



Cornwall Flood Resilience Pathfinder

Summary Report March 2015



Following on from the Pathfinder Project, Cornwall Community Flood Forum will be undertaking the following activities in Cornwall:

- Cornwall Community Flood Forum will continue to develop its 'Community Resilience Toolkit'© and is currently a partner in a tri-partite bid to the National Lottery – Reaching Communities Fund for a substantial project to roll this out regionally.
- Cornwall Community Flood Forum will maintain its relationship with the Lead Local Flood Authority (Cornwall Council), the Environment Agency and South West Water to act as a bridge between communities and the authorities.
- Cornwall Community Flood Forum will sit as a member of the Cornwall Council led 'Community Emergency Plan (CEP) Management Group. In this capacity it will assist Parish/Town Councils and other formed groups to draft and deliver the flood risk element of their CEPs, including support with the recruitment and training of volunteers.
- Cornwall Community Flood Forum will assist the Lead Local Flood Authority and the Environment Agency with the promotion of Flood Awareness and Resilience messages through communication with its membership and the wider community.
- Cornwall Community Flood Forum will, if called upon, act as an independent advocate to help resolve disputes and disagreements between residents and the authorities in relation to flood risk matters.
- Cornwall Community Flood Forum will maintain a web site www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk and Social Media presence on Facebook and Twitter.

The Flood Resilience Pathfinder in Cornwall set out to increase community resilience to flooding across Cornwall by building upon, and spreading the projects and learning that have taken place locally through the Cornwall Community Flood Forum and the 2010 flood recovery process.

Project highlights

Cornwall's ambitious Pathfinder comprised eight work packages covering both county wide and localised activity.

From the outset it has been important to learn that our ambition to succeed must be tempered with the realisation that this is a 'pilot' and as such the 'journey' is equally as important as the 'destination'. The work packages that have shown the most significant progress are those that demonstrate a clear evolution or up-scaling of the early work of the Cornwall Community Flood Forum, in particular the development of community volunteer training and the raising of flood awareness on both a county wide and in a very local context. Particular

highlights for us have been to see our leaf litter project, tasking offenders serving 'unpaid work' sentences to support three communities that suffered significant flooding in 2010 and 2012 escape property flooding during winter 2013/14 and to see volunteer flood wardens across three counties receive bespoke training to enable them to understand their role and stay safe. Other highlights have been to see previously vulnerable but disengaged communities become active participants in resilience initiatives and to see the status and reputation of the Cornwall Community Flood Forum grow on both the local and national stage. The biggest lesson of all has been that that good community resilience is more about 'people' than it is 'stuff'. Whilst it is of course important for individuals

to invest in appropriate measures to protect their property, it is the community spirit and willingness to come together that really matters. The important goal must be to change the mind-set of society from one with an expectation that others will 'do' for them to one where communities 'do for them selves'.

Working with partners, Cornwall Community Flood Forum has been able to develop and refine its 'Community Resilience Toolkit' along with the associated training for community volunteers. The Cornwall Community Flood Forum 'model' has proved appealing on the National stage as it brings together local residents, authorities and other interested parties in a constructive way.

Project legacy

At the beginning of the Pathfinder, the Cornwall Community Flood Forum was a fledgling organisation with the status of a 'members association'.

The capital injection of £238,000 for the Cornwall Pathfinder, almost half of which was specifically targeted at the development of the Cornwall Community Flood Forum has enabled the fledgling organisation to incorporate and fund a paid officer to ensure the continued delivery of many aspects of the Pathfinder into the future.

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