

Flood Risk

Get Involved

Parish Council Conference

On the 23rd of November Parish Councils from across Cambridgeshire came together to take part in workshops and to meet teams from across the County Council. Gillian Beasley and James Palmer gave key addresses to kick off the day, after which councillors were invited to take part in a series of workshop sessions.

Emily Hutchinson from the Flood Risk & Biodiversity Team led workshop sessions on community emergency and community flood planning, alongside CCC emergency planning manager Stewart Thomas and Paul Burrows (flood risk manager for East Anglia) and Lorelie Hunt from the Environment Agency. Parish Councils are encouraged to plan how they may respond to emergencies as a community. As flooding is a key risk across Cambridgeshire support from organisations that manage flooding is available. Our teams would like to thank those Parish Councils who presented to share their experiences of emergency and flood risk planning, Alconbury and Alconbury Weston, Cottenham and Dry Drayton. Feedback from attendees was really positive, particularly as regards top tips, lessons learnt and the benefits of outcomes of planning.

Take homes from the day: 'preparedness is the key to success', parish councils play an important role in local emergencies, and written community plans facilitate coordination with emergency response organisations - all involved are learning by working together.

Should any parish councils be interested, templates and written guidance are available for preparing community emergency or community flood plans, and/or please contact your district council emergency planning officer or contact our team at floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Empowering local communities

Community Flood Kits

The Environment Agency is working in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council to help communities at risk of flooding have the right equipment and plans in place so they can effectively respond to flooding.

The project will focus on high flood risk or recently flooded communities to be better prepared for flooding. We will be providing start-up emergency flood kits to communities that have completed a community emergency or flood plan and have a group of volunteers that can respond during a flood.

The flood kits will help volunteers respond and support the wider community during a flood by ensuring everyone has the right equipment and knows what to do.

It's important that there is a clear flood or emergency plan in place so volunteers know when to activate, what to do during a flood and how to use the equipment correctly. The flood group or parish/town council will take responsibility for storage, maintenance, restocking and correct usage of the equipment.

Each community will have different sources of flooding and different priorities during a flood. Therefore each flood kit can be tailored to a community. Typically the equipment provided includes:

- High visibility jackets
- Two way radios
- Megaphone
- 'Road flooded' road signs

- Hydrosacks
- First aid kit
- Emergency blankets

If you would like to help your community be better prepared for flooding and receive a community flood kit or what to know more about the project please contact Lorelie Hunt: lorelie.hunt@environment-agency.gov.uk or call 020 302 59093.

A flood group enrolment push and reminder that funding for flood kits will be unavailable after March 2019

Riparian responsibilities reminder

Smaller watercourses, ditches and drains known as 'ordinary watercourses', play a crucial role in managing flood risk to people and property in Cambridgeshire. It is therefore vital that people who own land adjoining, above or with a watercourse running through their land are aware of their riparian responsibilities. The local knowledge within Parish and Town Councils is extremely important and useful when tackling issues such as watercourse maintenance and we appreciate the continued support that you provide to us. The attached leaflet provides more information regarding riparian responsibilities and the Environment Agency's 'Living on the Edge' guidance also provides further useful information. We would very much appreciate it if the information above is shared within the community either within a newsletter or on a community board etc.

Biodiversity

Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum

Parish Paths Partnership - P3

Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum (CLAF) would like to discuss with Parish Councils the management of their rights of way networks.

In the past, P3 Parishes were supported through the P3 Scheme, which was funded by the County and District Councils. This funding was withdrawn in **2011**. However, some Parish Councils have continued to manage their own rights of way networks for the benefit of their local communities.

The CLAF would like to hear from those Parishes that continue to carry out rights of way management or deliver community-led initiatives that provide access to the countryside, as well as from those Parishes who would like to, but don't necessarily have the resources/skills to do so. This will help the CLAF to understand if there is potential for closer working with Parishes and the possibility of a half-day conference during summer 2019 to discuss how we might take this forward.

The CLAF aims for a more joined-up, better quality public access network across the county that provides benefits for a range of population groups, businesses and the natural and historical environment.

For more information about the [CLAF](#)

If you would like to be involved in a half-day conference or have any questions, then please contact Phil Clark, Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum Coordinator, Cambridgeshire County Council on 01223 715686 or email: Philip.clark@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Green Space's Funding

Ring's End LNR

The County Council own eight formally designated Local Nature Reserves ([LNR](#)) that are managed for their wildlife and local people. Five of these are managed by Friends Groups who carry out everyday management of the site as well as organising an annual programme of events. We work with the Groups to apply for grants and recently the Friends of Rings End received £8,000 from [Whitemill Environemtnal Fund](#) and £4,000 from [Tesco Bags of Help](#) for projects that will improve access to the nature reserve and for better interpretation and signage. These grants are available for Parish Councils and Community Groups to apply for to help improve the local environment.

How and where to report flooding...

If residents have experienced flooding issues, it may be possible for the county council to investigate the cause of flooding or offer advice. You can report the flooding issues through the link below. All reports are assessed against the eligibility criteria and we will then advise you on whether a formal flood investigation will be undertaken. http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20090/emergency_planning/482/report_flooding

To report flooding on roads and footpaths (the highway), please use the separate highways reporting system. This system should also be used to report any defects on the highway including pot holes and blocked road gullies. <http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/HighwaysReports/Highways/ReportProblem1.aspx>

Useful Contact Details

Organisation

Lead Local Flood Authority (Cambridgeshire County Council)

Anglian Water

Environmental Agency

Cambridgeshire County Council Biodiversity Team

Contact Details

Floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

0345 045 5200

anglianwatercustomerservices@anglianwater.co.uk

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