

Inaugural meeting APPG for Flood Prevention

Room M Portcullis House

16.10.2024

Attendees: See appendix 1

Minutes and actions**1. Inaugural Meeting Business****Welcome from the Chair**

Chair noted the meeting was quorate.

Chair Helen Morgan MP welcomed everyone to the meeting and was re-elected as the Chair of the APPG for Flood Prevention.

A discussion took place regarding the name of the group, and it was agreed that the group name would change to APPG for Flooding and Flooded Communities.

2. Election of Officers

Election of the officers took place and each officer was proposed, seconded and voted upon.

The officers of the APPG for Flooding and Flooded Communities are,

Ashley Fox MP (Cons)

Julia Buckley MP (Lab)

Baroness McIntosh of Pickering (Peer)

Helen Morgan MP (Lib Dem) (Chair)

3. A Plan for Business over the next year

Post-flooding event rapid response meetings

APPG production of recommendations to priority issues impacting flooded communities.

Other organisations to invite to inform the APPG (e.g. EA etc).

The discussions around the upcoming business were broad and wide ranging with many MPs citing examples of specific flooding in their constituency and specific activity they had been undertaking along with examples of the issues facing their constituents.

These included:

- Having meetings after large flood events to offer as much support as possible to flooded people
- Insurance availability, FloodRe lifespan and mortgage refusals
- Funding and FDGiA criteria and its impact on smaller or urban communities. Funding that is on offer and how it is structured and activated needs to be addressed
- Revisit the Pitt Review and look at what has not happened
- Impact of changes in devolution and the increase in responsibilities falling through the cracks

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- Co-ordination among agencies across the board, and practical help during a flood event. Large scale events are handled ok, medium ones less so.
- EA and how they communicate with communities
- Resources in Local Authorities
- Discussion took place around the loopholes facing those that live in caravan homes
- Coastal flooding should be considered also
- Riparian ownership and how to tackle the issues that come from this.
- The need for mental health support for flooding people
- It was noted that surface water and impact is becoming a bigger issue along with drainage
- Section 19 reports were discussed and how these are not always carried out or useful, or can sit on a shelf with no action
- Register of vulnerable people that could be shared across different organisations
- MP for Beds alerted the group of a debate taking place that evening on flooding in Bedfordshire
- Many of the issues raised impact communities in all constituencies and the group discussed collaborating and working together to maximise effectiveness of the group.
- Ways of working was discussed, and it was raised that we need to be action orientated and offer thought leadership
- George Freeman MP advised of a Bill that he has drafted which he would like to share with the group so that it can potentially be taken forward.
- George Freeman MP also suggested a Westminster Hall debate, and this was well received by the Group.
- A discussion took place around inviting the Minister to an event at which the APPG members can discuss some of the challenges facing flooded communities but also some of the solutions that could help.
- Consideration should also be given to the Government's current challenge around saving money and improving economic growth.
- Helen Morgan MP suggested the Group needs to think about a timeline and what can be achieved in the next six to 12 months
- Helen Morgan MP also discussed how to ensure the group is well informed by having speakers and briefing notes. Stressing that having the right data was key. As well as having an action after the meeting such as a letter to the Minister or other suitable activity.
- Baroness McIntosh suggested that the spending review is a good hook and the work programme with time frames would help

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- It was also suggested that a key focus should be on making savings and increasing economic value

Actions:

1. George Freeman MP to share draft Bill
2. NFF to group issues into topic areas and secure speakers on priority topics
3. Helen Morgan MP to invite Minister Hardy to an event which focusses on the issues, challenges, thought leadership, solutions, savings and economic benefit
4. Helen Morgan MP to book Westminster Hall for a back bench debate
5. NFF to work with Helen Morgan MP to invite flooded people to an event in Portcullis House which would allow them to discuss their own experiences
6. Helen Morgan MP and NFF to outline timescales for next meeting and actions

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Appendix 1

Attendees:

Sadik Al-Hassan MP
Jack Rankin MP (represented)
Baroness McKintosh of Pickering
Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick
Ian Sollom MP (represented)
John Morrissey MP (represented)
Ashley Fox MP
Julie Minns MP
Patrick Spencer MP
Dr Ben Spencer MP
George Freeman MP
Zöe Franklin MP
James Naish MP
Tom Collins MP
Euan Stainbank MP
Helen Maguire MP
Caroline Voaden MP
Ashley Dalton MP (represented)
Aphra Brandreth MP
Michelle Welsh MP
Julia Buckley MP
Amanda Hack MP
Louise Jones MP
Jess Brown-Fuller MP
Roz Savage MP
Joe Robertson MP
Joy Morrissey MP (represented)
Alison Griffiths MP
Blake Stephenson MP
Edward Morello MP (represented)
Sarah Edwards MP

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