

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024



## Your voice in Parliament

Our focus on making sure flooded people and communities remain a priority in Parliament and government is an important part of our work.

As secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Flood Prevention, we access and influence decision makers and opinion leaders from across Parliament, Government and industry.

In January FloodRe supported us to hold a reception for MPs in Parliament. We had more than 120 representatives including many MPs, and the Minister and Shadow Minister responsible for flooding. Our NFF Chair David Goff was a key speaker, using this valuable platform to call for a bigger, bolder and more sustainable approach to flood risk management that properly supports those it is meant to help.

We will continue to hold our elected representatives and government ministers to account, working for a better future for all those at risk of flooding.



## Public Accounts Committee report into flooding

Parliament's respected Public Accounts Committee report into flood resilience and defences published in January highlighted many NFF concerns. In particular, we welcome its focus on developing a defined, understood and quantified vision of success.

We are calling on Government to adopt a strategy that embraces a truly multifaceted integrated approach to flood defence and that adequately tackles the impacts of future flood risk. The NFF believes that the current approach is too focused on personal resilience. While this undoubtedly has a place, it should only be one part of a bigger bolder Government vision for flood mitigation.

### RECOVERY

Local Authorities and Environment Agency - do you know the NFF can provide local recovery services to support your flooded community.

### FLOOD ACTION GROUPS

We have more than 450 Flood Action Groups, each enabling better outcomes for communities.

### HELPLINE

Our helpline is available 365 days a year for all your flood queries.  
Tel: 01299 403055 or  
Email: [info@floodforum.org.uk](mailto:info@floodforum.org.uk)

# FLOOD ACTION GROUP FOCUS – ALBRIGHTON



## We catch up with Albrighton resident and Flood Action Group lead, David Corden

The Shropshire village of Albrighton suffered major flooding in both 2006 and 2018, leaving homes and people devastated.

The 2006 flood – a major surface water event – was the catalyst for significant investment from Severn Trent, with a whole new drainage system constructed. But despite this, the village experienced an almost identical flood in May 2018.

David Corden's house was one of the properties devastated, leaving him and his family out of their home for five months. Frustratingly for David, in the immediate aftermath of the flood it felt like nobody was interested in what he and fellow residents had been through.

Motivated by community spirit as well as personal interest, David was instrumental in setting up Albrighton's Flood Action Group (FAG), drawing on the wealth of community knowledge. Reaching out to the NFF's Heather Shepherd to find out more about the NFF and FAGs, the group affiliated with the NFF almost immediately.

David found the NFF's hands on approach invaluable in getting the FAG up and running, giving them impetus, focus and access to multi-agency meetings. The Group set themselves three key goals. These were establishing the extent and impact of the May 2018 flood, finding out why it had happened just 12 years after the last major flood, and working with relevant agencies to ensure this was unlikely to happen again.

Because the flooding in Albrighton was so significant, Shropshire Council instigated a Section 19 report to identify the likely cause and set out the responsibilities of management agencies. Consultation with the local community to feed into this report was an early task for the Group, as was forensic scrutiny of the report and its recommendations when it was published two years later.

In fact, the Report was a vindication of the FAG's feeling that Albrighton's flooding was a multi-faceted problem encompassing the sheer intensity of the rainfall, blocked gullies and issues with outfalls into Albrighton brook. Critical though was the hidden issue of water coming into the system from its bypass, local National Rail infrastructure and farmland.

David said it was both a huge relief and testament to the remedial work done in Albrighton, that Storm Babet did not cause the village any significant issues. Now with two out of three of the FAG's key goals achieved and the third nearing completion, the next step will be Albrighton joining the Shropshire Flood Action Group Forum. This newly formed group is made up of representatives all Shropshire's FAGs.

Asked if he has any tips for others going through a similar process, David identifies three important learnings. The first is to be patient because things do not happen at the pace you want. Secondly, he stresses the importance of engaging with local flooded people and avoiding falling into a closed group mentality. And finally, he says tenacity is crucial. Be patient but be actively patient, prepared to put pressure on key agencies when necessary through the NFF process.

Reflecting on the FAG's experience with the NFF, David highlights access as one of the major benefits: "Without doubt the most important thing about being involved with the NFF is the access it gives you to key players," he says. "We simply could not have built the same relationships with the Council, Highways, Severn Trent, Network Rail and the Environment Agency without them."





## WE NEED YOU TO HELP US CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FLOODED PEOPLE

When people flood family ties are ripped apart, you are forced to leave your home, possessions and mementos are destroyed, getting back to normal is all-consuming.

It can take years to get back into your home after a flood. Floods are much more complex than a simple mop and bucket. Getting your home back to normal after a flood can be filled with challenges that cause unimaginable misery.

That's why we need to ensure the National Flood Forum is here for people. To offer guidance and support, to help navigate stumbling blocks and most importantly as a charity that understands exactly what it is like to flood.

There are many ways to support us to donate visit our website or send by post to National Flood Forum, PO Box 7643, Bewdley, DY12 9BL.

Every donation makes a difference and helps us support more people.

Thank you.



[Please click here to donate](#)