

South Petherton Community Flood Group Progress Report No 11 – December 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 October and gives a look ahead to the planned actions of the group and flood related agencies.

Progress Update

A Flood Café was held on the 3rd December in the village library and was well attended by residents and some members of the flood group. The usual progress update was provided and residents discussed flood insurance experiences and flood resilience equipment installed, generally sharing ideas.

Further work was conducted in the month on budget and grant applications.

The new member of the Farmers & Wildlife Action Group (FWAG), Emma Robertson, met with members of the group on 10th December and spent a number of hours walking the brook and its catchment to discuss ideas in introducing natural flood measures and other ideas for reducing flood risk. Emma replaces Tom Shopland who the group previously worked with.

Somerset Council cleared the remaining debris from Hele Lane on the 11th December, a combination of road sweeper and manual labour did a great job. Several residents were feeling anxious about the debris in Hele Lane being swept into the brook in heavy rain. So, this action gave a reassurance to the residents (and a boost to the efforts of the flood group).

The contractor WSP who are completing the Section 19 report on behalf of Somerset Council, have started to visit flooded residents to gather “facts” about the January 2025 flood event. A Section 19 report is a legal requirement placed on councils when 10 or more properties or businesses are flooded in a village or town. The idea is to create funding for future mitigation actions.

The Environment Agency (EA) permit required to desilt the culverts and silt build up in the brook is back with the EA for advice and approval.

18th December, FWAG gave some initial feedback on the earlier visit and confirmed meetings early in the new year with, Highways reference the attenuation ponds, Acorn SW and some catchment landowners.

Wessex Water responded to a flood group request to remove a large tree trunk section from the brook just downstream of the water works outflow.

The blocked drains in Barcroft Lane have been reported to Somerset County Roads (again) the water running on the road surface is not a flood risk but a slip hazard given the freezing weather forecast.

Next Steps:

9th January 2026 – FWAG, Highways meeting to discuss desilting the attenuation ponds by the A303.

12th January 2026 – Flood Group sub-meeting to discuss emergency planning, flood warden training etc.

19th January 2026 – Flood Group Meeting, Blake Hall 18:30

21st January 2026 – Flood Café, Village Library 14:00 – 15:30

28.12.2025