners together from different sectors to discuss flood disadvantage, using the data from Sayers et al. 2017 to generate discussions. It demonstrated that the approach of combining data with local knowledge and skills provides a much more informed discussion about flood disadvantage than using data alone.
2. Decisions regarding the targeting of flood risk management or resilience measures locally should not be solely based solely on data from the Sayers et al (2017) report. A holistic approach is needed that includes local data and knowledge from a wide variety of sources.

3. The scale of data presented in the Sayers et al (2017) report was useful as part of a scoping exercise, helping to generate discussions on a range of flood disadvantage issues. However, it was not sufficiently detailed to base decisions on. It is recommended that additional finer scale data should be included to help inform discussions, including the ability to explore how sub-group characteristics, or the relationships between variables, differ between localities.
4. Some of the data presented in the Sayers et al (2017) report was outdated due to its nature and origin. Particular datasets were found to be misleading and not a true representation of reality, because changes had occurred since the data was collected, therefore representatives found it difficult to use the information. It is recommended that the data should be used in conjunction with other current sources of data and local knowledge held at the local level.
5. The workshop approach brought practitioners together from different sectors to discuss flood disadvantage. This was key in furthering the discussion and identifying socio-economic drivers for flood disadvantage at a local scale. However, it is recommended that this methodology is developed further to increase the participation of local representatives from non-governmental organisations.
6. The workshop approach outlined in this report brought practitioners together from different sectors to discuss flood disadvantage. However, it was clear during discussions that some issues that representatives were sector specific. For example, social renting, caravan sites and insurance. The workshop methodology used in this project could be used to identify and start to address such sector specific issues in relation to flood disadvantage.
7. The Isle of Sheppey Pilot demonstrated that vulnerability and flood disadvantage existed in the area and that there were a lot of small scale projects needed that would potentially never get funding. The pilot approach could therefore be used to identify where need exists in areas such as this and to help target interventions, such as supporting the development of flood action groups.

### **Conclusions**

The project used data from the Sayers et al (2017) report and a workshop methodology to test whether the data is a true representation of the flood disadvantage of communities on the ground; as well as testing whether the workshop methodology is an approach to identifying flood risk management and potential resilience mitigation activity in such communities. The workshop methodology proved successful in bringing together partners from different sectors to discuss community flood disadvantage in both Rochdale and the Isle of Sheppey. The workshops enabled participants to share sector specific issues, share current projects that are being undertaken in communities that are tackling aspects of vulnerability and enabling cross sector projects to be developed that produce multiple benefits to a community.

However, during both workshops participants identified shortfalls with the data in truly representing vulnerability factors at the community scale. The main finding from this pilot was that decision making regarding the targeting of flood risk management activities in disadvantaged communities, should not solely be driven by data. This report has demonstrated that the approach of combining data with local knowledge and skills provides a much more informed discussion about flood disadvantage than using data alone. Therefore, this report has outlined seven recommendations for furthering the methodology used in this pilot to ensure that holistic and inclusive decisions are being made regarding the targeting of flood risk management activities in disadvantaged communities. It is thought that this refined methodology could be utilised by all sectors across the UK to identify flood disadvantaged communities and future interventions.



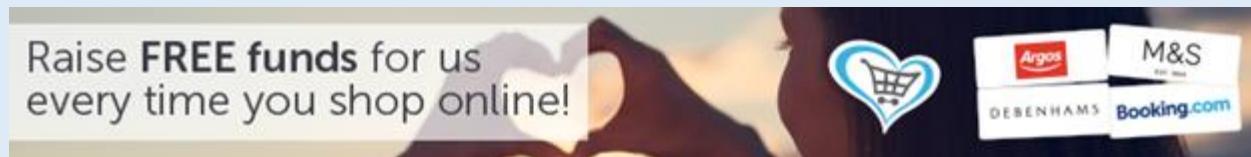
**If you have a river, ditch or stream running alongside your garden you are a Riparian Owner.**

**Definition of Riparian Owner “A riparian owner refers to a person who owns land bounding upon a river, lake, or other water course”.**

# HOW YOU CAN HELP THE NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM

Our purpose is to give support and help too grassroots communities at risk of flooding, we are committed to giving our time, energy and focus to these communities. Unfortunately, because we are not supported by any core funding we are always struggling to survive as a Charity. We really appreciate any support that can be given, maybe in the form of a fundraising event, or donations or any other ideas that you may have. We do have in place some ideas already as follows:

1. We now have a fundraising pack with lots of ideas on how people can raise funds.
2. The Give-as-you-live facility allows you to make a donation to the National Flood Forum every time you shop online, at no cost to you. What is more, we can use the funds to match against some of the other projects we are working on and double up the value. To sign up, please click on the link in the graphic below ...



3. You can also text **RAIN07 £5\*** to **70070** to donate via your mobile directly or through our website at [www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk). **Suggested donation. Your chosen amount** comes from your pre-paid credit or is added to your bill and the National Flood Forum receives 100% of the donation.

## Shopping for your Summer Garden?



# FILLONGLY FLOOD GROUP

2018 has been a busy year already for Fillongley Flood Action Group. Be it through group meetings, working on their Flood Action Plan or organising Multi-Agency Meetings the group have been proactive in reducing their flood risk.

High rainfall levels in early March left the residents watching the flow monitor on the Bourne Brook in angst as the catchment reacted to heavy rainfall with fully saturated soils. On a brief window of no rain, one member sent a drone up to get a better understanding of the brook in high flow.



Fillongley Castle – downstream

When compared with footage of the same locations about 10 days apart it is clear to see the volume of water that makes its way to the village.

In April, the Fillongley held a meeting with Highways England and Arcadis as a follow up to previous discussions around how Highways England can reduce the quantity of water entering the Bourne Brook in their M6 J2-J4 Smart Motorway upgrade.

There is currently a significant percentage of water that runs off the motorway into the Bourne Brook and increases the risk of flooding in the village. Highways England have agreed to help mitigate the flooding issues by installing larger storage pipes under the motorway and although the betterment is smaller than previously discussed due to funding limitations the benefit will still add to the multitude of works the group are undertaking.

The business case for a Natural Flood Management project in Fillongley has also recently been approved. The £48,000 project being led by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Warwickshire County Council and supported by the Flood Action Group is under way with a landowner engagement evening being held in March to discuss local thoughts on Natural Flood Management and any ideas of what would be practical upstream.

As Fillongley is a fast-reacting flashy catchment, Natural Flood Management will be able to help mitigate the speed in which the water travels to village and together with other techniques will be a positive and natural way to help residents reduce their susceptibility of flooding.



Fillongley Castle overview

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2018

## WHAT

Flood Expo

Emergency Services Show

## WHEN

12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> September

19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> September

## WHERE

NEC, Birmingham

Hall 5, NEC, Birmingham

Raise **FREE funds** for us  
every time you shop online!

