

# The role of Flood Action Groups

How we can best  
support and  
benefit from them

Paul Cobbing




Its about  
people, not  
stuff



# The problem



# Flood Risk Communities Charter

 **FLOOD RISK COMMUNITIES' CHARTER**

**FLOODING DEVASTATES LIVES**

Communities living at risk of flooding have a right to lives not dominated by the fear of flooding

**TO ACHIEVE THIS:**

- 1 Our nation's ambition to tackle flood risk, in the face of climate change, needs to increase dramatically
- 2 Decisions that affect communities must be made with the communities' involvement
- 3 We must act now – there is a role for everyone

**WE DEMAND THAT:**

- 4 Communities are at the heart of flood risk management
- 5 Strategic coordination is needed across places and organisations
- 6 Action must address the economic, mental and physical wellbeing and life-chance impacts of flooding
- 7 Our approach to water management is comprehensive and integrated
- 8 We recognise the need to adapt to climate change – thinking should always be for the long term

**EXAMPLES WHERE CHANGE IS NEEDED:**

- 1. COMMUNITIES ARE AT THE HEART OF FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT**
  - Communities are full participants, as equal partners working alongside other flood stakeholders.
  - A focus on those who will be affected most, the disadvantaged and vulnerable in urban and rural areas.
  - Property insurance should be affordable and available for all; with a positive claims management experience for those who are flooded.
  - Short and long-term support for people who have flooded should be readily available and recovery planned for in advance.
- 2. STRATEGIC COORDINATION IS NEEDED ACROSS PLACES AND ORGANISATIONS**
  - Organisations will recognise the value of local knowledge and skills and work collaboratively with communities from start to finish.
  - Active participation by people is dependent upon being able to trust the services that they encounter – fairness, transparency and accountability.
  - There must be much better coordination between organisations managing flood risk.
  - Every Government department and their agencies, businesses and wider society have an important role; it's no longer a single agency issue. Each organisation needs a plan and to report against it.
  - Each locality should have a plan in place, reported on annually, on how they are meeting national flood risk standards through the work of all sectors.
- 3. ACTION MUST ADDRESS THE ECONOMIC, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING AND LIFE-CHANCE IMPACTS OF FLOODING**
  - The cultures and behaviours of organisations must enable, not inhibit, people and communities to adapt to a changing climate.
  - The impact of flooding on mental and physical health, wellbeing and local economies should be reduced.
- 4. A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TO WATER MANAGEMENT**
  - Water management from source to sea should be coordinated using all available means.
  - Riparian management roles and responsibilities must be clear, coordinated, transparent, accountable, straight forward and enforced.
  - Planning must be reformed to consistently deliver safe communities now, and in the future, without passing on flood risk problems elsewhere.
  - Drainage must be systematically planned, implemented and maintained so that it consistently manages water effectively in both urban and rural areas.
- 5. WE RECOGNISE THE NEED TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE – THINKING SHOULD ALWAYS BE FOR THE LONG TERM**
  - We must plan and invest for future generations, learn to adapt and act now.
  - More funding is needed to reflect the scale of the challenge ahead.

