

South Petherton Community Flood Group Progress Report No 12 – January 2026

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 December and gives a look ahead to the planned actions of the group and flood related agencies.

Progress Update

A sub-group met to develop the flood warden procedures. The meeting and subsequent work resulted in a documented “South Petherton Operational Flood Plan” which documents the groups approach to a critical incident (flood). The meeting also agreed a flood warden training programme. Three volunteers with experience in critical incident management have joined the group which made progress in this area much quicker. One of the volunteers has offered to deliver the flood warden training.

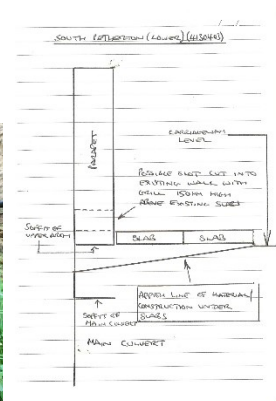
Related to the above was the development of the “Flood Threat Assessment Procedure”. This informs the group of the states of readiness for deploying flood wardens and advising the community of the risk of flooding.

Members of the group met with MP Adam Dance, Councillor Jo Roundell-Greene and National Highways representative Jonny Hill on 15th January. The meeting took place by the A303 attenuation ponds with the objective of trying to make some progress in getting them de-silted (photo below).



Somerset County Roads (Bridges) have confirmed they will make some modifications to the parapet of the bridge in Silver Street. Whilst the modifications are not what the flood group were looking for, they will go some way to allowing more runoff rainwater flow downstream and not upstream which is currently the case. Bridges confirmed it would be within their budget. The full modification would have involved lowering the pavement

in that area which was deemed not structurally possible without significant work and cost, pictures and sketch below.



County Roads still need to commit to changing the camber of the road to ensure the water flows towards the drain.

The flood group met on Monday 19th January to progress several actions.

A Flood Café was held on the 21st February in the village library and was well attended by residents and some members of the flood group and for the first time several flood warden volunteers. The idea was to introduce the wardens to flooded residents to start to develop a working relationship prior to a flood situation. The usual flood group progress updates were presented, and resident had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss ideas, such as the introduction of a flood siren to warn of imminent flooding!

Meetings have continued with Farmers & Wildlife Action Group (FWAG), Emma Robertson, to progress ways of slowing down flood water in the catchment before it reaches the village.

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

Next Steps:

12th February 2026 – Meeting with village school head, Shan Weston and Somerset Rivers Authority representative, Bel Deering to discuss flood awareness lessons for the school children.

16th February 2026 – Flood Group Meeting, Blake Hall 18:30

25th January 2026 – Flood Café, Village Library 14:00 – 15:30 (to be confirmed)