

Mareike Beyer

Concerns about current regulations for FRA (Flood Risk Assessment) for new developments in view of the effects of Climate Change

I am concerned that an increase in flood risk, caused by the proposed new Yarlington Manor Farm development, can currently not be fully ruled out. I have asked Lorne Thompson (Yeovil Rivers Community Trust) to help assess this.

Lorne commented that the FRA for the Yarlington Manor Farm development meet all the regulation standards, and it seems that the relatively small footprint of the development is unlikely to have a large impact on the catchment hydrology, **however given the rapid changes in rainfall regime the lifetime of the attenuation features could be relatively short. Other landscape scale conditions would need to be considered in a holistic way with the runoff from the development**, i.e. inappropriate management of the area around the development could negate much of the attenuation benefits arising from the SuDS. Should this development go ahead then the implementation of NFM interventions (including management and operating considerations) on a catchment wide basis is of the utmost importance.

I arranged a meeting between Lorne and Zoe for this to be communicated and for Zoe to ask Lorne any questions she might have. Zoe expressed an understanding of the importance to address these issues raised and agreed to further engagement and collaboration on the matter.

I also spoke to Sarah Dyke at an event in Wincanton to express my concerns that the current regulation standards might now be outdated and near to obsolete. I understand regulations are unlikely to change soon, which to my mind is a problem. I would like to state that it is therefore all the more important that the parish council is aware of any potential issues with could arise with FRAs and the need to seek independent and impartial advice.

I would like to express my full commitment to support our community on this very important matter.

Natural Flood Management in the Cam Valley (SRA)

I have accepted an invitation from Paul Elliston (SRA) to attend a meeting to talk about the programme of Natural Flood Management work that is beginning in the catchment.

This meeting will also be attended by Hugo Van Drossen (FWAG), Lorne Thompson (YRCT) and other representatives from 'Cam Valley' parishes.

The date of the meeting has not been confirmed yet but is likely to be around the end of April.

Funding for NFM

George Caruth (FWAG) has now sent the 'letter of interest to farmers' which I had requested. It contains some useful information about types of NFMs which could potentially be implemented. Funding for implementation is available.

YRCT is able to advise about and help with BNG and other potential incentives for implementation of NFM.

YRCT has provided us with a more detailed phosphate reading device and we are currently in the process of sampling the Cam and its tributaries in several locations. The readings taken so far are significant enough to attract some additional funding for NFM implementation as NFMs are also shown to reduce phosphate levels.

I am meeting with Lorne Thompson again to discuss final details for setting up a community group to help apply for different stream of funding for NFM and slow-the-flow measures.

Gauges

I contacted Tim Adams yesterday to ask for an update about the Pegel Alarm app. Pegel Alarm has started the integration and the gauges are now visible on the app, but alert levels/ alarms are not expected to work properly yet. It is assumed that the work will be completed by the 2nd anniversary of the flood.

S19

I assume that all councillors have received the 'Cam Valley Flood Update (issue 4)' which was emailed this week by Paul Elliston (SRA). I have found this very useful as it gives a summary of the outcome of the S19 and its recommendations. I suggest that this should be circulated among the community, if this has not happened yet.

Engagement between the parish council and the flood warden

Please can the council discuss if it would be appropriate to include me in communications in regards to flooding, bearing in mind that I have offered to support the parish council on this.

Could the council also please discuss if there could or should be one or more councillor designated to deal with flooding related issues specifically in North Cadbury.

I would then suggest a meeting with Maria, the NC representative and myself.

Alternatively there could be a working group.