

Dear Flood Campaigner

Staff and Trustees at the NFF have been working very hard since Christmas. We want to keep you - our Flood Groups – up to date on what we're doing and invite your thoughts on current issues. That's what this e-Bulletin aims to do. It's not going to be flashy and posh, just a straightforward newsletter.

- **We want to hear from you too! Tell us what you think! Give us your feedback!**

Looking to the Future

Board members and senior staff met in Birmingham on 2nd February to look at what the NFF does now and what we should be doing in the future. Our three senior staff members – **Paul Hendy, Heather Shepherd** and **Amanda Davies** – gave presentations on their work. **Paul Roberts**, our Treasurer, talked about the NFF's finances and **Charles Tucker**, our Chairman, led a discussion on the priorities for 2011.

The day was also to introduce two people who have joined us in a short-term consultancy role - **Paul Cobbing** and **Ric Cowan**. **Paul** has been appointed to review our organisation and propose future plans. **Ric's** job will be to review how we engage with partners and other external bodies.

One thing coming from the day was very clear – the NFF is fortunate indeed to have three highly capable and dedicated members of staff, in **Amanda, Heather** and **Paul**. Another was the team spirit between Staff and Trustees.

- **We hope you will see the results of the day in clearer, more focused action from the NFF. This Bulletin is only the first!**

Setting up new Flood Groups

Over the last three months, **Heather Shepherd** has been working with 12 different communities affected by flooding, in 10 counties

- Isle of Wight
- Lancashire
- Buckinghamshire
- Herefordshire
- London Boroughs
- Cornwall
- Hampshire
- Oxfordshire
- Cumbria
- Derbyshire

Heather says "Communities trying to move forward in a pro-active way after flooding, become very frustrated when trying to address the problems in their area. We facilitate these communities to come together and form a dedicated group, helping them to set up and prepare ready for partnership working. We then arrange meetings with all agencies collectively to meet with these groups to work together to reduce their flood risk."

Consultation Responses

Defra and the EA issued four consultation documents in November and responses had to be in by Thursday 16th Feb. These were sent for comment to all affiliated flood groups. Sadly, we had very few responses! Thanks particularly to **Phiala Meyring of Loddon Valley RA** for her valuable comments.

Both EA and Defra are well aware that the NFF is the only body that can speak for flood victims and “the community of the flooded” across the country. EA and Defra know they are not good at understanding the community perspective and look to the NFF to help them. This gives us the opportunity to influence their thinking – often quite significantly.

- It’s not just about writing a response on the website – we take opportunities to meet the officers writing the documents and make the points in person. We also speak and ask questions at conferences to learn about the issues, so that the response is as informed as possible.

The NFF has given a formal response to each of the following consultations.

- “Reducing the threat, building resilience, empowering communities” – consultation on **a national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England**
- “Co-operation between authorities and requesting information” – consultation on **draft statutory guidance for S13(1) and 14 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010**
- “Future funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management” – consultation on **the future Capital Grant-in-Aid allocation process in England**

We also commented on the consultation “**Regional Flood and Coastal Committees – Scheme of Membership**”.

- If you would like to see the detailed responses submitted, please email charles.tucker@floodforum.org.uk

Flood Summit

Workshops

Last September, Mary Dhonau and Charles Tucker attended the Flood Insurance Summit, led by Environment Minister Richard Benyon.

Charles had a major input to the formation of three Working Groups set up to explore how flood insurance will evolve after the “Statement of Principles” between the ABI and Government comes to an end in 2013.

These Working Groups are now meeting and the NFF is represented on each.

David Parker of Morpeth Flood Action Group is coming to present the “Morpeth Model” of flood insurance (sent to all groups last year) at a Workshop on 23rd February.

- There will be an interim Report in March and a final Report in June/July. We then expect another Summit to be held in September.

email

charles.tucker@floodforum.org.uk if you would like more information on the Working Groups and Flood Summit.

Give us your Views!

Please give us Feedback on the Bulletin – does it pass the Ronseal test?!

Email your comments to

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