

Flood Warden Scheme

Background

Bingham has a series of culverts, ditches and watercourses that cross the parish. For many years, these features have channelled water accordingly. However, more recently, especially during deluges of rain the watercourses appear vulnerable to overflow and in two recent instances has had a devastating impact on the several households along Western Avenue whose homes were flooded.

Community Flood Warden Scheme

The Town Council received a low response to a community call out for assistance in setting up a Community Flood Warden Scheme. There was some initial interest which fell away. It is hoped that once the Community Flood Warden Scheme gets off the ground and established, others may join. A Bingham resident who is a former Lowdham Flood Warden has been in touch and offered his assistance and guidance.

The Flood Warden Scheme is run by the Environment Agency and supported by Nottinghamshire's Local Resilience Forum consists of 5 sessions covering the following:

- Incident Management Parts 1 & 2
- Flood Volunteer Parts 1 & 2:
- CEV Coordinator
- Communications & Marketing
- Community Fundraising

Incident Management 1 & 2 and Flood Volunteer 1 & 2 provides the minimum required tools to become a competent warden, able to safely carry out a valuable community contribution. The three additional sessions build on those competencies to develop skills in community engagement, social media management and fundraising strategies.

Bingham Town Council's 2 permanent Grounds Staff have undertaken the 2 training sessions and Councillor Rowan Bird is attending all 5 training sessions.

In Support of the Flood Warden Scheme

As part of the initiative to achieving a pro-active Flood Warden Scheme, more volunteers are required who would be willing to walk the ditches, culverts and watercourses to check them and report back to the Town Council. To support the volunteers, maps of all the culverts, ditches and watercourses need to be obtained along with an understanding of ownership, maintenance responsibility and frequency. The former Lowdham Flood Warden suggested the follow agencies be approached: Environment Agency, Highways England, Network Rail, Nottinghamshire County Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Severn Trent Water Board, Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board and Via East Midlands, in the first instance with a view to building a co-ordinated network of information and an action plan around collective responsibility including contact names, emails and telephone nos.

Flood Resilience Store Grant

To support the work of the Community Flood Warden Scheme, a Flood Resilience Store Grant application was submitted. Unfortunately, this was initially unsuccessful but it is understood that the grant application is being re-evaluated because the Town Council is holding sand-bags as part of an emergency store but would look to extend the stores to include appropriate signage and tools.

Action to Date

Network Rail has carried out extensive maintenance work along the section of railway embankment behind Western Avenue and has upgraded its maintenance and monitoring regime.

A culvert which comes on to the Wynhill land owned by the Town Council continues to be monitored and cleaned of any debris by Town Council Grounds Staff.

Further Planned Actions

The Wynhill culvert then flows through a grille and into a chamber before travelling north under the railway embankment. This section of the culvert is not owned by the Town Council and work continues to find out who owns and is responsible for the chamber. In the meantime, the grille is checked and cleared of debris by Town Council Grounds Staff and in emergencies by Councillors.

Future Potential Actions

An understanding of the hand-over process for the watercourses at the Romans' Quarter, the new development at the north of Bingham.

An assessment of Bingham's drainage infrastructure capacity in consideration of its forecasted growth

Recommendation

To work with Councillor Bird and liaise with the former Lowdham Flood Warden to co-ordinate the resource and information required to establish an active Flood Warden Scheme in Bingham.