

Shapwick Community Flood Resilience

SHAPWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Shapwick, like many communities, is increasingly facing a relatively new type of flood risk which can be described as “flash floods”. The village has experienced at least two such events in the past 12 months caused by the combination of saturated ground and bouts of very heavy rainfall. The current infrastructure has not been designed to deal with these events and we must therefore try to plan accordingly.

This document has been prepared to give some guidance about how members of the village community can all help with this important issue in a safe manner.

Parish Council Actions to date: -

- We have created a **Flood Resilience** section in **Services Information** under the **Our Village** menu on the Shapwick Village website. Any references to “on the website” means this area unless stated otherwise.
- We have posted various documents and website links providing both background information about climate change and increased flood risks, and a source of flood protection resources through the **Emergency Volunteer Action Group (EVAG)**, which is part of the Rotary Club.
- You will find information about to create a **Personal Flood Plan**.
- Importantly you will find information about how to achieve **Property Flood Resilience**.
- We have a renewed commitment from Somerset Highways to deal with the action list agreed with them two years ago. This list is available on the Shapwick Village website.
- Landowners have agreed to deal with some of the long term issues; please be patient.
- Blocked Roadside Gullies: Through the newly created Local Community Network (LCN), (more info about our Avalon & Poldens LCN is available on the Shapwick Village website) we are learning how, funding permitting, we will be able to commission additional gully cleaning as a single parish or in collaboration with adjoining parishes in the future. See p. 2.
- We have engaged with the Polden Environmental Network (PEN) who have published the Climate Action Plan, available on the Shapwick Village website. We will promoting this at village events and through Shapwick News.
- Please turn over for important clarification about who is responsible for what, and suggestions for individual action when safe and appropriate. Do always bear in mind that your action may also impact your neighbour’s property.

<https://www.shapwickvillage.co.uk/our-village/services-information/>
scroll down to: Flood Resilience Information

Suggested individual actions

Your safety is our main concern and underscores these suggestions. We do know that many people are already doing the following, for which: Thank you on behalf of the village!

While gullies and drain grates on the road remain the responsibility of Highways, a little preventative action could prevent or lessen many problems.

Adopt a gully / drain grate: - if you have one of these near your property or you regularly pass by one, or more, on your walks / dog exercise, and you are able to do so with no risk to yourself, please keep it clear of debris on the surface of the grate. However, if you are not able to deal with any blockage safely and easily, please inform the PC (see details below). The PC is establishing when individual gullies are due for routine cleaning, and in the future may commission additional cleaning.



Who is responsible for what? The above graphic gives a general overview of the usual responsibilities for the various elements comprising roadside drainage. NB Individual circumstances vary so please use as a guideline only.

Blocked Roadside Grips (see above): if you are aware of a blocked Roadside Grip please remember: Safety first. Inform the PC (details below) and we will investigate. Please do not undertake this work yourself for safety and property access reasons. If we work on a “prevention” basis there should not be a need for clearing in an emergency.

Contact details:

- IN AN EMERGENCY WITH THREAT TO LIFE OR PROPERTY RING THE **EMERGENCY SERVICES!**
- You can also report incidents on **Floodline**: 0845 9881188
- **Email**: clerk@shapwickparishcouncil.org.uk Please title the email “Flooding”
- **Facebook Messenger**: PM **Shapwick Parish Council**
- **Text**: 07484 160913

Please give details about the issue and its location. If you have the app **WhatThreeWords** that is a great way to give the location.

Leaves: if possible please keep fallen leaves on your property and dispose of them through the green bins or composting. If you have neither of these options, let the PC know and we will see what is possible to help.
If **strimming back vegetation** on your property would help with flood prevention and you do not have access to a strimmer, again let us know and we can perhaps assist with the PC’s own strimmer.