South Petherton Community Flood Group Progress Report No 21 – October 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 September and gives a look ahead to the planned actions of the group and flood related agencies.

Progress Update

Flood Warden Training – The flood warden training introductory courses have been delivered as planned. First Aid training is now scheduled to be delivered over two sessions, the first on Sunday 25th October and the second on Sunday 1st November.

Flood Group Operational Plans (Emergency Plan) – The Parish Council approved the groups Emergency Plan at the council meeting on Monday 5th October. Whilst the plan describes how the group will operate prior, during and after a flood the plan forms the basis of a plan for other types of emergency incidents.

National Highways – The point of contact at national highways has responded positively to a request for copies of the technical drawings of the A303 which show how rainwater flows through drains into the local catchment and ultimately the brook running through the village. A member of the group, a retired civil engineer who was involved in the construction of the A303 has studied the drawings in preparation for a meeting with FWAG. It's hoped that work can be carried out in the catchment area to slow the rate of rainwater runoff from the roads drains.

Culvert Clearance – Two members of the group have met with a contractor to discuss inspecting and if necessary, clearing the culverts through the village. The contractor as provided a quote to inspect and clear all culverts. The priority however is the culvert at Hele Lane since the flood group have been unable to inspect it due to the nature of its design. The group now plan to produce a discussion document for councillors to consider. With a view to inspecting and clearing if required the Hele Lane culvert.

Brook Maintenance - A working party removed more vegetation from the brook downstream of Silver Street during the month in preparation for the anticipated winter rains.

Wessex Watermark Town Award – The Parish Council agreed at the meeting on Monday 5th October that the group could apply to join the "Wessex Watermark Town Award". Laura Gowers of Wessex Water joined the flood group meeting this month to explain the aims of the award and answers questions.

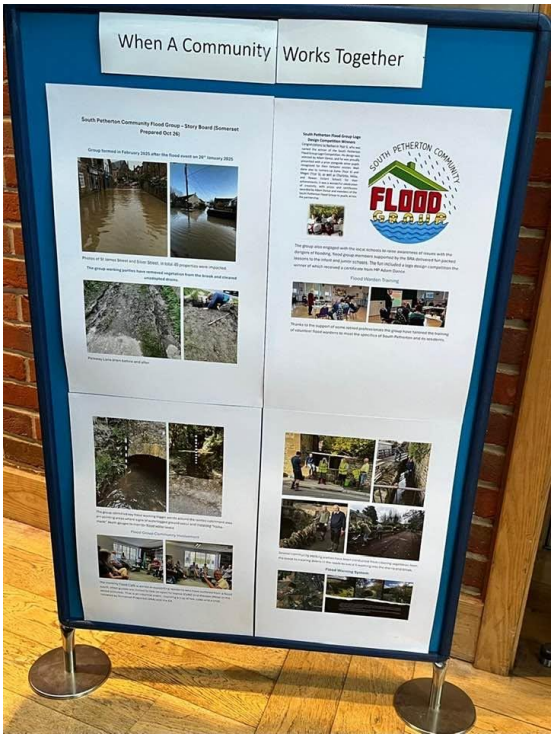
The aims of the programme are better management of water, reduce consumption, mitigate the risk of flooding and prevent blockages in sewers. The programme and its activities will involve the wider community, sports clubs, schools, residents etc. The programme will also fund some of the emerging initiatives. The group have applied on behalf of and with the approval of the Parish Council. A decision from Wessex Water is expected in December.

Flood Group Meeting – The meet was held as planned and was attended by Laura Gowers as mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Day 2026 – Several members of the group attended the Somerset Prepared Event held at Millfield school in Street. This sell out event brings together community groups from across Somerset who are focussed on helping make their communities more resilient to emergencies, such as flooding.

It's an opportunity to attend presentations delivered by groups or qualified individuals in topics related community resilience and meet other groups to share experiences.

At the event the group received a certificate in recognition of their efforts in working towards making South Petherton more resilient from flooding.



Next Steps:

25th October 2026 – Flood Warden Training (First Aid) 13:00 Blake Hall

28th October 2026 – Flood Café 14:00 Village Library

1st November 2026 – Flood Warden Training (First Aid) 13:00 Blake Hall

16th November 2026 – Flood Group Meeting (working meeting) 18:30 Blake Hall

23.10. 2026