

NCEF and FLAG joint meeting notes 13 April 2016

The meeting at Middlemoor Road was very well attended but I don't have a full list of attendees.

FLAG

Norma chaired the first part of the meeting.

FLAG started in 1999. Mainly advisory.

Clive Wright BCC

Clive explained his role in flood Prevention and the importance of blocked gully's swales, ditches, ponds and drains. His team regularly inspect the known flooding areas for blockages. Surface water drainage after heavy rain is the issue for Northfield. Middlemoor road is the bottom of the flood plain and so is the most susceptible area.

Cllr Brew asked Clive about the Bloor home plans for NWGC. Clive was aware of the proposal but hadn't seen the details. Hanging Brook drains into the Rea.

River Rea is looked after by the EA. BCC get involved if it floods. In 2015 there were no floods across Birmingham

There are community protection schemes going ahead for Weoley Castle and West Heath.

EA-Rob Humpries

EA has a register of key flood contacts and they can arrange alerts and warnings on your phone.

Norma outlined how the alerts work in practice. Rivers can rise very quickly and give rise to flash floods. 2012 was a wet year.

EA team do 3 river checks a year. Rangers look after the green spaces on the flood plain. Norma voiced concerns on debris in the immediate area. Penny (LH rangers) said their contractors check weekly and Rangers do a risk assessment annually.

Rob said Longbridge now has a new retention system built by St.Modwen to cope with flood flows.

Norma said the Flood Defence Plan is on the Flag website.

National Flood Forum- Sarah Payne

Helps groups with flood plans. Holds multi agency meetings. Can direct people to flood "friendly" insurance companies.

NCEF Meeting

Chaired by Penny

Mins approved

Ranger Service

One ranger short. Timescales for the replacements is uncertain.

Groups

KNLNR

Wetlands being developed. Popes lane area is nearly a LNR. TCV have helped the group a lot.

Millenium Green

Springs have appeared related to the wet winter. Clive said this is very common this year. Urban rangers have helped improve drainage. Not a council site so all funding has to be raised.

Extra Care

Extra care is a charity. Building progressing at Lonbridge, residents move in 2017. Friends group formed. Open day festival June 23rd.

Rea Valley Group

Open day June 4th at Coleys Lane. Tea and Coffee provided.

2nd litter pick behind Turves Green School 30th April.

Lickey Hills Society

Worcester Wood Country park has lost most of its funding. Litter pick next on the Hills next Saturday. Geology Trail walk June 14th. WW1 and 2 buildings we are looking for funding to develop these

Frankley Street Champions

Litter picked rubbish out the Rea. For collecting fly tip we now have a 3.5 tonne truck.

Waterside Care

Well pleased with all the active groups in south Birmingham.

Balaams Wood

The Easter egg hunt had 30 children attend. End of April CEO of KBT, will be on site and this is quite an honour.

Graham Jones is tree carving in the community orchard.

A Wig-gloo has been built at a local school

Fix my street website was mentioned as a good place to post “get things done” e.g pot holes, rubbish, litter etc. The BCC website also covers many of these issues but sometimes a more public grumble is required.

Cllr Brew said that new funding is coming on stream soon called “Innovative Funding” to replace the defunct community chest.

Cllr Brew expressed his heartfelt thanks and appreciation of the volunteers of Northfield and the support agencies who do so much.

Meeting closed.