



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

SUMMARY OF THE PAST MONTH

1. Given the extraordinarily dry weather over the past month, it need hardly be said that the flood risk has been very low.

MONTHLY MEETING

2. The Group's April Meeting, due to have been held today (Tuesday, 28 April 2020), has, of course, been cancelled because of the coronavirus Covid-19 restrictions and future meetings have also be cancelled until further notice.

FLOODING

3. We can be thankful that so far we have not had both flooding and pestilence to deal with simultaneously and that the danger of famine (panic buying) seems to have receded. I have therefore nothing to add to my last report on the subject of flood-related advice other than to

a. Confirm that we have continued to press Herefordshire Council for a decision on the allocation of the promised government grants of up to £5,000 to improve the flood resilience of properties. As a result we received the following update: "In order to ensure that PFR measures are appropriate and that they will be effective in delivering flood resistance or resilience, the draft Defra guidance currently states that a survey, undertaken by a suitably qualified surveyor is required before funding can be made available. Whilst Herefordshire Council are working with Defra and the Environment Agency to deliver this funding as soon as possible, given the current restrictions on non-essential travel and social distancing in response to COVID-19, delivery of this project is difficult. Herefordshire Council will write again once Defra has issued final guidance and more information is available as to how this project can be delivered within current guidelines. Although we appreciate that property owners may wish to take action to protect their property as soon as possible, please be aware that it may not be possible to claim the costs of PFR measures retrospectively if these are purchased prior to funding being approved. Herefordshire Council will be working hard to ensure that this funding can be made available as soon as possible once the current restrictions have been lifted."

b. Remind you that, if you hold a stock of sandbags at your house, this may be a good time to check and, if necessary, repair them. We can provide empty sandbags, if needed.

c. Ask that, if you have any suggestions about any equipment that the Group needs to purchase, repair or replace, you should please let me have them, if you have not already done so. The same applies to the disposal of the Group's trailer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

4. The balance in the Group' account at the end of March stood at £5,063.66, excluding the outstanding VAT refund of £5.99 from the purchase of DPC. There has been no income or expenditure during April, so the balance remains unchanged.

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

5. As I noted in my last report, we would normally now be starting our working party 'season'. We shall have to keep the schedule under review in the hope that the lockdown restrictions will be lifted in the not too distant future. It may be possible, even with social-distancing and other restrictions in place, to carry out a certain amount of work in due course - it is, after all, important for the safety of Bodenham Moor and good exercise. Also, I shall keep the possibility of spraying in mind. However at the moment there is no growth worth treating.

FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS.

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

a. **Annual Barbecue.** The date offered is **Saturday, 4 July at 6.00pm at Willow Cottage, Maund Bryan.**

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

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

K.A.M.