

All Stretton Flood Forum 7.1.25 NT Tea Rooms

Welcome and introductions

All introduced themselves, present were (noting rough locations/organisations):

Mike Goode, Chair, Meadow Green
Steve Burrows, Batch Valley
Richard Bebb, Robinlye
Caroline Crump, ASVS
Chris Naylor, The Batch
Danny Robinson, Farm Lane
Andy Munro, CSTC
Sophie Davies, National Flood Forum
Patrick Edwards, NT
Janet Ferguson, UBVRG
Christine Perkins, Batch Valley
Alan Perkins, Batch Valley
Dominic Bowyer, NT
(Roger Eyre and Gill Campbell - both Robinlye - joined by phone)

1 Progress with current concerns

The lower ford had been remodelled very well, and all expressed gratitude to NT. Plans to repair the track above The Batch with rock armour were well in hand and awaited final permission from the Land Drainage Authority. Rock armour blocks were on site. Jeremy Dale had been booked to do the works. *[Note since meeting: Jeremy has now visited site to assess.]*

2 Survey of streams to prevent further issues

Mike proposed that a proper drainage/watercourse survey was needed, to inform flood defence and mitigation planning. This was in general agreed, questions being how to progress that. There was discussion about possible costs, about whether a university might help, about involving Roger Eyre (at least for advice about the brief). Roger suggested he might put in a funding application and this was welcomed. CSTC, NT, UBVRG all suggested they might contribute towards funding. *[Note since meeting: 1. Dominic has been following up Severn Rivers Trust option of an 'opportunities appraisal'; 2. Roger has offered an updated paper re 'flood attenuation' for the next ASFF meet.]*

3 Planned maintenance now and for the future to minimise flood events

Danny and Caroline both emphasised the need to clear accumulated stone from the stream bed, particularly under the main road culvert, and there was agreement that local volunteer help was likely. However there was discussion about the essential permissions required, and some frustration expressed. Chris suggested that maybe if maintenance were recurring an initial permission might then be useful to expedite

future permissions, rather than having to start from scratch each time. The survey could help identify tasks and frequency.

Steve suggested, and Dominic agreed, that the NT field opposite (and a little downstream from) The Batch might have potential as a flood mitigation area, with added meanders/wetlands. These might not help with massive downpours like the recent cloudburst, but might well mitigate more frequent very heavy rain events as happened a fortnight after. Again the survey would help assess this option.

4 ASFF website and constitution

Andy Munro kindly offered to write a simple constitution, and suggested CSTC might look favourably at a small grant to establish the group - subject to an application being made! However it could only be paid if the group set up a bank account. There was discussion about paying someone to design a website and it was felt that ASFF could use a free diy website format.

5 Next Meeting

It was agreed to meet in a month's time, proposed date 1330 Monday 3rd Feb at NT tearoom.