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Project Updates

- All 30 community walkovers to inspect the main drainage and flood related assets in each community have now been completed. Communities which received their walkover survey in the winter of 2017/18 will be presented with the findings of their Flood Risk and Mitigation Investigation later in the year.

- The first nine Pathfinder II communities, all of which signed up to the project in 2016/17, have now been presented with the findings of their Flood Risk and Mitigation Investigation at a community meeting. These reports are publicly available and can be downloaded from the ‘Am I at risk?’ section of the Flood Toolkit website.

These communities are now able to submit applications for grant funding available through the Pathfinder project to assist the community in implementing recommendations to reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding, as found within the report.

The communities are Braybrooke, Dallington, East Farndon, Glapthorn, Grafton Underwood, Grendon, Harpole, Raunds and West Haddon.

Community Engagement Events

Over the summer months, the Pathfinder team have been busy attending events across the county to raise local awareness of the work of the project.

At these events, the team have been speaking with local residents of our Pathfinder communities about the flood risk to their community, collecting local knowledge of past flooding events, promoting the development of Community Emergency and Flood Plans, and recruiting individuals to act as flood wardens for their community.

These events provide an invaluable opportunity for residents to share their local flooding experiences and concerns, and are essential in exploring how the project can work with each community to help it to improve its resilience to flooding and other emergency situations.

The Pathfinder team attending recent community events in Irthlingborough (left) and King’s Sutton (right).
Walk your Catchment Area with a Civil Engineer

As part of the Pathfinder project, a catchment walkover to inspect the main drainage and flood related assets within each participating community has now been undertaken by our contractor David Smith Associates (DSA).

We are now offering any interested residents, landowners and Parish Councillors the opportunity to walk the catchment area with a civil engineer from DSA to look at areas where further investigation, maintenance or improvement works could be beneficial to either reduce flood risk or improve understanding of existing assets.

If you would like to arrange a walk of the catchment in your community over the next few months, please get in contact with the Pathfinder team.

Flood Warden Training

Flood wardens are members of the local community who act as volunteers to help their communities to become more resilient and to be prepared for flooding. Flood wardens can help to do this by:

- Monitoring the condition of drains, culverts and watercourses and reporting any defects or blockages to the appropriate agency or landowners
- Helping to raise local awareness of flood risk
- Passing on flood alerts and warnings when they are issued
- Assisting in the preparation of a Community Emergency and Flood Plan

The first of two scheduled flood warden training sessions for 2018 took place on 20th June at Rushden Fire Station. The event was run by Northamptonshire County Council, with 15 flood wardens from across the county taking part in the training.

A number of sessions were held throughout the day, focusing on all aspects of the flood warden role. Following a morning of presentations and interactive sessions led by the Pathfinder team, the newly-appointed flood wardens heard from representatives of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue, David Smith Associates and the Environment Agency on the topics of water safety, types of drainage systems and the Environment Agency’s Flood Warning Service.

All flood warden training is free to attend, with the next training day taking place on 26th September 2018 at the Nene Whitewater Centre. To book your place on the training, please contact the Pathfinder team.

Newly trained flood wardens with their personal protective equipment (left) and receiving a presentation on water safety from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue’s Darren Black (right).
30 Days, 30 Ways UK

The 1st September 2018 will mark the start of 30 Days, 30 Ways UK. 30 Days, 30 Ways is an online emergency preparedness game taking place throughout September that poses a daily readiness challenge for players to complete. This month long social media campaign marks National Preparedness Month and is intended to boost personal resilience and preparedness for individuals of all ages through easy and fun games and activities.

Every day throughout September 2018 will have a different emergency preparedness theme and daily challenges will be posted on the 30 Days, 30 Ways website and social media networks. By signing up for updates, you’ll receive the theme of the day each morning, as well as key messages, details about the day’s challenge, an introduction video and resources to help you take part.

To get involved, like 30days30waysUK on Facebook, follow @30days30waysUK on Twitter, or visit the website www.30days30waysuk.org.uk.

Upcoming Events

The Pathfinder team will be attending the following event within the county during the autumn:

**Northamptonshire Day** — Sunday 30th September, 10:00—16:00, at Delapre Abbey, London Road, Northampton, NN4 8AW

Please come along and find out how the Pathfinder project could help your community.

Further Information

For more information about the project, or if you have any ideas for topics you would like to see included in the next update, please contact dkopecky@northamptonshire.gov.uk. If your community would like to be considered for the Pathfinder project, please complete the community application form on the Flood Toolkit website.