

James Blockley (GCC LLFA) Update

- **Storm Bert:** The effects of Storm Bert were severe across the county. Lydney was badly hit, but in the North Cotswolds, sadly it was Bledington again that suffered the worst. At least four properties had to be evacuated, and around 20 more were flooded. Reports are still coming in via FORT, but a realistic estimate is that around 150 properties were flooded across the county.
- **Bledington FAS:** Ground investigation works are due to start early next year. We will then move to detailed design, and finalise the business case. It is too early to give a realistic timescale for completion, but concentration will continue to be on NFM and the Westcote Brook bund.
- **Moreton-in-Marsh:**
 - The NFM scheme on the Batsford Estate remains on hold due to landowner withdrawing consent. At the time we lost approximately £78k of allocated project funding which expired last financial year. At a minimum it would be good to install high level leaky dams within the ditches to slow the flow of water, as an extension to the eight already installed.
 - A positive scheme has been identified to increase watercourse conveyance and capacity near Croft Holm, by creating a two-stage channel and removing a pinch-point. Discussions on delivery are ongoing, but it is hoped that it might be taken forward by Thames Water as riparian owners.
 - GCC attended the community flooding awareness event organised by the Flood Action Group and National Flood Forum in November.
- **Wyck Rissington:** Our consultants have produced a solution for the location where water collects at the central road through the village green. This will be modelled to test its effectiveness before potential implementation. New evidence has been reviewed following one property flooding during storm Bert. This has led to several additional solutions to be included within the modelling. The theoretical work should be completed by the end of January, when next steps can be discussed with the Parish Council. Additional funding will be required to allow us to deliver a scheme.
- **Daglingworth:** Small scale leaky dam / floodplain reconnection NFM scheme completed on 24th September by landowner.
- **Siddington:** (Outside N Cotswolds constituency but included for information). Design for a flood relief swale is currently being undertaken, funded by GCC Flood Risk Management. The scheme was developed in partnership with the local community and will hopefully be completed in the new year. Additional funding will be required to allow us to deliver a scheme.
- **Cirencester / Cotswolds agency group:** (Outside N Cotswolds constituency but included for information). A meeting was scheduled for Monday 25th November, but was rescheduled to Tuesday 3rd December due to the resource impacts of Storm Bert.
- **Gloucestershire NFM Partnership:** Building on the success of the Cirencester Waterways Symposium, GCC has been working with FWAG, Cirencester Town Council, Cirencester Community Development Council, Royal Ag Uni and the Friends of the Gumstool Brook to submit a partnership bid for extensive NFM works in the upper Churn catchment. An Expression of Interest was submitted to Thames RFCC for a value of £240k to the including match funding from CTC and the Winstone Trust. The planned works cover five separate sites and amount to around 51 different measures providing benefit to 48 properties in Cirencester in a 1:30 event, rising to 572 in a 1:100. We will find out if we have been successful in January.