

Local Community Flood Groups Registration and Funding Scheme

THE PRINCIPLES

Purpose of the Scheme

To facilitate the creation and development of local community flood groups and to provide technical and funding support for flood prevention and local response action.

Background

Since the devastating events of July 2007 much has been written about the need to prevent or reduce the effects of flooding and the benefits of involving local residents. In addition to its national review the Environment Agency has published five local reviews for areas in the Vale, i.e.

- Abingdon
- Buscot and Kelmscott
- Letcombe Regis, Wantage, Grove and East Hanney
- Stanford in the Vale, Charney Bassett and Lyford
- Steventon

The Pitt Review has made recommendations relating to flooding based on 2 fundamentals:

- What is needed to respond to and recover from an emergency
- What can be done to prevent or minimise future incidents

With 32 parishes and towns in the Vale being affected by the 2007 Floods a great community spirit emerged and a number of local communities came together to not only cope with property repairs and recovery but also to find solutions to problems and plan for the future.

The Council

Although the Council has limited resources, it has a primary and central role in

- supporting its communities in emergencies and
- providing community leadership.

In the event of flooding the Council will provide support including sand supplies and sandbags, co-operation with the emergency services and incident coordination from a central base.

It has updated its policies and formal documents relating to ordinary watercourses, enforcement, emergency planning and flood management.

It can provide technical advice and guidance, including detailed local maps, as well as offering financial support in the form of grants that can be issued via local community flood groups. To this effect the Council has set aside a one-off sum of £100k for funding flooding initiatives.

Flood Groups

The creation and development of Flood Groups may provide residential and business communities with the opportunity to work proactively together to:

- devise schemes for the long-term protection of property
- increase purchasing power for individual and groups flood barrier and elevation systems
- make arrangements for local response and self-help action in the event of flooding incidents

Vale “Alliance”

- Although it is not a requirement to join with others, Flood Groups may wish to consider the prospects of forming an association in the future.
- Leaders may find a “Vale Flood Alliance” to be a useful vehicle to develop and advance flooding issues both locally and nationally.
- Town and Parish Councils can help create and develop Flood Groups

The Procedure

1. A Grants Panel set up by the Council’s Executive will consider and approve applications made to the Council for grant funding.
2. Grants will only be issued to Flood Groups that have registered with the Council Scheme.
3. In cases where the Group has no banking arrangements the payment of a grant may be made to the nominated associate Parish or Town Council.
4. Applications will be considered for work which may have already been carried out.
5. Invoices, receipts and appropriate documentation should accompany applications.
6. Applications will be considered on their merits and may be placed in the following general categories:

Flood Group Setting Up Costs	- <i>tools and equipment and training</i>
Local Flood Barriers	- <i>road barriers</i>
Minor Flood Protection Devices	- <i>gel sandbags, air brick covers, etc. or “discounting” purchasing products</i>
Local Area Flood Relief Schemes	- <i>involving other flood-related bodies and based on shared or “matched” contributions</i>
Medium and Large Scale Projects	- <i>to enable schemes of greater and wider impact usually led by other agencies</i>

7. The following factors may be used as a part of the assessment criteria:
 - frequency or severity of flooding
 - number of properties affected
 - flood resilience to individual properties or the wider community
 - reduction or severity of flood risk for individual properties or local communities
 - main cause of flood risk (e.g. river, watercourse or surface water)
 - requirement of formal consent and/or compliance with relevant legislation
 - consultation arrangements or written agreements on land
 - evidence of competitive tendering
 - risk assessments and method statements
8. It may be necessary for the Council or the Flood Group to consult with other external agencies such as the Environment Agency, Oxfordshire Highways Authority, Thames Water, etc.
9. These grants provide funding towards the cost of physical works to reduce flooding. Flood Groups may like to also consider the benefits of setting up a ‘good neighbours’ scheme’ to provide immediate help and reassurance to vulnerable residents who are affected by flooding or, at times of heavy rainfall, are worried about the possibility of flooding. Information about good neighbours’ schemes and the Council’s community grants scheme can be obtained from the Community Strategy Officer (telephone 01235 547 547626 e-mail: lorna.edwards@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

TIMETABLE

3 grant application sessions are planned:

Session 1	Deadline for 1 st set of applications	➤ 28 February 2009
	Approval and distribution of 1 st set of grants	➤ March 2009
Session 2	Deadline for 2 nd set of applications	➤ 30 April 2009
	Approval and distribution of 2 nd set of grants	➤ May 2009
Session 3	Deadline for 3 rd set of applications	➤ 30 June 2009
	Approval and distribution of 3 rd set of grants	➤ July 2009

