

FLOOD PROTECTION, PREPARATION & MITIGATION UPDATE

Following last year's devastating flooding in the village, Deanshanger Parish Council has worked hard to try and get the causes established, get the responsible agencies to take action that will mitigate future incidents and to build our community's resilience. We have had several successes and are still fighting to resolve some issues. Below is an update:

- The Parish Council has taken unilateral action, considering the lack of funding forthcoming as promised from West Northants Council, to fund a flood store to the tune of £1,300. This will be used to buy equipment needed in the event of another flood (or other emergency) in the future. The site of the store and access details will be shared once installed.
- The Parish Council met with the Bedford Group of Drainage Boards, and they are undertaking maintenance of the water course beside and behind EWS to the A422. This is to help water flow faster out of the village and away from our houses quicker. They confirmed that there are no sluice gates to open or close that affect us.
- We reported the overflowing drain cover in High Street, near Patrick's Lane again and after an inspection, Anglian Water agreed to replace it with a heavier duty one to try and reduce the amount of water that comes out of it after heavy rain and directly into Patrick's Lane. ACTION: COMPLETE
- West Northants (WN) Council has agreed to clear 5m each side of bridges at Patrick's Lane. A number of reports had to be made to WN Council about blockages under bridges and silted culverts before they told us that they would take action. ACTION: WNC HAS 4 DAYS OF WORKS SCHEDULE FOR LATE NOVEMBER 2021
- We are trying to fit a Water Level Monitoring Device up stream. This was kindly donated to us; however, we need to fit it at a place where it will be ABOVE the water and not submerged for it to work properly so we are trying to figure out a tamper proof fixing for this device. ACTION: THIS IS BEING FITTED UPSTREAM TOWARDS WICKEN AND SHOULD GIVE AROUND 45MINS – 1HR WARNING TO THOSE SUBSCRIBED TO ALERTS.
- Volunteers have come forward to form the Deanshanger Community Emergency Resilience Team and have been developing a village Emergency Plan. This will help us prepare for incidents, support the emergency responses from the Principal Authorities such as West Northants Council, Ambulance, Fire and Police and help residents after an incident. ACTION: MORE VOLUNTEERS WELCOME TO JOIN THE EMERGENCY TEAM, THE COUNCIL WILL SHARE THE PLAN AND THEN INSTIGATE IT WHEN NEEDED.
- We have been accepted as a WN Pathfinder Community Resilience (Flooding) project – this includes receiving a full survey of all watercourses, access to Flood Warden training and general support on community led resilience to flooding.

- We have asked residents to volunteer to help with the village's emergency response plan either as Flood Wardens or as general volunteers to help during or after an incident. ACTION: WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEER FLOOD WARDENS AND GENERAL VOLUNTEERS. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE FLOODING TO VOLUNTEER.
- We have put information in the Parish newsletter on how to build resilient households by signing up to flood and weather warnings and how to get guidance on preparing for emergencies. ACTION: RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO SIGN UP TO WARNINGS AND VISIT WN COUNCIL'S FLOOD KIT: WWW.FLOODTOOLKIT.COM
- When more than five houses get flooded, the Lead Local Flood Authority (now West Northants Council) has a legal duty to investigate and present back a report – a Section 19 Flood Investigation report. This has still not been issued for the flooding in Deanshanger in December 2020. Without it, we do not know what caused the flood, and what the responsible agencies should do to mitigate future potential flooding. ACTION: WE ARE CHASING AGGRESSIVELY AND HAVE PUT IN A COMPLAINT TO WN COUNCIL ABOUT THE DELAY

As you can see, we have done a great deal, in as far as we have been able to and with our limited powers and capacity but there is more that we still want to achieve. We need your help. Part of this is for each household that may be at risk of flooding to consider their own preparedness for an emergency if they have not already done so and for the wider community to step forward with offers of help, so we know who to call upon if needed. To get further information or offer your help, email clerk@deanshangerpc.com