



BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT **(JUNE 2020)**

SUMMARY OF THE PAST MONTH

1. With the extremely dry weather continuing over the past month, we seem to be moving from flood to drought conditions, so the flood risk remains very low indeed.

MONTHLY MEETING

2. The Group's monthly Meeting, due to have been held this evening (Tuesday, 26 May), has, of course, been cancelled because of the coronavirus Covid-19 restrictions and future meetings have also be cancelled until further notice.

FLOODING

3. As I reported last month, Herefordshire Council have issued guidance on how they will be administering the Property Flood Resilience Recovery Support Scheme 2020 for property owners whose properties were flooded internally in February this year. The grant provides up to £5,000 towards the cost of installing property flood resilience (PFR) measures to prevent water from entering a building, or to reduce the impact of damage when water does enter a building. Unfortunately, of course, the Covid-19 situation is delaying progress in this – as in all flood-related matters – because homeowners who wish to take advantage of the grant (we have at least two in Bodenham) have first to arrange for a survey of their property. This has to be undertaken by a suitably qualified independent surveyor to identify what measures are appropriate and arranging this is very difficult at present.

TREASURER'S REPORT

4. The balance in the Group's account at the end of April stood at £5,063.66, excluding the outstanding VAT refund of £5.99 from the purchase of DPC. There has been one item of expenditure during May – £52.50 for the hire of the Siward James Centre for the Annual Coffee Morning and the last two meetings held there. The balance therefore now stands at £5,011.16, excluding the VAT refund.

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

5. On Sunday afternoon (24 May) I 'walked the Brook' from the Lugg up to the Golf Course. At present there are no fallen branches or vegetation which could trap debris and cause problems. In particular, a minor 'silver lining' of the floods is that the stream bed has been thoroughly scoured and (so far) is clear of watercress and other weeds. On the other hand the floods have damaged the flood defences of a number of properties by, for example, dislodging the paving slabs used in many of them, and these will need attention by the householders concerned.

6. In summary, therefore, there is no need for us to attempt ‘socially distanced’ working parties for the time being, but we will keep this under review.

EXTERNAL CONTACTS

7. As previously reported, after Storm Dennis we were asked for advice by several parishes on how they should set about forming their own flood protection groups. Unfortunately, although various meetings were held, and more were arranged, further progress was brought to a halt by the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite this, however, we have just heard the excellent news that Walford have set up their own group and have even held their first socially distanced working session. They have also produced a newsletter and have promised to let me have a copy, which I hope to circulate when it arrives.

FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS

8. As members will already know, the decision has been taken to cancel the Annual Barbecue, which was to have been held on Saturday, 4 July at Willow Cottage, Maund Bryan. Our thanks go to Mr and Mrs Schwartz, who in happier times had kindly offered to host the event.

9. Subject to all the obvious caveats, the situation remains that:

a. **Annual Bonfire Party**. All being well, the Bonfire Party will be held on **Saturday, 10 October at 6.00pm at Millcroft Farm**

b. **Annual Quiz Night**. The Quiz Night is planned for **Friday, 27 November** in the Parish Hall.

K.A.M.