

Report to Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council

I'm sorry that I am unable to attend this month's meeting as I am away on Monday evening (it's still half term for one of my children).

Here are the key items for me to report:

- As you will be aware the section 19 report into the flooding in the Otter Valley on 9th May 2023 has been published and the parish council has I believe already received a copy. There are specific action points for Harpford, Venn Ottery, Newton Poppleford and Burrow, all within the Newton Poppleford parish council area:

Venn Ottery		
LLFA	Assess feasibility of community wide scheme to manage surface runoff and watercourse conveyance	DCC initial assessment underway
LLFA	To look at existing obstructions to flow in the Ordinary watercourse and potential for these to be removed/improved	DCC assessment considering channel capacity
Colaton Raleigh		

Action By	Recommended Action	How
Newton Poppleford		
LLFA/EA	To investigate issues regarding upstream land management issues and surface runoff	Through detailed investigations and modelling
EA/EDDC/LLFA	To support the community in the production of a community flood group	Meetings setup from Autumn 2023 with support from Devon Communities Together
EA	To assess Back Brook and support improvements for conveyance	EA offered advice and fast track process for flood defence consents on existing bank works. EA have undertaken a one-off clearance of key areas where silt and sediment built up post event.
EA	Improve flood warning	EA to consider feasibility of a gauge to be added on the Back Brook to offer the possibility of a potential flood warning
EA	To undertake assessment as to the potential for a community wide flood risk reduction scheme for the main river	Initial assessment underway
Burrow		
LLFA	To consider options for improvements to managing surface water in the Burrow Lane area	DCC initial assessment underway
EA	To undertake assessment as to the potential for a community wide flood risk reduction scheme for the main river	Initial assessment underway
Tipton St John/Metcombe		

Harpford		
LLFA/SWW	To investigate collaborative opportunities to address water quality and flooding issues upstream through assessment of potential for Natural Flood Management (NFM)	DCC are working with SWW's Upstream Thinking advisor and a major landowner to develop a NFM proposal
LLFA	To consider alternative options to NFM that could help manage flood risk in Harpford	DCC undertaking initial assessment
Woodburv		

I think it would be a good idea to convene a meeting the statutory authorities and the parish council to discuss the action points, timescales and outstanding matters. **Please let me know if you would like me to arrange this.** As far as Venn Ottery is concerned, DCC have already completed their initial assessment and I have convened a meeting on Tuesday 7th November with DCC representatives, Cllr Chris Burhop, a representative from Newton Poppleford Parish Council (Cllr Howard Hughes I believe) and Venn Ottery residents.

2. I attended the Community Resilience Meeting on Monday 23rd October at the Pavillion in Newton Poppleford. A big thank you for to Newton Poppleford Parish Council for arranging this event and providing refreshments. It was extremely well attended with I estimate around 70 people including members of the public and parish councillors from this and neighbouring parishes. I was interested to hear speakers from both Devon Communities together and Lypstone flood group on the subject of flood plans, as well as the Environment Agency talking about natural flood management solutions.
3. I have pressed DCC highways (again) for an update on the completion of the wig wag installation and signage – once I have more information I will get back to you.

Cllr Jess Bailey

Devon County Council (Otter Valley)

29th October 2023