



# Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP Flood Meeting Report

**April 2024**

*This report has been produced by Moreton-in-Marsh Flood Action Group and The National Flood Forum to provide a summary of the progress made to attaining a Multi-Agency Approach to Flooding in Moreton since the November Flood Meeting.*

As part of the goal to establish a Multi-Agency approach to flooding in Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) commissioned the National Flood Forum (NFF) to set up and support a Flood Action Group for the town. The NFF has supported the creation of over 400 Flood Action Groups across England and Wales, finding real benefits by including the voices of those directly affected by flooding in conversations around Flood Risk Management.

The Moreton-in-Marsh Flood Action Group was officially formed in January 2024 after a wider community meeting earlier that same month, which saw several concerned residents come to share their experiences of flooding and find out information about how they could be a part of the conversation. The core Flood Action Group has 8 members, consisting of residents who have personally experienced internal property flooding or live in a home that has previously flooded, and Flood Wardens from the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) Flood Warden Scheme.

Between January and March, the Group met internally to formulate a Flood Action Plan, a document containing questions we had regarding issues we had noticed around Moreton. At these meetings, the NFF provided contextual information on wider issues related to flooding. At these meeting it had been raised that some topics had been discussed previously at the MP Flood Meetings. Some members had not previously been aware of or been able to engage with these meetings, as such there was important information regarding reporting, RMA responsibilities, causes of flooding in Moreton and previous risk management schemes that was not commonly known. We hope that as a Flood Action Group we can help support spread important information from these Meetings.

As a brief overview of our goals, our Group seeks to:

- Clearly understand each RMA's remit and responsibilities in Moreton.
- Develop a map of flood risk, the catchment, and relevant infrastructure to identify and calibrate potential hotspots and highlight potential unseen issues by bringing together the Agency data and local knowledge.
- Support the implementation of the Natural Flood Management (NFM) project to alleviate flood risk, which will have the secondary benefit of addressing more localised issues.
- Further understand previous flood risk mitigation schemes.

- Spread awareness in the wider community on the importance of reporting flooding, understanding flood risk and how to prepare for flooding.
- Improve understanding of RMA roles as Statutory Consultees, and the role of SuDS on new developments.
- Understanding maintenance of the Evenlode and flood risk assets.

During this time, the NFF was engaging with the different RMAs and agencies necessary for the Multi-Agency Meeting (MAM), to understand their perspectives and concerns ahead of the first MAM, as well as to introduce the NFF's MAM process. Each agency met with the NFF separately and several attended a joint meeting.

The first MAM was held on April 10<sup>th</sup> and was attended by GCC, Environment Agency, Thames Water, Cotswolds District Council, GCC Highways and GRCC.

This meeting covered the questions in our Flood Action Plan and positive discussions were held on each point. The following are some key take aways from the meeting:

- GCC shared mapping with us that demonstrated the volume of water that poses greatest risk to our town coming off the Batsford Estate. Whilst we are concerned by the revoking of consent by the Estate for NFM on their land, we look forward to working with GCC, Wild Oxfordshire and Moreton-in-Marsh Town Council to find suitable alternatives.
- With GRCC also in attendance our Flood Wardens were able to raise their concern regarding their remit and ability to support the at-risk community. It's been highlighted that the Flood Warden Scheme is well suited to smaller towns/villages, and so the scale up to Moreton has left room for improvement. Another consideration is that some Flood Wardens are personally at flood risk, so in the event of a flood, their focus is on protecting their home and family and not Flood Warden duties. Working with GRCC and the Flood Wardens, we hope to better support the Scheme and ensure its suitability to Moreton.
- During discussions about the Flood Wardens role, it was also raised about the suitability of the current Flood Warnings from the EA. Members highlighted that the threshold for warnings could mean properties are already flooded before any warning is received. This highlighted the benefits of this Multi-Agency approach as now we can work with the EA and Flood Wardens to address this previously undiscussed issue.
- It was stressed to us the importance of reporting flooding and flood related issues to agencies as it directly correlates to their ability to address issues. The more accurate reports received by agencies, the more capital funding can be attracted meaning more can be done to support the affected community. As a FLAG, we will now work to raise the importance of reporting and the correct avenues to do so (GCC'S [Flood Online Reporting Tool \(FORT\)](#), Environment Agency Incident Hotline **0800 80 70 60** (for live flooding events), GCC Highway's [FixMyStreet](#) and Thames Water's [Report a Problem](#)). If agencies are unaware of issues, they will not be able to respond accordingly.

Our next steps are to continue working closely with the RMAs through the Multi-Agency Meetings, which we intend to hold quarterly. We will also begin to distribute information out to the wider community. The Group looks forward to building our relationship with each of the RMAs and supporting them and our community.