Therefore







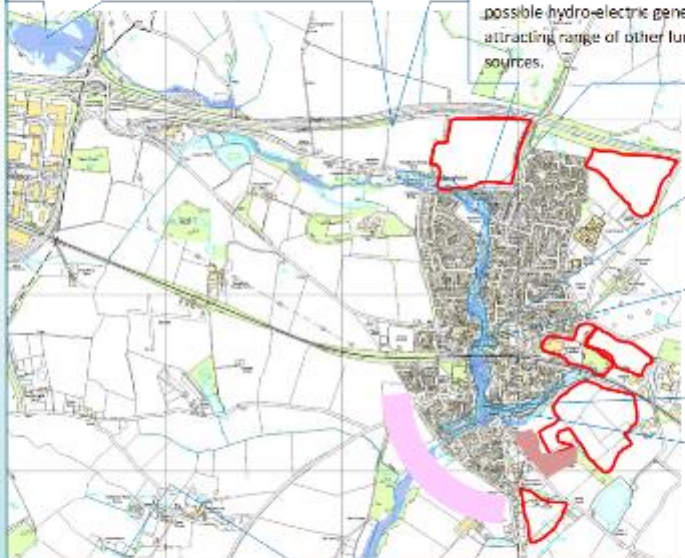
# Benefits



# Shifnal

## Shifnal community flood risk management Benefit Mapping Workshop summary findings - July 2015

<p><b>Background &amp; Key Numbers</b></p> <p>At present a property level protection (PLP) scheme to reduce flood risk to 87 households has 'allocations' of £272k of FCRM GIA &amp; £250k of Local Levy 2016-19.</p> <p>Shropshire Council and EA are supportive of community-led exploration by Shifnal Flood Forum supported by NFF of alternative community scheme options.</p> <p>Participants understood that the 'allocated' funding could be used to finance a community scheme but this is dependent on it delivering reduced risks to the 87 households.</p> <p>Benefit mapping techniques are usually applied in contexts where the preferred solution is relatively clear, the issue being, securing enough local funding to make it financially viable.</p> <p>87 households, £532k potential FRM funding.</p> <p> participant defined area of flood risk and direct potential benefit of FRM</p> <p> residential development sites with full/outline permissions</p> <p> recently completed homes (not on background map)</p> <p> possible future development interest</p>	<p>1. Very large developments in upstream Priorslee 'permission' on basis of betterment of run-off. Worth getting it quantified, valued and assured</p>	<p>2. SW run off from fields above, drainage and canonised Haughton Rd road channels into and loads the Brook as Haughton Bridge</p>	<p>3. Recreation Ground 're profiling' offers opportunity for water balancing facility and multi-use as re-invented Haughton Park. Concrete bridge over Wheatfield Drive offers frame for controls and possible hydro-electric generation, attracting range of other funding sources.</p>	<p>4. Encroachment pinch points are seen as a significant effector. Realistic view that legal action/enforcement by LA or EA would be difficult and unlikely (although their advice would be helpful, especially on issue of damage liability to others).</p> <p>Opportunity to explore community-led approach – persuading pinch-point 'encroachers' to accept 'setting back' to previous boundary/land registry position. Local estate agents, valuers and conveyance solicitors may be able to help with property value impact advice (even the registration of a boundary complaint and possible serving of notice could negatively affect private property market values. If 'encroaches' agreed to set back it would make pinch point channel re-instatement and upstream measures much more feasible.</p> <p>5. Very impressive investigations by Shropshire Council officers and local residents of complex drainage systems, misconnections, failings and load impacts into the brook in Silvermere area. This is surely valid in its own right, but also likely to be key/essential to success of future community flood alleviation measures or PLP.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b> – all these elements need next-step community-led (supported) consideration of potential worth and likely feasibility. Beyond that, perhaps the £50k Levy funding in 16/17 could be sought (via a clear brief) for 'expert' investigation, design and testing of range of inter-related measures. This would enable all to understand if they offer a technical and financially viable flood alleviation scheme.</p>
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# Communities need to be at the heart of partnership working

- Engagement, partnership, leadership. Communities should be able to play a leadership role
- As in your workplace, people in communities have different skills
- Involvement means
  - Galvanising communities
  - Building partnerships
  - Innovation
- It requires partners to work with communities as equals. It must be participatory
- No knowledge hierarchies
- It is about relationships – Trust, Transparency, Accountability, Honesty, Respect



# Success factors



**Supporting and representing flood risk communities**

# Thank you

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<https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>

Tel 01299 403055



Paul Cobbing

[paul.cobbing@floodforum.org.uk](mailto:paul.cobbing@floodforum.org.uk)

07773355181

National Flood Action