**Weston Colville Community Flood Plan – Village Residents’ Consultation, April 2021**

Further to surface water flooding incidents in the village around Christmas time, subsequent discussion at the January Parish Council meeting and an article in the February edition of ‘Challenge’ on Riparian Responsibilities, the Parish Council has been working on a Community Flood Plan (The Plan) for the village. The Plan is based on a template and guidance from the Environment Agency who have provided some input to the plan although the bulk of the Plan has been developed by a small working group from members of The Parish Council. The Plan includes an Appendix of outstanding actions within the village to mitigate the risk from flooding incidents, who is responsible for those actions and when they might be carried out.

A draft of the Community Flood Plan has been drawn up and The Parish Council would now like to consult with the village residents on the scope and content of the plan. The Plan can be accessed from the Parish Council website at *https://westoncolville.org.uk* or in electronic or hard copy form from the Parish Clerk at *clerk@westoncolville.org.uk*or 01223 291344.

Questions that are raised in relation to the Plan and on which we would like your views include:

1. Is a Community Flood Plan needed or desirable for Weston Colville?
2. Does the format and content of the draft Plan meet requirements for mitigating the risk of flooding in the village?
3. Do the 6 areas identified as at risk of flooding adequately cover events in the village?
4. Do the descriptions of the risks at each area adequately fit the situation and are actions proposed appropriate and adequate to reduce the risk and severity of flooding?
5. Are Flood Wardens necessary, how many might we need and what should be their role? If your answer to this question is ‘Yes, we do need Flood Warden(s)’, then we would like to hear from people who would be interested in volunteering for this role. A description of suggested roles for a Flood Warden are set out below.
6. Suggestions for sighting a store for publicly accessible sandbags/hydrosacks and flood signs would be welcome.
7. How should the Plan be kept alive and updated going forward i.e. by the Flood Warden(s) and/or the Parish Council.
8. Any other comments, suggestions, criticisms, additions etc will be welcome and taken into consideration in taking the Plan forward.

After the consultation, it is proposed to present a revised Plan at the Open meeting of the Parish Council on 3 May prior to finalising the document and putting it in place. Therefore, we would like to have **responses to the consultation by Friday 23 April** to give the Council time to review and act on the responses. Please send all responses to the Parish Clerk, Jess Ashbridge, at clerk@westoncolville.org.uk or 13, The Green, Weston Colville, CB21 5NT

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your help in developing The Plan.

**What is a Community Flood Warden Scheme?**

Community Flood Warden schemes are completely voluntary and can consist of a single person or several people acting as volunteers to help raise awareness of any flood risks in their community, help pass on flood warnings when they are issued, help prepare for flooding and to help vulnerable people both during and after flooding has occurred. A Community Flood Warden may also be part of another group such as Neighbourhood Watch or the Parish Council.

What would a Community Flood Warden do? The role of the Community Flood Warden is primarily one of communication, and there are many ways in which a Community Flood Warden can help their local community in times of flood. These include:

 Assist with the creation and maintenance of the Community Flood Plan with the Environment Agency and councils.

  Monitor the condition of local drains, culverts, brooks and other watercourses and report any defects or blockages to the appropriate agency.

  Distributing flood related information to the public.

  Encouraging individuals to sign up to the Environment Agency free flood warning service, Floodline Warnings Direct (FWD) where available.

 Make arrangements to reinforce flood warnings when they are issued.

  Visit people at risk to ensure that warnings have been received.

 Call for assistance on behalf of people who are struggling to carry out essential actions to safeguard themselves or their property.

 Have local knowledge and information on the latest flood situation (the Environment Agency will help with this).

  Liaise with the Environment Agency, councils and emergency services on local conditions and needs on the ground.

  Note and report local flood event details.

 If possible, set up local patrols to monitor the situation.

**Weston Colville Parish Council March 2021**