

Update from Laurence King, Shared Lead Flood Risk Management Officer, CDC (April 2024)

General workload of the FRM team.

In the last 6 months the team have been an internal consultee on 125 new planning applications for minor development (up to 9 new dwellings). The consultee role is critical in combating the introduction of new flood risks to local areas through poor surface water management in addition to being critical in ensuring that existing problems are not made worse.

The CDC FRM team continue to be engaged by the GCC LLFA team via a new three year agency agreement to use their delegated authority to deliver the consenting and enforcement of the Land Drainage Act. This work is another line of defence against flooding due to poor watercourse management by riparian owners and illegal structures being laid in watercourses (non main rivers).

The CDC team also respond to residents enquiries and concerns regarding flood incidents experienced by them or about flooding fears. This work involves site meetings and often liaison with partner Risk Management Authorities. (EA, GCC Highways, LLFA, TW).

The team have also started to receive reports from the new flood wardens. Those reports and follow up communications will certainly assist in understanding and responding to future flood incidents.

The team are also involved in the organising of strategic sandbag and pump deliveries during a flood incident using UBiCO.

We also oversee the routine maintenance of the CDC owned watercourses and trash screens. The work is normally carried out by UBiCO.

CDC have commenced engaging with the three water companies that operate in the area regarding their investment plans for their sewerage treatment works as well as discussing new Grampian planning conditions.

Parish specific work

Broadwell- A CDC designed and LLFA funded flood defence scheme is still being planned due to the protracted process of concluding the required legal agreements for the scheme. The agreements are now agreed and work is planned to be carried out in 2024.

Bledington- CDC are contributing to the RMA partnership which is progressing the holistic flood defence of the village.

Chedworth- CDC are assisting the LLFA and GCC highways with understanding the extent of the flooding problem and evaluating options to resolve the flood risk that exists through the centre of the village during prolonged or intense rainfall events.

Moreton- CDC have engaged with the LLFA regarding the planned NFM work which CDC fully support and feel is critical to combat the increasing risk from run-off from the estate due to climate change. CDC have also attended the first meeting (chaired by the national flood forum) of the new Moreton flood action group. The group will meet periodically to discuss local issues both old and new and will be a good forum for interested parties to learn about which agency is responsible for different aspects of flood defence.

Fairford- The new CDC chaired flood and sewerage multi agency group has met twice since it was instructed to be formed by Sir GCB. The area has complex flooding

and sewerage issues and will require a multi -agency approach to make positive changes to the overall situation.

Lower Slaughter- CDC have advised the parish council on its plans for an overflow swale to assist the river in flowing out of the residential area during a flood risk event.

Siddington- CDC are liaising with the LLFA regarding the proposed flood relief and swale scheme to assist with the evacuation of water from the northern side of the floodplain. This work is taking longer than anticipated to progress but CDC will continue to push for its delivery as soon as possible.

Cirencester- CDC are part of the RMA group that periodically meet to discuss the ongoing issues faced by the town. It is fair to state that there is still no tangible progress on a suite of measures that will make a considerable improvement to the level of defence against sewer, fluvial and groundwater flooding.

South Cerney- CDC continue to engage with Wain Homes to monitor the now long standing issue of the pumping of groundwater via the surface water drainage system installed on a new development.

Southrop- The GCC highways Dpt have stated that the problematic Hydro-brake is not their asset although some highway drainage is connected into the pipe that runs to it. The Farriers is at risk of further flooding if the HB is not correctly maintained and further discussions are required to resolve the situation.

Poulton- Contact has been made with the landowner with a view to carrying out work to enhance the existing bund in the Autumn of 2024.

Wyck Rissington- CDC are assisting the Parish flood group and the LLFA with approving a suite of measures to combat surface water run-off that has become much more evident in the recent past.