

South Petherton Community Flood Group Progress Report No 6 – July 2025

This report provides councillors (and residents) with the status of the efforts of the Community Flood Group since the last report to the councillors in June and gives a look ahead to the planned actions of the group and flood related agencies.

Progress Update

The charity, Emergency Volunteer Action Group (EVAG), have visited thirteen residents in South Petherton offering advice and flood resilience equipment. The equipment is provided in return for a donation. A further visit is anticipated in the last week of July.

Two members of the flood group and three volunteer flood wardens attended a training/awareness session delivered by Somerset Prepared. The session provided some useful information to inform future flood planning for the village.

The flood group have reported blocked drains using the Somerset County Roads reporting system. Roads inspected by the group include, Silver Street, Prigg Lane, Harvey's Road, South Street, West Street and North Street. A follow up email will be sent to the County Roads management asking them to progress clearing the drains.

An article has been submitted for inclusion in the TA13 magazine to provide an awareness of the flood groups activities and ask for more volunteer flood wardens.

Somerset Councillor Jo Roundwell-Greene attended the flood group meeting on Monday 21 July 2025. The councillor was asked to support and help progress four issues that the group are struggling with:

1. Firstly, the repair of the collapsed wall in the brook between Ham House and Burnworthy Care Home. Responsibility for the repair is disputed between the homeowner's insurers and the landowner Somerset Council. Jo agreed to speak with the council's legal team and try to make progress. The wall needs to be repaired before desilting otherwise soil will wash into the brook during the next heavy rain event.
2. Progress with the desilting of the attenuation ponds by the A303 bridge over West Street has stalled, a number of emails from the group to National Highways are being passed between departments with no commitment to take action.
3. To chase up Somerset County Roads to engage with the structural engineer the group have contacted. The structural engineer has agreed to prepare a redesign of the road and bridge in Silver Street to ensure that water runoff flows downstream of the bridge and not upstream as is currently the case.
4. A number of flooded residents explained that the lack of mobile phone signal in the village made communication during the flooding impossible, particular those who lost electrical power and therefore internet connection. Jo agreed to

investigate the provision of another mobile phone mast. The group are also continuing to investigate location options for an additional mast

Recommendations and Next Steps

10 September – A third Flood Café meeting is planned in the village library 14:00 – 15:30

15 September – Community Flood Group meeting at 18:30 Blake Hall