REGISTERING AS A VALE FLOOD GROUP

1. In order for your community to obtain funding and advice you must first register with the Council as a Flood Group.
2. There is no minimum or maximum size for a Flood Group.
3. Simply fill in the Registration Form with as much detail as possible and return it to the Deputy Director (Commercial Services).
4. It is important that your Flood Group has the support of the Town or Parish Council. Therefore, before submitting the form please have it countersigned by the respective Town/Parish Clerk or Chair person.
5. The following details required:
 - Name and Address, Contact Details and Signatures of:
the Group Leader; the Group Secretary / Treasurer and relevant the Town/Parish Clerk
 - Terms of Reference and Aims of the Group
 - Financial, personnel and technical resources available to the Group
 - Endorsement by the Clerk or Chair of the Town or Parish Council

APPLYING FOR GRANT FUNDING

When applying for a grant the following information is required:

- Name of the Group
- Name and Address and Contact Details of the Main Contact Person
- Name and Address and Contact Details of the Alternative Contact Person
- Details of the Group's bank account and financial position
- Amount of Grant required
- The use to which the Grant will be put
- Details of the main beneficiaries of the Grant
- Commencement date of the proposed work
- Completion date of the work
- Details of consultation and agreements with other organisations
- Detailed breakdown of costs

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Towns and Parishes in the Vale

<i>Abingdon</i>	<i>Drayton</i>	<i>Kingston Lisle</i>	<i>Sparsholt</i>
<i>Appleford</i>	<i>East Challow</i>	<i>Letcombe Bassett</i>	<i>Stanford in-the Vale</i>
<i>Appleton</i>	<i>East Hanney</i>	<i>Little Coxwell</i>	<i>Steventon</i>
<i>Ardington</i>	<i>East Hendred</i>	<i>Littleworth</i>	<i>Sunningwell</i>
<i>Ashbury</i>	<i>Eaton Hastings</i>	<i>Lockinge</i>	<i>Sutton Courtenay</i>
<i>Baulking</i>	<i>Fernham</i>	<i>Longcot</i>	<i>Uffington</i>
<i>Besselsleigh</i>	<i>Frilford</i>	<i>Letcombe Regis</i>	<i>Upton</i>
<i>Blewbury</i>	<i>Fyfield</i>	<i>Longworth</i>	<i>Wantage</i>
<i>Bourton</i>	<i>Garford</i>	<i>Lyford</i>	<i>Watchfield</i>
<i>Buckland</i>	<i>Great Coxwell</i>	<i>Marcham</i>	<i>West Challow</i>
<i>Buscot</i>	<i>Great Faringdon</i>	<i>Milton</i>	<i>West Hanney</i>
<i>Charney Bassett</i>	<i>Goosey</i>	<i>North Hinksey</i>	<i>West Hendred</i>
<i>Childrey</i>	<i>Grove</i>	<i>Pusey</i>	<i>Woolstone</i>
<i>Chilton</i>	<i>Harwell</i>	<i>Radley</i>	<i>Wootton</i>
<i>Coleshill</i>	<i>Hatford</i>	<i>St Helen Without</i>	<i>Wytham</i>
<i>Compton Beauchamp</i>	<i>Hinton Waldrist</i>	<i>Shellingford</i>	
<i>Cumnor</i>	<i>Kingston Bagpuize</i>	<i>South Hinksey</i>	
<i>Denchworth</i>	<i>Kennington</i>	<i>Shrivenham</i>	

Parish or Town	Active Groups Known To Date
Abingdon	South Abingdon Flood Group and Stert Flood Action Group
Appleton	Parish Council
Buckland	Buckland Marsh
Charney Bassett	Parish Council
Cumnor	Eynsham Road; Orchard Road; Nobles Lane
East Hanney	Hanneys Flood Group
Faringdon	Folly View Road; Harding Close
Farmoor	Filchampstead; Cumnor Road
Fernham	The Green; Elmside
Frilford	Oxford Road
Goosey	Parish Meeting
Grove	Cane Ln; Sharland Close; Kingfishers; Denchworth Rd; Vale Ave & Boseley's Orchard
Hinton Waldrist	Duxford
Kennington	Kennington Flood Working Group
Letcombe Regis	Parish Council
Longcot	Parish Council
Milton	High Street; Pembroke Lane
Milton Heights	Havers Avenue
North Hinksey	Parish Council
South Hinksey	Parish Council
Sparsholt	Parish Council
Steventon	Hanney Road; Stonebridge Road and Parish Council
Sunningwell	Parish Council
Uffington	Upper Common Lane; Woolstone Road
Wantage	Mill Street Residents
Wootton	Parish Council