

Hambledon Annual Parish Meeting 23-5-2022

Roles of the Flood Action Group

The Hambledon Flood Action Group (FAG) have had a fairly quiet time over the 2021/22 flooding season, which runs from October through till the end of March. There weren't many incidents or other resiliency matters to attend to, but there are, none the less, always activities that keep us busy throughout the year.

The "Big Pipe" (BP) performed very well in keeping the roads open and dry, by whisking surface water away through the 200 gullies and down to the ditch below the Old Forge Tea Room. We must keep in mind, however, that the primary purpose for the pipe comes when cellars and wells fill with groundwater from the aquifers. Thus far, our experiences have not included pressing-up the BP with water being pumped from homes affected by the "winterbourne springs". Currently, there are 62 properties in the village at risk during the flooding season, each with their own individual arrangements to deal with any water ingress, amounting to over 200 pumps of various sizes, with an average output of 170 litres per minute. This represents 36,000 additional litres (nearly 8,000 gallons) of water every minute, going into the BP from the pump points in the pavements, when all private pumps are in continuous operation.

One of the tasks managed by the FAG are the ways to prepare for and manage flooding events, and the equipment that may be needed. Since the last significant flooding event in 2014, nine properties with a history of flooding have been sold giving members of the FAG a further opportunity to provide help.

Other Activities Include:

- Maintaining a watch on weather conditions, and monitoring advice from the Environment Agency, Floodwatch, Shoothill Flood Alerts and Gauge Maps, Hampshire Emergency Planning, and other emergency services.
- We maintain a list of properties that have experienced previous flooding with all relevant contact details to maintain communication. We can then exchange ongoing emails to update the situation as matters progress, and react to changing requirements.
- Maintaining a list of vulnerable property owners who may need special help during high groundwater conditions or heavy weather.
- Providing monthly status reports to the Hambledon Parish Council on resiliency improvements and other responsibilities under our remit.
- Publishing regular articles for the **Hambledonian** giving information on evolving conditions, along with useful resiliency suggestions to the village as a whole.
- Review and improve the Flood Action Plan

Jan Jarvie
Chairman, Flood Action Group