

Community gauges alert system

Our 3 local warning gauges have now been added to the app 'Pegel Alarm' which can be used to set individual alert thresholds. There are now a number of ways to receive alerts and access gauges readings:

River App

A user-friendly simple app for anyone interested in the gauge readings but without a specific need for warnings.

Pegel Alarm

A more sophisticated app which enables users to set their own alert thresholds for any river level gauge. This app is especially suited for anyone who might be worried about flooding.

Community Flood Hub

A sophisticated 'high tech' platform to access data from any community gauges as well as some local rain gauges, provided and maintained by the EA (Environment Agency) . This website is especially suited for anyone who is interested in the subject of rainfall and the effects on water levels and local streams and rivers. It contains a lot of data and on first impression can seem a little bit overwhelming to look at.

There will be a training session/workshop in June for anyone interested to learn about the full potential of this hub. (Please contact me for further information.)

WhatsApp Group 'North Cadbury River level Gauge Alerts'

A WhatsApp group to provide alerts specifically to North Cadbury parish residents in danger or concerned about being flooded. Alert messages are manually posted and updated by either the flood warden or a few volunteer alert receivers to provide an early warning system when needed.

WhatsApp Group : 'North Cadbury & Yarlington parish flood issues watch'

A WhatsApp group for posting pictures, videos and information regarding potential flooding issues in the areas of the parishes of North Cadbury & Yarlington to help record and understand local flooding issues.

Any member of the group can post and comment.

Please contact the parish clerk if you would like to be added to any of the two WhatsApp groups above.

I am working with John Whitehead to put some information on the Parish Council website about the apps and Whatsapp Groups as well as links from the Parish Council website

Cam Community River Project (CCRiP)

A community project for our parishes run under the umbrella of the charitable body of YRCT to develop stake holder engagement and access funding to implement NFM and slow-the-flow features. The first two local projects are now in the assessment stage and good progress is being made so far. I should be able to report more at the next meeting.

Debris in River Cam below Brookhampton

I will email the clerk to propose the agenda for the next meeting to include an item for the PC to discuss how to address the removal of the debris in the Cam just downstream of Brookhampton.

Liaising with the parish council

I will also request the agenda to include an item to nomination maybe two PC members to liaise with me as Flood Warden.

Brookhampton Development

At the last meeting it was agreed that a working group would liaise with residents of Brookhampton and Origin 3 to discuss the ongoing drainage/flooding issues in the area and the impact of the new development.

I would like to express again my concerns that current building regulations do not adequately address flood risks in view of the effects of climate change seen in the last three years. The proposed Brookhampton development will therefore require a proper flood risk assessment of the actual situation taking into consideration the wider landscape. Any FRA provided by the developers needs to be independently assets at the earliest opportunity.

We have the opportunity to access support available from YRCT (Yeovil Rivers Community Trust) regarding NFM (Natural Flood Management) and from Lorne Thompson (Chair, YRCT) as paid consultant for technical advice for FRA at a charitable rate of £25/hr

We had a meeting with Lorne Thompson, John Whitehead and myself. Maria Viney was also invited to the above meeting but was unfortunately unable to make it but I understand she will get together with Lorne to discuss Yarlington issues in particular in the coming weeks.

Regarding Lorne Thompson he is a founding member and chair of the Yeovil Rivers Community Trust. Lorne is a hydro-ecologist with extensive knowledge of natural flood management, who has several years of experience supporting communities with a history of flooding. His work is now recognised by Somerset Council, the Somerset Rivers Authority and the Environment Agency. Lorne also has a good understanding of flood risk assessments of new developments, the wider implications in the surrounding landscape and potential mitigation measures, as such he provides some local councils with regular support. He is experienced in engaging with all the relevant authorities and has an established working relationship with Wessex Water, he also has access to professional software used to assess surface water run-off.

To have low cost technical advice provided from someone as suitable and knowledgeable as Lorne Thompson is a valuable opportunity and will serve to ensure the safety of Brookhampton residents and their homes and I recommend that Lorne may be involved from an early stage of the process.

Mareike Beyer, 23/04/2025