**PIDDLEHINTON RESILIENCE GROUP VILLAGE MEETING 29/10/2026**

**Attendees:**

Aly Maxwell - Wessex Natural Flood Management {NFM} Advisor
Lisa Milton - Flood Resilience and Engagement
Piddlehinton Flood Action Group members
Piddlehinton residents x 30

Apologies: Dan Williams - BCP

**Context**

The recently-inaugurated Piddlehinton Resilience Group (PRG) has evolved to address potential village issues and practical help regarding floods, fire, extreme weather events, utility failures and vulnerable residents' assistance.

It was decided that the initial focus for the group should be on village flood resilience and management issues. They invited three local agency flood experts to talk to the village community, tonight's information predominantly concerning river management.(One expert was unable to attend )

**Talk 1: Aly Maxwell - Wessex Natural Flood Management {NFM} Advisor**
Piddlehinton Natural Flood Management and Resilience talk (link to slide pack)
Key points:

- Try to hold water upstream. Create a sponge. Slow the flow.
- Try to hold back and smooth any peak in flow to reduce flooding through leaky dams, hedges etc.
- Floods caused by fluvial (river water), pluvial (surface water), groundwater or a combination.
- Land owners/managers are key.
- The dry valley at Coombe (football field) is important: potential opportunities.
- Culvert in West Lane?
- Need to be aware of any flood work having consequences elsewhere.
- Dorset Council not aware of all flooded properties. They wish all flooding to be reported via the Flood Reporting System (FORS) to ensure cohesive and complete data gathering.
- There is a threshold for funding and investigation depending on the number of village properties affected.
- Wessex flood reports still in draft but will be published soon for Parish council action.
- PRG aim to collate and represent associated flood report actions.

**Talk 2: Lisa Milton (Environment Agency) - Flood Resilience and Engagement**
(link to slide pack)
Key points:

- Flood warden role overview. Much literature is available on request or online.
- Allocated flood resilience money pan-county = £5M.
- Regional hub meetings were held earlier in the year: Piddlehinton is due for investigation next year.
- Agencies share some info on reported floods for individuals across Council, EA etc.
- Individual properties are not named in reports but flood risk maps display affected areas, inc. future flood risks.
- Reports can subsequently release funding. Up to £10,000 per property (if flooded or at significant risk), for Property Flood Resilience measures and mitigation and can include surveys.
- The Flood Information Mobile van is in Dorchester town centre 11 Nov 0800-1500 (Weymouth Av).
- "Flood Re" is a joint Govt and insurers initiative to make flood insurance cover more affordable.
- Flood re aims to underpin insurers and build back better.

- Agency Flood warnings this flooding year - ground water and fluvial warnings - were too frequent and caused confusion and lack of focus.
- The SARAH ACT 2015 (Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Act) aims to reassure potential volunteers, help communities and assist in emergencies.
- Plush flooded 3-4 hours ahead of Piddlehinton: useful to know if/when they are hit.
- One resident has set up an AI alerts system deriving information from various alert systems.
- The village can have multiple flood wardens.
- Weather warnings for runoff and flash flooding are from The Met Office only.
- Lisa is the Point of Contact for village Flood Wardens.

**Q&A/Attendee comments**

- Can we clear chalks streams ourselves? It's a balance. EA leaflets expand on the issue.
- Can we clear the silt near the bridge? Await the draft report. (Post-meeting note: an agency representative was seen photographing the silt last week).
- Piddletrenthide residents cleared their bit of river: can't we?
- The river desperately needs clearing. Very weedy
- There is a real lack of clarity for clearing or growing river weed.
- Pump sewage into the river is an EA issue. All goes to the sea ultimately.
- Clearing drains and gulleys = Highways Agency.
- Some communities adopt a drain clearance strategy.
- Flood plan in draft by Piddletrenthide flood warden.
- From 10 years ago we still await the MDT report on flooding from Dorset Council and EA.
- Lisa to return to Piddlehinton to speak to flood wardens.